

In Touch



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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This month I want to express my gratitude for something that you probably neither care for yourself, nor would wish for anyone else. That thing is the business of getting old. The day I wrote this is the day I set aside to visit some people whose health could be better. Red Barnes had surgery for appendicitis recently. Usually a procedure that keeps a person overnight at a hospital, Red is staying there for a number of days because his body did not bounce back as quickly as it might have when he was a younger man. Red is now the oldest person in our congregation.

Then I visited with Carolyn Crawford, who has outlived all of her siblings. She missed Easter worship because she wasn't feeling all that well. When I came to her house she was complaining about the way she was feeling and said that "getting old does not agree with me."

While most of us feel helpless in the face of the relentless march of time and the effect that it has upon our bodies, I think I would be remiss if I did not share a tip from Faye Brown who has discovered that she doesn't feel old because she does not wear "old lady shoes." Good helpful news like that ought to be shared. I expressed my gratitude and told her I would keep that in mind.

Joking aside, getting old is tough. The adage I remember is that it is not for "sissies." I would definitely agree. As we age more and more is taken away from us. We no longer do things as easily as we used to. Running, jumping, and climbing are replaced with slow walking, struggling to balance, and avoiding stairs.

Getting old often means being lonely. So many of us have outlived our life partners, our siblings, and good friends. Some of us have outlived our children. How one does not become embittered and sad in the face of such cruelty is amazing to me.

But cruelty is the not right term for what we endure, because getting old and the attendant loss we must experience is not the premeditated act of a being who delights in our misery. There is no face for the forces of chaos, only a relentless tearing and grinding upon the fabric

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

of our bodies and our world. We do our best to hold it back, to avoid its touch, and to frustrate its effects. But eventually we must yield, acknowledging that it has bested us.

Those who understand this and instead of fighting it, seek to find a peace with it are those who find a calm amidst the calamity. They maintain a certain dignity in their life. They have achieved an understanding which is, by necessity, a compromise. I feel privileged to minister among you who have learned to endure loss with dignity. There is a silent resolve about you. A kind of beauty that words cannot capture surrounds you.

I could try to explain it, but for the most part I am still just an observer of what you know. I don't have the ability to explain the scope, or the nuance, of what you understand. Even if I had the benefit (or the bad fortune) of your experiences I doubt that I could grasp the whole meaning of those experiences. Something would always escape my grasp or squeeze out between my fingers. And so getting old must mean that we live on the edge of the unknowable and uncontrollable. It is an understanding that can never be completely shared, there is always something that must be learned alone, a private lesson reserved for each of us.

The only thing that I am sure of is that our faith is somehow integral to how we deal with those private lessons, those parts of getting old that are personal, unspeakable, and yet somehow apparent as we live together in community. Being witness to these things makes me thank God for my role among you.

God bless you and keep you,

Joe



MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 2

7:00 pm Evening Circle @ Loy Building

Hosted by Linda Brewer

Lesson #9 will be a group discussion

SUNDAY, MAY 5

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

Guest Minister—Rev. Joe Wilburn

Guest Organist—Nick Stephenson

MONDAY, MAY 6

6:00 pm Worship Committee

7:00 pm Witness Committee

TUESDAY, MAY 7

9:30 am Morning Circle @ Parlor

Lesson #9—Joe Sandoval

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, MAY 9

10:30 am "Creed" Study @ Parlor

6:00 pm Finance & Personnel

7:00 pm "Creed" Study @ Loy Bldg.

SUNDAY, MAY 12—MOTHER'S DAY

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship



MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MONDAY, MAY 13
4 Yr. PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
@ Loy Bldg.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15
12 Noon Lunch Bunch at Applebee's
6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, MAY 16
6:00 pm Presbyterian Women's Birthday Dinner
@ Loy Building

SUNDAY, MAY 19
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
6:00 pm Session

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22
6:30 pm Choir

SUNDAY, MAY 26
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, MAY 27—MEMORIAL DAY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29
6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, MAY 30
ASCENSION of the LORD

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
- *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
- *Victims of Cyclone Idai
- *Victims of violence in Sri Lanka



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
- Pray for Rev. Kadade and the Evangelical Church in Niger.

On-Going Care

Harry Bright
Bobbie Bright
Sandy Sandoval
Frieda Hayes
Charles Harris

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

Healing Friends & Families of the Church

Priscilla Ricks
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels
Sheryl and Wayne O'Neil
Ken and Holly Phipps & family
David and LaNae Grimes
Mary Francis Fisher
Harrison West, son of Kent & Carol
Alice Ricks
Delbra Davis
Betsy Medlin
B.T. Brown
Mike Stainback
Billy Green
Joyce Thomas

Bill Howell
Sally Ray Warren
Kevin and Michael
Doug Hayes
Sandra Stephenson
Ellen Burnett
Susan Horrell
Debbie Daniels
Peg Myrick
Tommy Gregory
Bev Hummel
Becky Hux
Jonathan Hayes
Carey Barnes



FPC Lunch Bunch at Applebee's on Wednesday, May 15th

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

Everyone is welcome!



Roanoke Rapids High School Presents



“Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin’!”

