



WALKERSVILLE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6204 BRADY ROAD, WAXHAW, NC 28173

FEBRUARY 2021

A Note from the Pastor...

As we find ourselves beginning to move further into a new year there is a certain amount of hope that 2021 will be a little easier on us than 2020. In moving from one year to the next, consider this passage of Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33. Jesus came to his disciples, walking on the water during a storm. When Peter realized it was Jesus he said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come." And Peter did. He took a few steps on the water, but took his eyes off of Jesus and began to sink.

2020 is in the rear-view mirror and 2021 lays in front of us. As you move further into an unknown new year, are you keeping your eyes on Jesus or on the storms that have become a consistent part of our lives? As you go to your phone, computer, or television to find the latest news, are you looking at the storm and being filled with anxiety? Or looking at Jesus in faith?

We do need to know what is happening in the world around us (the storms). They are there and we should acknowledge that. But in the middle of all that, our eyes need to be kept on Jesus more than ever. As you share your own thoughts with others about world events, are you sharing fear or faith? As you talk with others about the latest statistics, does the name of our Savior enter into the conversation? As politics becomes your topic, is the Lord still seated on the throne?

In this life storms will be inevitable. The details will change. The terminology will change. People's positions will change. But the storms will still be there. We can't avoid them. In the middle of them do you hear our Lord's words? "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

And when Jesus says, "Come," and we find ourselves where there is nothing solid to stand on, where is your focus? Do you get caught up in the storm only to hear Jesus say, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Or will you keep your eyes on Jesus, exclaiming, "Truly you are the Son of God!"?

It's not about us. It's not about the place where we find our latest news. It's not about our opinion or the opinions of anyone in this world. It's not about data or statistics. It's not about who is right or who is wrong.

It is all about the Lord who is our Rock and Fortress. He is our mighty Warrior. He is Truth. He is Life. He is our Sovereign Lord. He is Immanuel...God with us. He is our Savior. He is our certainty in the unknown. He alone is God and there is no other.

Pastor Paul

Sermons for February

February 7: Leviticus 26-27 "The Great Reversal"

February 14: Leviticus 16 "Atonement"

February 17: (Ash Wednesday) John 13:1-17 "The Full Extent of Love"

February 21: John 13:31-38 "Powerful Words" (Jesus' and Peter's-vs. 37)

February 28: John 14:1-7 "Betting on a Sure Thing"

Weekly Reminders:

Prayer Group: Wednesdays at 4:00 PM in the Youth Room

Children's Choir Practice: Mondays at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Adult Choir Practice: Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Bible Study with Pastor: Wednesday at 3:00 PM in the Library

Walkersville's EPC Session Meetings Minutes

The Session of Walkersville EPC met on January 21, 2021 in the Fellowship Hall. Elders present were Boyet Twitty, Clara McGee, Dean Haney, Betty Lou Mosley and Hazel Norwood.

The meeting was opened with prayer and a word of encouragement by Rev. Paul Rankin.

The minutes from December 17, 2020 and called meeting for January 10, 2021 were read. Boyet Twitty made a motion to accept as read. Hazel Norwood seconded and all approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building & Grounds – Waiting on handicap rail

Christian Education –

Congregational Care - We encourage the use of the new directory to keep the congregation connected

Mission & Out Reach - Need volunteers for Operation Reach Out either cooking or serving
Let Debbie Rankin know if you are willing to help

Stewardship/Financial Report – December Financial report was given. Motion to accept was by Dean Haney, Seconded by Hazel Norwood

Worship – January 31st someone from the Pregnancy Crisis Center will address the Congregation for Minute of Missions

(We encourage everyone to wear a mask when entering and exiting the Sanctuary. They are mask at the back of the church if you need one)

Old Business – Elder Nominating Committee consist of Dean Haney, Hazel Norwood, Clay Murray
Debbie Robinson and Frances Gamble.

New Business - Next Presbytery meeting is January 29, 2021 via zoom,9-3:00 (RE's who wants to Attend
Next Session Meeting February 18, 2021

There being no further business Clara McGee made a motion to adjourn. Betty Lou Mosley seconded, session approved and Rev. Paul Rankin closed in prayer.

