

In Touch



Sharing Our Gifts

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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This note to you is going to be more about me than it is about you (just warning you!). First I want to tell you that the recovery from my hip replacement surgery is going better than I imagined...and I imagined it going pretty well! I found myself able to drive and resume my duties seven days after my surgery. That may not be a record but I think it's pretty darn good.

Additionally I want to say that I felt as if I were swimming in your prayers in the hours and days following my surgery. No doubt those prayers sharpened the skills of the medical professionals in charge of my care and have done their part to speed my healing. Thank you very much.

I also want to share a little bit of my experiences during my study leave. You may remember that in 2013 I was awarded a fellowship for new clergy that allowed me to spend a week at the Chautauqua Institution in western New York. That was a wonderful experience - one that Nancy and I both swore we would do again. Finally this summer we returned to Chautauqua.

For those who don't know what the Chautauqua Institution is, every summer since 1874, people have gathered at a place on the banks of Chautauqua Lake to study the bible. Since then the programs offered at Chautauqua Institution have gradually expanded to include great preaching every day during the morning worship services, lectures given by world-renown scholars that stimulate thinking in widely varying schools of thought, and excellent concerts, ballets, operas, plays, and other artistic endeavors. In short, Chautauqua presents an opportunity to learn things for every minute that you are capable of staying awake.

Our return to Chautauqua this summer proved to be more of the same. We chose to go over the 4th of July week. The theme for the week was the "American Identity." Amidst all the beautiful red, white and blue decorations and wonderful wind band concerts in the afternoon, we got the chance to examine what American identity was in the past, is now in the present, and what it may be. In particular, among other things, we got a chance to think about the cause for all the anti-immigrant sentiment in our nation, both currently and in our nation's past, and how in extreme cases that sentiment turns into racism, bigotry, and violence.

The interesting thing is, it seems that in each instance in our nation's history where we restricted the flow of immigrants into our country there was a general anxiety about losing the nation's cultural identity. What is ironic about the measures taken to keep America's identity to the status quo is that those measures have largely failed.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

By the middle of this century, white Americans will be a minority in our country. In certain regions of the country this is already true. Some eastern counties in North Carolina are already non-white majority areas. For some people this is cause for panic. For others it is cause to celebrate. I think the difference in outlook can come from how you grew up.

When I was a little boy, I learned early that my father was born in El Salvador. When we would visit my grandmother every weekend, Spanish words filled my young ears. We lived in a neighborhood in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. that had African Americans, Cuban nationals, Korean nationals, and Chinese nationals. I went to school with children whose last names were Mastracci, Koneczka, Gonzalez, and Behr. Early on I had exposure to so many cultures and accents that I learned to communicate and function in a variety of cultural settings. I grew to appreciate the different foods and customs. In the late 60s and early 70s while the rest of the country was in the throes of integration, I was living in a multicultural milieu and wondering what the big deal was. And yet I understand where the panic comes from.

In my late teens my family moved to West Virginia. Suddenly I was immersed in a different culture. There were no African Americans. There was no Spanish spoken. Everyone looked white and spoke English with the same accent. After six years in that environment I remember having confused feelings when I saw a black man enter the pizza restaurant where I was working for the summer. On a rational level I understood this black man's presence in a place where probably no black man had ever stood before as something to embrace, even celebrate. I told myself that I needed to be extra welcoming to him so that he would feel at ease in an environment that might not be hospitable to him. But, on an emotional level I felt fear. I had no reason to feel it. But I did none the less. Since then, there is not a time when I reflect on that moment that I do not feel disappointment in myself.

The point I want to make is that the origins of some of the worst expressions of American identity are based on environmental factors that will be extremely hard to overcome if we as a nation wish to address in a constructive way the anxieties that a large portion of Americans are experiencing right now. However, the church has the means to do this because we carry the message of love. We have been taught to turn the other cheek when we are offended by another's words or actions. And we have the power to redeem each other because we have been powerfully redeemed by God in Jesus Christ for all time.

Grace and peace,
Joe



Congratulations

to

our own Lily Brewer

who placed fourth in the

*2019 Distinguished Young Woman of
Roanoke Valley Scholarship Program*

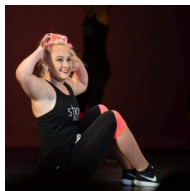
on Saturday, August 4th.

*Lily also received scholarship awards in the following
categories:*

Fitness; Self-Expression; Talent and Interview

*Lily is the daughter of Chris and Beth Brewer and the
granddaughter of James and Linda Brewer and Faye
Brown and the late Dr. Bill Brown and sister to William
Brewer.*

Congratulations Lily! We are so proud of you!



FPC Summer Music Camp



Beginning on July 16th, the Loy Building was transformed into a stage and filled with laughter and song. Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat was in production under the direction of Denise Hackenburg. Denise and her students had been working tirelessly since the end of the school year to prepare for this performance. When the camp began, the young attendees were integrated into the cast and became an important part of the show. Each day the participants worked to perfect their performances of song and dance. They were retelling the story of Joseph – his brothers, his dreams, his imprisonment, ruling along side Pharaoh, the reunification with his family – with the primary message throughout being that God was always with him.

