

In Touch



Sharing Our Gifts

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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The night before I sat down to write this, I heard that Barbara Bush, the former first lady to president George H. W. Bush and mother of president George W. Bush had died. Almost instantly on the media websites that I frequent there were articles about her life that spoke both candidly and warmly of the things she did in her life. The sum total of the feelings I gathered from both conservative and liberal media is that she was a person to admire.

I myself remember admiring Barbara Bush during her days in the White House and afterwards. So I did not think that it was too much of a stretch to remember her fondly at the time of her death. But this got me to thinking about how what we think of people changes when we learn of their death. They may not have been people we approved of while they were living, but after they die, there is a certain rehabilitation of the character of that person that can take place.

I remember hearing of the death of president Richard Nixon. He was an embattled and divisive figure in American politics while I was growing up. He resigned from the presidency after dragging our country through a constitutional crisis and before he would likely have faced impeachment. Having lost the support of his own party, both houses of Congress, and the American people, there was little hope for his ability to continue governing. He had become a pariah and politically radioactive.

But I believe it would be unfair to condemn his presidency. Nixon chose to reach out to communist China in a spirit of diplomacy when he could have easily regarded China as an enemy and escalated East/West tensions. He strove to control the growth of nuclear arsenals by engaging in treaty talks with the Soviet Union. Being president while the opposition party had the majorities in both houses of Congress, he realized that he would have to compromise on his agenda. There was more to the Nixon presidency than just Watergate. After his death, his whole presidency

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

was considered with a sense of charity that maybe was withheld while he was alive.

It is my belief that extending charity to a person after they are dead is better than condemning the person whole-sale and not acknowledging anything good emanating from the person's life. But there is an even better way. In life we are taught by Jesus to love and forgive. But in politics love and forgiveness are often left at the door leaving unchecked our propensity to hate. Could we not give each person who has dedicated their life to public service some space to reinvent themselves each day? To be sure, call each to account for actions we don't agree with, but do that with an abiding sense that there is a relationship to be had between you and those with whom you do not agree. By taking that approach we will have more than an epitaph that makes us feel better about those who have died, we have community with someone who is alive and may yet discover what it means to serve all the people, doing their best to keep in mind the interests of all.

I offer these thoughts because it may be that we will soon be approaching a time when, once again, a president is under siege, congressional hearings will be heard, and the people of our country will be tempted to choose sides. Although I know it happens, I cannot imagine a church of Jesus Christ suffering under similar circumstances because the gospel calls us to love and forgive even as we reprove. Could the church call our nation to a place of mutual love and forgiveness even as the nation deliberates over serious matters regarding our president's leadership? I believe it can. Furthermore, for the sake of the nation, I believe it must.

Grace and peace,

Joe



MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUESDAY MAY 1

9:45 am Morning Circle
Lesson #9 Leader—Rev. Joe Sandoval

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, MAY 3

7:00 pm Evening Circle in the Parlor
Hosted by Ginger Phipps
Lesson #9 Leader—Susan Barmer

SUNDAY, MAY 6

9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, MAY 7

KIPP EXAMS @ Loy Bldg—PM
6:00 pm Worship Committee
7:00 pm Witness Committee

TUESDAY, MAY 8

KIPP EXAMS @ Loy Bldg—PM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, MAY 10

KIPP EXAMS @ Loy Bldg—PM
6:00 pm Finance & Personnel

SUNDAY, MAY 13—MOTHER'S DAY

9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship



MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MONDAY, MAY 14
4 Yr. PRESCHOOL PROGRAM @
Loy Bldg—AM
7:00 pm Christian Ed

TUESDAY, MAY 15
KIPP EXAMS @ Loy Bldg—AM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16
KIPP EXAMS @ Loy Bldg—AM
12 Noon Lunch Bunch at Applebee's
6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, MAY 17
6:00 pm Presbyterian Women's Birthday Dinner
@ Loy Building

SUNDAY, MAY 20—PENTECOST
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship (Communion)
Pentecost Offering
6:00 pm Session

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23
6:30 pm Choir

SUNDAY, MAY 27—TRINITY SUNDAY
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, MAY 28—MEMORIAL DAY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30
6:30 pm Choir



Memorial Day - Monday May 28th

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Worldwide Concerns

- *SYRIA and YEMEN civil war
- * SOMALIA, drought, famine, anarchy
- * EGYPT and LIBYA political unrest
- *ISRAEL,GAZA, PALESTINE, peaceful coexistence
- * IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, security
- *USA, war in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan
- *NIGERIA the approximately 100 abducted Chibok school girls
- *Syrian refugees
- *Ukrainian people victimized by foreign aggression
- *Fires in California
- *Survivors, families and friends of all types of violence

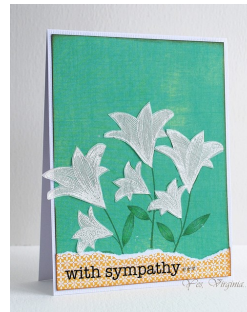


SPECIAL PRAYERS

We pray for the Children of Clara Hearne and Aurelian Spring Schools and our ministry to them.

