

In Touch



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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are offering a January newsletter, instead of a December-January newsletter this year because our program “Live and Learn, Learn and Live” is starting up in January. The class offerings have increased and diversified. Give the listing in this newsletter a look and talk the classes up with your friends!

As I write this January pastor’s note, it feels odd because Christmas has not yet happened. The January newsletter deadline is extra early because the church office is closed the week of Christmas. So please bear with me if I don’t mention some things that would ordinarily have transpired by January.

The first thing I want to talk about is that I am thankful we are a congregation of a size that when a tragedy strikes like the sudden death of Ed Burnett we are, as a congregation, able to surround Ellen and Cody with love and affection and also support each other as we mourn. Large churches don’t seem to do this as well, possibly because the relationships among members are not as intimate.

But, as I have mentioned in the past, there is another reason that we can do what needs to be done to support a church family in grief and do it well. That reason has to do with the emotional health of the congregation. As a rule, you get along, you watch out for each other, you love each other. That is the treasure that many congregations of many faith traditions long for. As a small community church there are certain things that we cannot do well, but there are other things we can do with excellence, caring for each other is one of those things.

Another thing that I’d like to talk about is something I should have mentioned long ago. It seems like a small thing but each time we have communion in worship it sticks out to me like a sore thumb. So, as the church’s teaching elder, it seems that it falls to me to help with this issue. The issue is: what are the ways that we may respond after receiving the sacrament by intinction?

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

In the Roman Catholic tradition, I learned to simply say “Amen.” This seems appropriate. After having been told that the bread is a symbol of Christ’s body and the juice is a symbol of Christ’s blood, reminding us of Christ’s sacrifice upon the cross, to respond with the ancient Hebrew word for “be it so” indicates a belief that God is present in the giving of the sacrament, working to bind us more tightly in relationship with God and each other.

Another way one may respond is to say “Thanks be to God.” This also is appropriate because another word for communion is “Eucharist” which means “giving thanks.” What God has done for us in Jesus Christ is certainly something to give thanks for.

Some have felt compelled to say something to me like “Thank you Joe.” There is nothing wrong with this kind of response but it misses the greater issue that I am only an instrument of God. I was trained in seminary to rightly administer the sacraments. The sacraments exist for you based on God’s initiative through Jesus Christ. Therefore it seems best to give thanks to God.

Of course, if the server doesn’t say anything to you there is no need to respond. You can say, “Amen” or “Thanks be to God” as a silent prayer to God upon receiving the bread and the juice.

I hope that these thoughts have been helpful. As followers of Christ I believe that we grow as we learn, even in learning small things, and the sum of those small things is a Christian life, which is not a small thing at all.

May God bless us as we continue our lives together,

Joe



CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CONCERNS OUTSIDE OUR COMMUNITY

- SYRIA and YEMEN, civil war
- SOMALIA, drought, famine, anarchy
- EGYPT and LIBYA with political unrest
- ISRAEL, PALESTINE, GAZA for 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
- Survivors, families and friends of all types of violence
- The people of the Democratic Republic of Congo as they struggle with an Ebola outbreak, Government instability and famine
- Families separated at the Southern Border
- Victims and relief workers involved with Hurricane Florence and Michael, Typhoon Mangkhut and the Earthquake /Tsunami in Indonesia
- Victims of shooting in the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA
- Victims of fires in California



On-Going Care

Harry Bright
Bobbie Bright
Sandy Sandoval

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

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.
- Carter Roux will be kept safe while teaching in South Korea
- Jeff and Diana Dillard
- Pray for Rev. Kadade and the Evangelical Church in Niger. A well is needed in Tibiri near Dogon Doutschi where the Evangelical Church has sent a new church planting evangelist

Healing Friends & Families of the Church

Priscilla Ricks
Bill Howell
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels
Sally Ray Warren
Sheryl and Wayne O'Neil
Ken and Holly Phipps & family
Kevin and Michael
Doug Hayes
David and LaNae Grimes
Ara Griffin
Sandra Stephenson
Mary Francis Fisher
Harrison West, son of Kent and Carol West
Bev Hummel
Tina Carr, recovering from heart surgery
Jolene Dendler
Ellen Burnett
Susan Horrell
Alice Ricks
Kim Taresco
Debbie Daniels
Delbra Davis, friend of Debbie Powell
Malina Gaynor, Ellen Burnett's sister, emergency appendectomy



*Our deepest Christian sympathy
is extended to the family of
Edmund Cody Burnett, Jr.
who left this earthly world
to be with his Lord and Savior
on Sunday, December 2, 2018*

THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN
THE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX PROJECT
FOR ANGELS CLOSET THIS YEAR!
OUR GOAL WAS 50 BOXES.....
AND WE DID IT!

We also had donations of 5 soccer balls, 5 foot-
balls and 2 basketballs! Thanks also to Mary
Shelby for providing the plastic shoeboxes.



Celebrating Ed Burnett's Life

There is so much to write this note of church family brothers and sisters. The outpouring support to Cody Ellis and I these epitomizes Jesus' to love one another as we have experienced arms holding us have felt your comforting sustenance. We



in my heart as I gratitude to our and friends and sisters in Christ. of love and and Alison and past two weeks commandment other as I have surely as we God's loving in His care we generous and support and appreciate your

warm hugs and visits, phone calls, cards, emails, texts and floral remembrances of Ed. IF EVER THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF ANGELS AMONG US YOU ALL

ARE THE ANGELS. The suddenness of his death not only tore our hearts asunder but seems to have sent shock waves throughout our community in Halifax county, Vance County, Pitt and Forsyth and Mecklenburg and Wake Counties as well as Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia, Texas and Florida, Georgia,

Kentucky and South Carolina. Ed was only 66 actively going to the gym and in good health! One of our greatest blessings has been good family and friends.