On July 20-21, the Loy Building was overflowing with people interested in witnessing the hard work of their family member, friend, or just to enjoy the show. Whether you were a participant, assisting with the camp, or a member of the audience, you witnessed a performance that was transforming with feelings of joy, hope, and awe at the talents of the many involved in telling Joseph's story. I have to believe that God brought us all together, to not only understand more about Joseph's journey, but also to further remind us that He is always with us in times of joy and in times of distress.

Thanks again Denise, students and the Christian Ed Committee for all of your hard work!

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
- *The people of the Democratic Republic of Congo as they struggle with an Ebola outbreak
- *Families separated at the Southern Border
- *Those affected by the fires in California

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.

Jeff and Diana Dillard

Rev. Kadade from Frontier Fellowship and the Evangelical Church in Niger for needed wells and new church planting evangelists.

On-Going Care

Harry Bright
Bobbie Bright
Sandy Sandoval

**ALL people who provide
on-going care**

Healing Friends & Families of the Church

Clark Chase, grandson of Bobbie Scott
Priscilla Ricks
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels
Sheryl and Wayne O'Neil
Kevin and Michael
Ken and Holly Phipps & family
Ara Griffin
Linda Ray
David and LaNae Grimes
Sandra Stephenson
Bill Howell
Sally Ray Warren
Mary Francis Fisher
Doug Hayes
Lee Cranford, broken shoulder from a fall
Harrison West, son of Kent and Carol West
Bev Hummel, shoulder surgery
Carolyn Crawford
Joe Sandoval, hip replacement surgery



My heartfelt gratitude goes out to the members of the church and to Joe for all the support extended to me since my move to Newton. Your calls, cards, emails and visits have all been wonderful blessings. You have helped me get through a difficult time in my life. You are truly a caring group of people. Thank you again and again. I continue to miss everyone and I wish for all many happy days.

In Christian love,

Lee Cranford

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

7:00 pm Evening Circle

Hostess & Lesson—Faye Brown

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9—RALLY DAY

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

**12:00 pm Covered Dish Lunch and
Program**



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

6:00 pm Worship Committee

7:00 pm Witness Committee

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

9:45 am Morning Circle

Introduction—Grace Fishel; Lesson #1—Cheryl White

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

6:00 pm Finance & Personnel

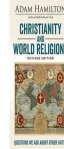
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:45 am Sunday School

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
12 Noon Lunch Bunch at Carini's
6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
10:30 am Bible Study
7:00 pm Bible Study



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship (Pennies for Hunger)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
10:30 am Bible Study
7:00 pm Bible Study

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship (Scholarship Fund Offering)

ADDRESS CORRECTION FOR
BEV HUMMEL
117 TOM WILLEY STREET
GASTON, NC 27832
THERE IS NO POST OFFICE BOX!

WITNESS NEWS

Hello everyone! Hopefully summer was full of relaxation and fun activities. Our congregation has been collecting supplies for Hygiene Kits which will be sent to Church World Services after Rally Day on September 9, 2018. These kits are sent around the world to assist people after disasters. If you have not contributed and would like to do so the list of supplies is printed in this newsletter. Please place all contributions in the tub in the Narthex by September 9. We will prepare the kits and send them off soon after Rally Day. Thank-you for supporting this witness project.

Those of us who attended the supper for Donald Marsden and Rev. Kadade (from Niger, Africa) experienced the effect that direct contact with one of the Christian leaders with whom Donald works can have on a supporting congregation. We were all awestruck as we listened to Rev. Kadade speak about conditions in Niger and the work being done in Christ's name there. Rev. Kadade spoke fluent French, English and offered a prayer in his native language, Hausa. The entire evening was a moving experience. Since the supper in July, Donald has sent information that will enable our congregation to at least help to supply a well for a community in Niger. According to Nigerian water laws, a community that is two miles from a water source is considered to have access to water. Children, mostly, walk to the water source and carry water back home; something to think about when you turn on the faucet and out comes water! We are so excited to be able to at least help provide a fresh water source for God's people in Niger. Your prayers are coveted as we pursue this effort. Look for more news about water for Niger!

Wally introduced us to the fact that children around the world suffer from parasites. One of our projects for this fall is to provide funds for children to be treated for parasites which will allow them to attend school. This is a relatively inexpensive undertaking which would make a huge difference in the lives of children in third world countries. More information will follow in the near future. Please look for challenges!

We have been asked to provide a supper for the Roanoke Rapids football team prior to a home game. We will discuss and act on this request at our September meeting.

Our Book Bag Buddy program will begin shortly after school starts. Maybe you would be available to deliver the bags to Aurelian Springs School this year. Marie Anderson is "the person in the know" to include your name on the schedule.

We are excited about upcoming events and projects as we continue to witness locally and globally. Please pray for us to continue to work in Christ's name. God bless you all.

Bev Hummel reporting

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE



HYGIENE KITS LIST



These little kits are jam-packed with supplies to help keep people clean and healthy. From toothbrushes to washcloths, you're making sure that someone's needs are going to be met in the wake of an emergency when even the most basic supplies can be hard to come by.