We pray for Stanley White and Littleton Churches during their uncertain times of not having a pastor.

We pray that Carter Roux will be kept safe while teaching in South Korea.



OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

On-Going Care

Jim and Margo Allen
Harry Bright
Bobbie Bright
Larry Avent

ALL people who provide
on-going care

*The family and friends of
Sue Williamson
And
Ellen and Jimmy Bryant on the
death of Jimmy's father, Lewis*

Healing Friends & Families of the Church

Clark Chase, grandson of Bobbie Scott	Patsy Rawlings
Scott & Melanie Cranford	Greg Shaffer
Priscilla Ricks	Bill Howell
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels	Sally Ray Warren
Sheryl and Wayne O'Neil	Kevin and Michael
Ken and Holly Phipps & family	Greg Batchelor
Doug Hayes	Gilbert Portela
Linda Ray, Pancreatic cancer	Sandy Sandoval
David and LaNae Grimes	Ara Griffin
Carolyn Crawford	Chris Dildy
Mike Swartzell, heart transplant	Sandra Stephenson
Saundra Arnold-Smith	Colby Kea
Ciera Bristol, surgery for thyroid	Mary Francis Fisher
Marie Anderson	Cecil Faison
Margo Allen	Joe West
Chad Keeter, automobile accident, friend of Mary Braswell Kiger	
Jane Love's sister, Quincy Warner and brother-in-law,	
Steve, surgery for Quincy and	
Kristin Warner, daughter in law, dealing with surgery and cancer	
with two kids	
Waylon Newsom, child of Marie & Ryan Newsom	

PENTECOST OFFERING

The Pentecost Offering will be received on May 20th during the worship service. This offering nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come—children, youth and young adults. 40% of the offering will be used to support ministries with children and youth in our local community, 25% goes to Young Adult Volunteer experience, 25% supports ministries with youth (ages 12-18) and those called to accompany them and 10% supports the “Educate a Child, Transform the World” national initiative. Please give as generously as you are able. The youth is our future!

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Day of Pentecost is referred to as the birthday of the Church
- Pentecost is represented with the color red, which symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit
- We keep 40% to support young people in our area

Under the direction of Denise Hackenburg,
RRHS Choir Director, and the
RRHS Drama Department

Present

One Last Kiss!



Thursday, May 10 &

Friday, May 11

7:30 pm, RRHS Auditorium

Tickets at door or in advance:

Adults-\$8.00, Students-\$5.00

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN A FIRST PRESBYTERIAN SUPPER CLUB?

Several members have suggested the organization of a Supper Club. This would involve determining the interest and developing procedures. I could imagine that interested members would be divided into groups. The groups would meet in each others home enjoying fellowship with each other while sharing a meal. The hostess would create a menu and prepare the meat and/or main course. The other members would bring side dishes, dessert, and other necessary items. The groups could determine the meeting schedule – monthly, quarterly, etc.

Please indicate your interest or any ideas to
Nancy Crowe (537-8517 or
nancycrowe@embarqmail.com).



FPC Lunch Bunch at Applebee's on Wednesday, May 16th

Please join us for a
Dutch treat lunch, at
12:00 Noon, each
month as we
fellowship together!

Everyone is welcome!



WITNESS NEWS

Happy Spring from the Witness Committee!

Let's have a drum roll for our two recent congregational offerings!

Thank-you to everyone who contributed to our recent Pennies for Hunger collection. The grand total of this mission was \$370.52 due to the generosity of church members who matched our original collection. These monies are sent to New Hope Presbytery where they are distributed to congregations for various hunger programs. These funds may be returned to us someday in the form of a grant that is submitted for our Book Bag Buddy program.

On Easter Sunday our congregation participated in the One Great Hour of Sharing collection. To date our total contributions amount to \$362.59! You can still donate to this worthy cause if you haven't done so already. OGHS funds are distributed to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and to the Self-Development of People which works with local groups in the United States and internationally to change structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice. Thank-you again to everyone who contributed to these missions.

Our committee is currently planning several new projects about which we are very enthusiastic. Look for more information in the near future.

Marie Anderson reported that the next book sale at the Library will be in May. She and her committee help set-up for these sales.