Cody and I could not have celebrated Ed's life and many contributions professionally, personally, and spiritually without all your gentle guidance, care, concern and

your loving remembrances: his embracing technology (especially his iPad "dependence"); from his wide range of reading interests but especially Biblical history, the Civil War, WWII and Scottish history along with science fiction and psychological suspense thrillers; he was a good photographer from adolescence cultivating that hobby and avidly making a pictorial journal of our travels and family gatherings; Yes, Ed was a quiet man who loved to travel and share his

experiences with others; he loved music, tv and movies; he loved West Virginia and treasured his roots there and as we built our retirement home there he longed

for friends and family to visit so that he could share the peace he felt when we were there and also dearly loved his pets. In June this year Ed retired from private

practice of psychology after 35 years of private practice in addition to 40 years as a public servant in mental health as a psychologist, administrator and beloved

supervisor and colleague. In August we took an anniversary river cruise in France achieving one of his bucket list trips to Paris. We had an awesome time and in the

city of love privately renewed our wedding vows. Ed's greatest contributions were in his quiet steady capacity for caring for his loved ones. Ed was over the

moon when our son married Alison as the answer to our years of prayers for a wife for Cody reveling in the joining of the Burnett and Campbell clan, our new

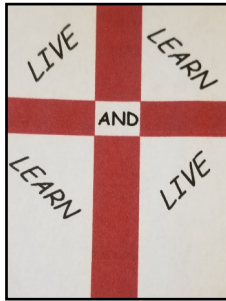
extended family and then over the moon and back in October with the birth of Ellis Asher Burnett, our first grandchild. On and until the day he died he never ceased

smiling when talking and sharing pictures and stories of our son's new family. God has blessed us for 36 years abundantly with a church family that Ed served as

a deacon, elder, committee member and congregant dedicating his life in the service of Christ.

We thank the Lord for sharing Ed with us for 66 years. Glory be to God!
May we all be comforted by God's loving spirit.

In Christ's Love, Ellen, Cody and Alison Burnett



LIVE AND LEARN, LEARN AND LIVE RETURNS FOR 2019

The second year of Live and Learn, Learn and Live for 2019 will bring back some familiar faces and expand to bring new topics and presenters.

The program kicks off on Jan. 28, 2019, with a course for parents in Behavior Management of young children. It will be presented under the auspices of Cymie Terry of SmartStart. Subsequent classes will be held on Mondays and Thursdays through March 4. The list includes these offerings:

- Cooking by Yvonne Hoffman of Y Cook?
- CPR by Capt. Ed Porter of the Gaston Fire Department
- How to use the iPad and iPhone by Heather Karns
- Making goat's milk lotion by Wendy Byrum of Faintin' Acre Farm
- Exploring your genealogy – where to begin by Ruby Sharber
- Make It, Take It art project by local artist Susan Watson
- Women's Self-Defense by Roanoke Rapids Police Department
- Spring Gardening by Victoria Neff of Halifax County Extension Service

A complete listing of dates and times will be available on January 1. As was the case in our first year, participants for all classes will pay a \$10 fee which is donated to our two designated charities – the Boys and Girls Club of Roanoke Rapids and the Bethlehem Food Pantry of First United Methodist Church. Proceeds from 2018 allowed us to present \$500 to each group which we hope to increase this year.

Remember, classes are open to all so spread the word to friends and neighbors.

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1



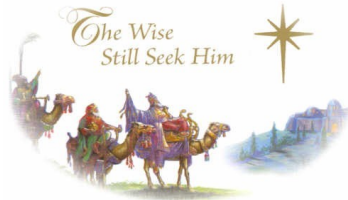
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

7:00 pm Evening Circle @ Loy Building

Hostess-Noreen Knudson; Lesson #5 Leader-Susan Barmer



SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship (Wally Spragins)

MONDAY, JANUARY 7

6:00 pm Worship Committee

7:00 pm Witness Committee

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

9:30 am Morning Circle

Lesson #5 Leader-Pet Spears

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

6:00 pm Finance & Personnel

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship (Communion)



MONDAY, JANUARY 14

7:00 pm Christian Ed

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

12:00 Noon Lunch Bunch @ Texas Steakhouse

6:30 pm Choir

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

6:00 pm Session

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

6:30 pm Choir

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

7:00 pm Live and Learn Class

(Parental Class in Behavior Management of young children)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

6:30 pm Choir

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

Breton Pate	Jan. 3
Lee Cranford	Jan. 5
Gary Hackenburg	Jan. 10
David Grimes	Jan. 12
Rebecca White	Jan. 17
Nathan Howard	Jan. 19
DJ Glasgow	Jan. 20
Dawn Arthur	Jan. 23
Melanie Oglesby	Jan. 29
Garrett Tant	Jan. 29
Julia Ann Fitts	Jan. 30
Thomas Harris	Jan. 30
Chip Clifton	Jan. 31



*God has blessed me with a wonderful,
caring family of fellow Christians.*

*Thank-you for everything you have done for
Jim and me during my recuperation. Each
day that I received a card, phone call or
visit blessed me with God's presence
through you. The food that you brought was
uplifting as were the visits that came with
it. Thank-you so much for your thoughtfulness.
I am able to get out more and more
but those of you who have seen me know
that it's not over yet. I appreciate your
continued prayers.*

-Bev Hummel

THANK YOU

**FPC Lunch Bunch
Texas Steakhouse
on Wednesday,
January 16**



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

**FIRST
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JANUARY 2019

IN TOUCH