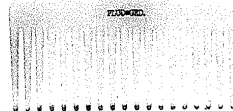
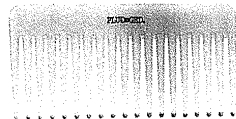
SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ❑ One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel, or micro-fiber)
- ❑ One washcloth
- ❑ One wide-tooth comb removed from the package (found at discount dealers like sallybeauty.com)
- ❑ One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package (either one is acceptable)
- ❑ One bath size bar of soap in the original package
- ❑ One toothbrush in the original package
- ❑ Ten standard size Band-Aids

Do not add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each hygiene kit just prior to its journey.

Affordable wide-tooth combs can be found at discount suppliers such as sallybeauty.com. Search for "wide-tooth comb" to see an example of combs that meet the kit requirements.

Wide Tooth Pastel Comb



All items can be placed in the tub in the Narthex between now and Rally Day in September. We will pack and send the kits in September. Thank-you in advance for your assistance with this worthwhile project from Church World Service (the organization which receives our blanket contributions).

Your Friends from the Witness Committee

CHURCH FINANCES

Our church is having a wonderful year with all of our support for such worthy causes as exemplified in: our mission and witness actions; pre-school and VBS; scholarships; music programs; multiple special love offerings; and other spiritual actions we are making with our time and talents.

We are over half way through 2018 (where does the time go) and we are approximately \$8500 below our 2018 budgeted income through July. In order for our church to continue the worthy actions I mentioned earlier along with other church needs, I am requesting that each church member ensure that they are current to their pledge commitments.

The Finance and Personnel Committee will continue to review our income and 2018 expenditures, coupled with our future financial needs, to ensure that we stay financially strong. With your support, I know we will continue to be a strong advocate for Christ in our community.

Jim Small

Moderator, Finance and Personnel Committee

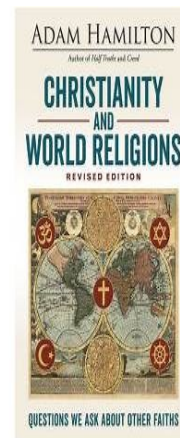
Bible Study

Pastor Joe will lead a study on Adam Hamilton's *Christianity and World Religions* starting on September 20 and continuing for six weeks. As before, there will be two classes offered on Thursdays, a morning class beginning at 10:30 am (not 10:00 am as before) and an evening class starting at 7:00 pm.

Pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton returns to one of his most popular topics, *Christianity* and world religions. This new, fully updated book explores four major world religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism—and compares the beliefs of each with those of Christianity. He deals openly and honestly with questions people ask about other religions, such as:

- Why are there so many different religions?
- How should Christians view other religions?
- How is God at work in other religions?
- What is the fate of those who earnestly pursue God through other religions?

In examining these major world religions and the beliefs of their followers, Hamilton urges us as Christians to build bridges with others so that we might grow in our faith, seek peace in our world, love our neighbors, and find positive ways to share the gospel.





Join us for

Rally Day, September 9th!

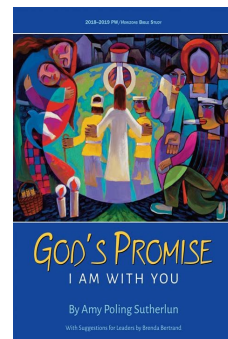


*Following the worship service at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary,
we will gather in the Loy Building for a
Covered Dish Luncheon
followed by a program based on "Clothing in the Bible"
including a fashion show!
Please bring covered dish(es) to share!*



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women have two circles. The Morning Circle meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:45 am in the Parlor. The Evening Circle meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm either in participant's homes or the Loy Building. We will begin our new year in September and will be studying the Horizons Bible Study, *God's Promise—I Am With You* by Amy Poling Sutherlun. All women are invited and welcome to join us!



The Senior Center is turning 40!

The Jo Story Senior Center is celebrating its 40th year serving the seniors of the Roanoke Valley!

Join us for a special celebration event that will be held on **September 13th at 6:00 pm** to commemorate our 40th year. Enjoy some good company, refreshments, and door prizes as we put together and bury a Time Capsule. You are encouraged to bring in a small item that you would like to include in the time capsule that represents the area, the center, or the year 2018.

Any age is welcome to help us celebrate!



FPC Lunch Bunch at CARINI'S On SEPTEMBER 19!

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



HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

Diana Dillard	Sept. 3
Nancy Sandoval	Sept. 4
Judy Oglesby	Sept. 5
John Shives	Sept. 6
Jimmy Bryant	Sept. 9
Will Ricks	Sept. 9
Jim Small	Sept. 11
Larry Spears	Sept. 15
Carolyn Crawford	Sept. 17
Alicia Grimes	Sept. 17
Laura Pate	Sept. 17
Denise Hackenburg	Sept. 19
Dee Landen	Sept. 20
David Hayes	Sept. 25



**FIRST
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SEPTEMBER 2018

IN TOUCH