Slightly used children's books are then purchased at reduced prices and donated to Our Guardian Ad Litem program. Foster children in our area then have their own books; some of their few possessions, to take with them when they are moved to foster care. Items that you can contribute are: suitcases, tote bags, new or slightly used stuffed animals and children's books. These items can be placed in the basket in the Administration Building or in Mike's office. Thanks to all who participate in our mission to foster children.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIRTHDAY

Welcome to This Place

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16, nkjv).

2018

BIRTHDAY OFFERING

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women asks that you open your hearts to the projects chosen for the 2018 Birthday Offering:

Cottage Village,

Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health,

and

The Dwelling Place.

Grant amounts will depend on gifts contributed during 2018.

Please give as you have been blessed and support these life-changing projects.

All Women are invited to join us at the

PW Birthday Dinner

May 17, 2018

At 6:00 pm

In the Loy Building

Pray for the Sthreshley's and their work in the Congo

Much has occurred in the Congo this past year but I will try to discern the main ideas. According to the latest from the Sthreshley's much of the difficulty in the Congo results from the planned presidential election, which is now scheduled for December of this year. Larry is the country director of Interchurch Medical Assistance (IMA), meaning that he works with partners to provide health programs to the people of the Congo. During this past year Larry's organization had to "take over" the Access to Primary Health Care work in areas that were previously covered by a partner. As a result of this the ASSP program has been extended through March, 2019; meaning that 9 million people will continue to receive health care until then (for now).

Inge reports that tense times have been the result of scheduled marches and demonstrations in response to the delays and postponement of the planned election. People have been killed in Kinshasa; a scenario which has been repeated. About a million people have been displaced due to the violence. Many of these depend on slash and burn agriculture and have missed two growing seasons so there is a lot of hunger and malnutrition, especially with children. All of this could have been avoided which is very discouraging to them.

Larry has responded by writing a proposal to

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Presbyterian Disaster Assistance from which one of the local partners received \$10,000 to distribute seeds and tools to families who have lost everything in the violence. Larry also wrote a proposal for 1.4 million dollars to deliver free health care for 6 months to 2 million people affected by the violence. He is currently working on another 3 million dollar proposal to OFDA to continue to provide free health care to children under five for another year while families continue to get back on their feet. The challenge is to provide assistance that works through the current infrastructure and builds on local capacity, instead of setting up parallel systems.

In her last paragraph Inge thanks us for our prayers and financial support during the past year, which have helped provide medical care for thousands. She also asks for our continued prayers for their safety as there is always the possibility that they will be in the wrong place at the wrong time in the current political environment. She's also asking us to pray for the wisdom needed to enable their work to move forward. Prayers are also needed for the churches in their area so that they are the light of Christ's love to people who are in the middle of this turmoil.

Your offerings to our church provide funds for the Witness Committee to send financial support to Larry and Inge as they continue to serve in the Congo.

Bev Hummel Reporting 13

CONGRATULATIONS



Violet James Howard
was born on March 26th to
Tori and Nathan Howard weighing
in at 7 lb and 12 oz!
Peggy Howard is the proud
grandmother.

Cameron Pate, left,
member of Halifax
Academy's Quiz Bowl
team, on winning this
year's Halifax County
Public Library Quiz Bowl
on March 14th!



Under the direction of
Denise Hackenburg,
RRHS choir director, members of the
Roanoke Rapids High School Concert
Choir attended the North Carolina Solo &
Small Ensemble Festival at Beddingfield
High School in Wilson and made a perfect
score of 100, superior. Also, four of the
RRHS Choral Students performed with the North Carolina
All-State Choirs this past weekend in Raleigh at the Duke
Center for Performing Arts. AWESOME!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:



Jack Kiger	May 1
Ben White	May 1
Susan Gaylor	May 4
Noreen Knudson	May 8
Phillip Wingfield	May 10
Red Barnes	May 12
Shane Arthur	May 13
Linda Tolson	May 18
Debbie Powell	May 21
Faye Brown	May 23
Dennis Gaylor	May 23
Chris Dwight	May 25
Ben Ricks Jr.	May 26
Muzette Kiger	May 28
William Shives	May 31

**You are invited to attend:
Preparing For An Armed Intruder
at Providence Baptist Church,
6339 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh**

May 16th—9:00am to 1:30pm

(continental breakfast & lunch included)

Register at:

<https://armedintruder03.eventbrite.com>

(password: CMIC)

This interactive training, led by security training experts from ALICE Training Institute, shows you how to keep your organization safe during a armed intruder event.

**FIRST
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MAY 2018

IN TOUCH