The Men's and Ladies Bible Study

They meet on second Monday of every month at 7:00 PM
With Pastor Paul Rankin Wednesdays at 3:00 PM in Library.

From the Worship Committee

The Worship Committee will be including a Prayer List in the bulletin each week. If you wish to have someone's name listed in the church bulletin, please contact Debbie Rankin. Your request will remain on the Prayer List in the bulletin for one month. At the end of that time, the name you listed will be dropped from the Prayer List or you may ask Debbie to continue to list that person's name.

Senior Saints Luncheon

55 plus luncheon is meeting the last Wednesday of every month at 11:30.

A note from the Congregational Care Ministry Group...

We have several friends who are suffering from injuries and other health problems who need our help through prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits. Please minister in some way to Robby Griffin, Gregg Ross, Phil Keys, Dennis Adams, Carolyn Griffin, Shelia Medlin, Larry and Audrey Schott, Jane Threatt, Marcie Barrell, Clyde and Ruth Norwood, Travis Price, Troyanne and Mark Hinson, Rick Moser, Beth and Benny Simpson, Alan Wright, Frank Rogers, Rachel Brody, Sheldon Medlin, Janice York, Martha Allen, James and Francis Gordon, Sandy Brady, Fran Griffin, Fran Coleman, Edward Barber, Doug Laney, Linda and Phil Goodman, Wilson Pierce, Paul Dvorak, Phil Mosley, Robbie Plyler, Brody Batson, Layne Dewlen, Pete Medlin and family, Leslie Couick James, Karen Trull, Melanie Deal, Loma Tyson, Billy Thompson, Mark Beebe, Terry McManus, Jeffrey Norwood, Daniel Gay, Dale Rogers, and Ida Bennett.

We extend our sympathy to the families of Kathy Allred, Becky Adams, Nadine Nesbit, Hazel Hilton and Nina Crosby.

Please continue to send cards and remember in prayer our church members who are in assisted living homes:

Robby Griffin, Lee Forest Group Home, 1209 Pelham Dr., Laurinburg, NC 28352

Travis Price, Brookdale Monroe Square, Room 44918 Fitzgerald St, Monroe, NC 28112-5679

Food Pantry

The food pantry at Prospect is always in need of donations to meet the growing need. Canned soups and non-perishable items are helpful. Please bring them to the back of the church and let's see how fast we can fill up the barrel

Operation Reach-Out Update

As crazy as 2020 was, like many other ministries, Operation Reach-Out continued. Here is a snapshot of last year "by the numbers":

- ❖ 919 clients received assistance
- ❖ 257 clients received financial assistance (utility, medication, or gas)
- ❖ 425 clients received food boxes (26,175 lbs.)
- ❖ 237 clients received tangible items (clothing, household items, furniture, tents, sleeping bags)
- ❖ 6,419 lunches served
- ❖ 2,335 supper bags given to homeless (as of July, 2020)

- ❖ Provided a Thanksgiving meal “to go” to more than 300 individuals

This ministry is not going anywhere. As the ministry continues, Walkersville EPC will continue to support this ministry tangibly through food and clothing donations along with providing lunch on the second Wednesday of each month.

2021 Programs & Services:

- Daily Bible Study & Lunch (in partnership with local churches, restaurants, and individuals)
- Crisis Needs Ministry: Financial assistance for those in crisis (utilities, medication, gasoline/kerosene, emergency hotel stays)
- Welcome Home Program to supply beds, furniture, and household items
- Joseph’s Pantry (to provide emergency food boxes and monthly food for the elderly)
- Clothing Closet: Provides clothing and shoes for those in need
- Showers and laundry for the area’s homeless
- Partnership with area schools to help provide uniforms and needed items for low-income children
- NC Baptist Men’s Dental Bus (provide free dental care to our community)

Learn more at: www.operationreachout.org

Samaritans International News

As we all know how the world changed in 2020. As we look forward with confidence in God to this new year. we are expecting great things. In the middle of difficult and sometimes frightening times, God made this promise to Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 29:11–13:

For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for your harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart...