Thursday, May 9th

&

Friday, May 10th

7:30 pm

Tickets

\$8.00 Adults

\$5.00 Students & Youth

at

Roanoke Rapids High School Auditorium

800 Hamilton Street

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIRTHDAY

All Women are invited to join us at the

PW Birthday Dinner

May 16, 2019

At 6:00 pm

In the Loy Building

God is Faithful

2019 birthday offering recipients

Disaster Response Team

Presbytery of Charlotte, North Carolina

Effingham Child Development Center

Inclusive Playground

Effingham, Illinois

Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky, Inc.

Good Shepherd Community Nursing Center Residents

Phelps, Kentucky

Wings of Refuge

Restoration Home

WITNESS NEWS

On Easter Sunday our congregation participated in the One Great Hour of Sharing collection.

To date our total contributions amount to \$487.06!

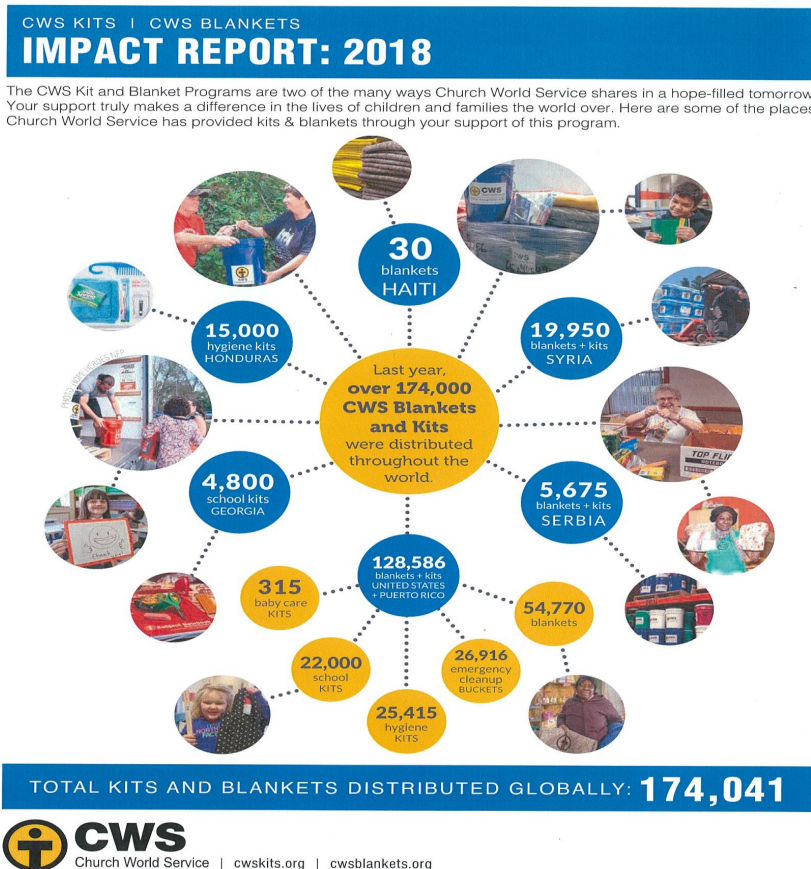
This exceeds our total from last year over \$100!

You can still donate to this worthy cause if you haven't done so already. Bring your "fish box" by the office or place it in the offering plate next week. Checks can be made to First Presbyterian Church with OGHS in the memo line.

Our committee is currently planning a dinner and program about the effects of our Book Bag Buddy Program hopefully to be held in June. Look for more information in the near future.

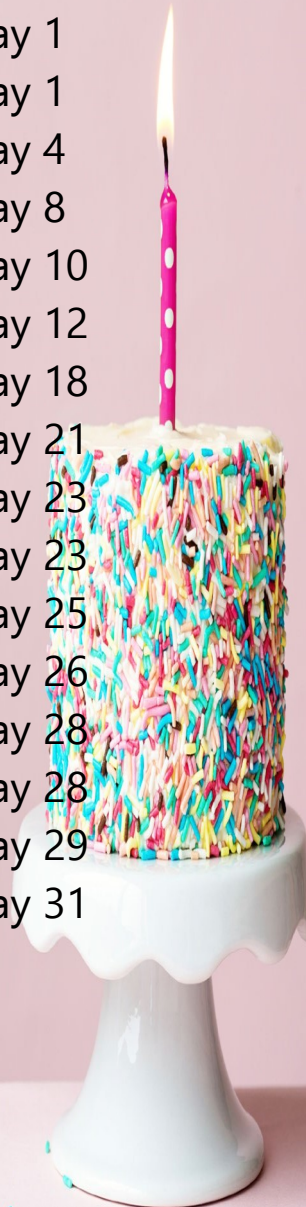
Also take a look below how our offerings on Blanket Sunday (Church World Service) impacted the world, especially the USA.

Thanks to all for supporting our missions!



HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY TO:

Jack Kiger	May 1
Ben White	May 1
Susan Gaylor	May 4
Noreen Knudson	May 8
Phillip Wingfield	May 10
Carey Barnes	May 12
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
Joe Sandoval	May 28
John Dwight	May 29
William Shives	May 31



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MAY 2019

IN TOUCH

