

In Touch



Sharing Our Gifts Table of Contents:

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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I sit writing this the medical professionals and guardians in charge of Mike Stainback's care are in the process of preparing Mike to be taken to a long-term acute care hospital. His situation is largely unchanged from last Wednesday night when he had emergency surgery and was taken to surgical intensive care on a ventilator. If Mike heals it is hard to know how much of his abilities he will retain or how much of his personality will survive the massive damage that his brain received.

That Mike will be sent to another facility represents a decision by his guardian to give Mike a chance to recover from his injuries. But no one on earth knows if Mike will ever recover. It may be that this decision to continue with Mike's care will only be delaying the inevitable end of Mike's earthly journey. I say this to prepare us all for the possibility that the Mike we know and love will never come back to us.

This makes me think of all the people who will feel the loss of Mike. I can only guess at the number of people who Mike touched regularly in his travels on his bike, but I am beginning to realize the enormity of his impact on this community as people who don't even know me call to ask how he is doing. If Mike passes, we will have to recognize a responsibility not only to ourselves, but to our community as whole, as we make decisions on how to celebrate Mike's life.

The number of people who have shown concern for Mike in the wake of this accident begs the question, what is it that endeared Mike to so many? It's not that he had extraordinary gifts of athleticism, or musical abilities, or soaring intelligence. We celebrate those attributes and others with regularity. No, Mike was well-known and liked by many because he consistently sought to make people happy through his presence and especially through the things he said.

He would walk into church offices, store fronts, and restaurants and talk of his passions for the various athletic teams at the high school. He would show off newly

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

acquired shirts, jackets and ball caps that represented a team that he rooted for. He would use his well-worn sayings that were designed to kid and to tease. For me he always swore that he had arranged for me to receive a dog as a gift.

It is not a bad thing to go about town, walk into people's lives, tell them a story, tease them a little bit and then go on your way. One may even say that is a ministry. With all of my training I don't think that I could do half as good a job at keeping us in touch with the parts of us that are fun-loving, caring, and generous with affection. Mike did that. And in doing that he helped weave the people here that just happen to share the same zip code into a community that knows each other and cares for each other a little more. We will miss Mike, not only because we will miss his presence, but because we will miss the things he did for this community. What kept him pushing his bike all over town even when the pain in his knees reduced his stride to mere inches was his interest in all of us. What did we do to deserve the presence of Mike Stainback in our lives?

Nothing. The more I think about it, the more I am convinced that we were given Mike through the grace of God. And so the proper way to respond to such a magnanimous gift is to give thanks. Mike has not left us yet, but I believe the work of preparing for the time when Mike will no longer be part of this community of faith is before us now. Let us do that work as a church family, in our conversations with one another, in our worship together, and in our prayers.

God's love and God's peace be with you,

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
- 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 of fires in California
- People of Venezuela
- Victims of shootings in New Zealand
- Victims of tornadoes in the South and floods in the Midwest



On-Going Care

Harry Bright
Bobbie Bright
Sandy Sandoval
Frieda Hayes
Charles Harris

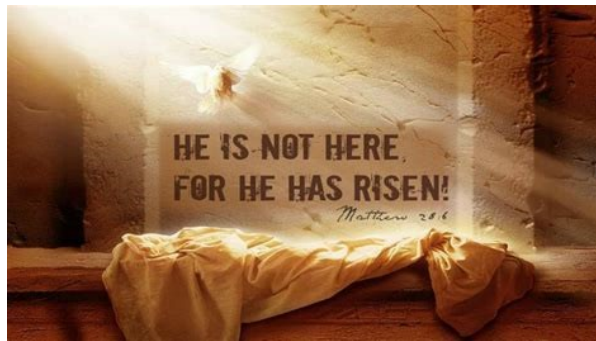
**ALL people who
provide on-going
care**

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.

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
Sandra Stephenson
Mary Francis Fisher
Harrison West, son of Kent and Carol West
Ellen Burnett
Susan Horrell
Alice Ricks
Debbie Daniels
Delbra Davis, friend of Debbie Powell
Peg Myrick, cancer
Betsy Medlin
B.T. Brown
Tommy Gregory
Triston Arwood
Bev Hummel
Mike Stainback



*Our Christian sympathy is extend to
the family and friends of Ann Sledge
Harris Horne, who left this earthly
world for her heavenly home on
March 14, 2019.*

WITNESS NEWS

The One Great Hour of Sharing calendars and fish boxes are still available in the "net" in the Narthex. See page 7 for details on how the offering is used. The offering will be collected on Easter Sunday, April 21st, during the worship service.

At this time our Book Bag Buddies program is serving approximately 80 children.

Marie Anderson reported that the Guardian Ad Litem program donated 146 books and 9 stuffed animals. And We still have 2 big bags left to go. Thanks to all who donated!

The Love Offering for Donald Marsden with Frontier Fellowship was \$985! Awesome everyone!

Pennies for Hunger (Cents-Ability) was collected on March 17th. The total collected was \$227.48!

Cents-Ability originated as "Two-Cents-A-Meal," a project of Presbyterian women in response to the crisis of world hunger. This offering supplements but does not replace One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Following are some facts about hunger.

Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability



Hunger Facts	
www.bread.org/learn/hunger-basics/	
People in the world that go hungry each day	983 million
Kids under five that die from hunger each year	3 million
Kids in the US that regularly skip meals	11.7 million
Additional funds needed to alleviate hunger and sickness	\$13 billion
Money spent on pets in the US each year	\$40 billion
Money one presbytery can raise a year at a nickel per meal	\$1.8 million

Cents-Ability originated in 1976 as "Two-Cents-A-Meal," a project begun by Presbyterian Women to involve individuals and families in a corporate response to world hunger. Over the years, presbyteries have developed similar programs entitled Pennies for Hunger, Nickle-A-Meal, etc. Many of these programs benefit local hunger ministries as well as the national and international projects of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. (www.pcusa.org/php/centsability)

Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability - Cents-Ability



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing—

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, One Great Hour of Sharing, is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

*Presbyterian Disaster Assistance receives 32% of funds

*Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36% of funds

*Self-Development of People receives 32% of funds

Please give as you are able.

Calendars and fish boxes are available in the Narthex.

Collection will be on Easter Sunday, April 21st.

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY, APRIL 1

6:00 pm Worship Committee

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

9:30 am Morning Circle

Lesson #8 Leader-Bev Hummel

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

12:00 Noon Lenten Service & Luncheon

@ First United Methodist Church

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

7:00 pm Evening Circle @ Loy Bldg.

Hostess-Ginger Phipps

Lesson #8 Leader-Nancy Sandoval

SUNDAY, APRIL 7—5th Sunday in Lent

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

12:00 Noon Lenten Service & Luncheon

@ Rosemary Baptist Church

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

10:30 am "Creed" Study

6:00 pm Finance & Personnel

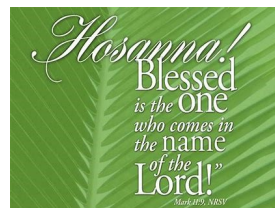
7:00 pm "Creed" Study

SUNDAY, APRIL 14—Palm Sunday

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

6:00 pm Session



APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

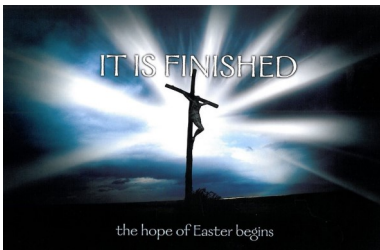
12:00 Noon Lunch Bunch @ Oscar's

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service (Communion)

FRIDAY, APRIL 19—Good Friday



SUNDAY, APRIL 21—Easter Sunday

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship (COMMUNION)



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

10:30 am "Creed" Study

7:00 pm "Creed" Study

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY TO:

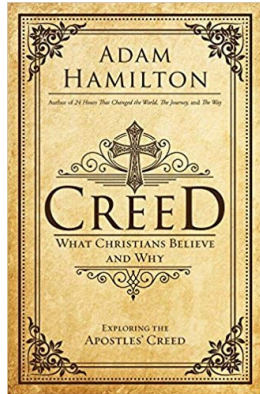
Gail Mederos	April 2
James Brewer	April 4
Danny Phipps	April 12
Wally Spragins	April 16
Jacob Hackenburg	April 17
Becky Hux	April 17
Alice Ricks	April 22



**FPC Lunch Bunch
At OSCAR'S
on Wednesday,
April 17th**



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



Creed: What Christians Believe and Why

continues this month and is led by Rev. Joe Sandoval. The class will meet on Thursdays, April 11 & 25 and May 9, at 10:30 am or 7:00 pm.

We're all searching. Sometimes the search is easy: simply type a question and the answer pops up. But sometimes our questions are complicated, and the answers are difficult to see and harder to articulate. How do we discover and examine the truths that give meaning and purpose to life? Adam Hamilton believes that some powerful answers are contained in the Apostles' Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs. In this book, Hamilton considers important questions of life, reality, and truth. He explores not only what Christians believe, but also why they believe it and why it matters. Chapters include: God; Jesus Christ; The Holy Spirit; The Church at the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of Sins; and The Resurrection of the Body. Everyone is welcome to join us!

MAUNDY THURSDAY/TENEBRAE SERVICE



On Thursday, April 18th, at 7:30 pm we will observe Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with a combination service. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated by Intinction then the service will move into "the shadows or darkness" (which is the meaning of the Latin word tenebrae) by using selected readings of the last 24 hours of Christ's life during which candles will be extinguished. The purpose of the service is to remind us of the somber events that incurred in Jesus' life from His jubilant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to His burial on Good Friday. As the last reading is read and the last candle extinguished, the room will be plunged into darkness. Jesus' death on the cross brings us to the lowest point in our relationship with God but in the end we see that God's light (candle is lit symbolizing Christ's resurrection) is not extinguished as a foresight to Easter morning and Christ's resurrection. The service ends and we will leave in contemplative silence. Join us for one of the most meaningful services you will ever experience!

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APRIL 2019

IN TOUCH