I want to focus on what God has for each of us as well as what He has for this ministry. When people have asked me about our discipleship program, my response is "Get in the truck." As we see the needs of people, we work to share the Love of God with them. We use many different tools to do this: education, feeding programs, feeding house by house. The main goal is to share God’s love with people that we find in the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Education:

As of February 1st, schools in Nicaragua are back too “normal”, by order of the President. All students have to be back in normal classes. There will be a check-in point at the gate and masks must be worn. Please pray for our school staff, parents, and students as we begin, dealing with the new normal. It seems that life in all areas has been changed forever, so this is just another part of getting used to those changes in school. Bringing a free Christian education to these students, has been one of our main focuses, for many years.

Feeding Program:

Can a small bag of “Fortified Rice-Soy Casserole” really change a life? It may seem hard to believe but the answer is YES! This bag includes life-saving ingredients. With just one cup a day a child receives all the vitamins and minerals needed for the whole day. We have seen the changes in the health of children who receive this food. There is something else in this bag which is not visible to the naked eye: HOPE. Many people have come together to buy, pack, ship, unload, and distribute this food so others can have Hope. Hope cannot be bought, but it can be given.

Memorials for Cemetery Fund

For Atha Mae Laine

By Manley and Larry Councilman

For Irene Mosley

By Marlene Brown

In Memory of

Becky Adams

By Dennis and Debbie Robinson

Marsha and Bob Stirton

Bob McCain

Good News and Praises

Happy Birthday and Anniversary

January

Ashton Moser-3

Bristol Batson-4

Nolan Rogers-5

Karen Trull-5

Ben Bartel-9

Nicole Mosley-11

Cheyenne Hardy-13

Justin Parr-18

Ella Rogers-19

Sue Stinson-24

Gretchen Presson-26

Nicole Medlin-27

February

Clara McGee-2

Paul Rankin-2

Sherri Simpson-3

Bert Stirton-3

Dennis Robinson-5

Tommy Norwood, III-8

Brian Rogers-10

Chloe Hardy-13

Hazel Norwood-17

Grady Rose, Jr.-18

Chris Trull-19

Chad Clonch-20

Clyde & Ruth Norwood-2/21/64

Debbie Rankin-23

Jeffery Norwood-27

Jim Outen-28

PVT Brody Batson, RN 116
CO E, 2ND BN 54th INFANTRY 198th INFANTRY BRIGADE
9050 KINSMAN DRIVE, BLDG 3305
Fort Benning, GA 31905-4931

It has to be written as shown, per their instructions. Any letters, cards or words of encouragement will be greatly appreciated. He can only have letters at this time...no other items.

BRACE YOURSELF!

By Layne Dewlen

Before getting into the nitty gritty, how about some church sign humor, OK?

Can we uninstall 2020 and install it again?

Jesus cleans the heart; we disinfect the pew.

Social distancing doesn't apply to God. Draw near to Him!

I want to be like Saul, I want to be on the road to De-mask-us!

Due to Covid 19 we are asking rioters to work at home and destroy their own stuff!

My favorite: No toilet paper? I guess the roll was called up yonder!!

As I write this article in the first days of a new year, wondering what lies ahead, I see wonderful, good times for all. RIGHT!! Along with a chicken in every pot, two cars in every garage, and the government giving each of you a million dollars tomorrow. Enough of my sick humor, let's get serious.

We tend to think that things will be NEW in the new year, the bad of last year is behind us, but of course the truth is neither God, nor our enemy Satan, goes by our calendar. Because of our nearness to the Tribulation spoken of in Daniel and Revelation, I believe it's safe to say things are going to wax worse and worse until the glorious day Christ calls us home to Glory. (Thank God that call is coming before the wrath of God is poured out during the Tribulation time!) At least twenty years ago Lynn and I could see persecution coming to this nation for the saints of God. At that time, I told her it was like seeing the line of a weather front across the horizon, far away. Now it is on us. There are two other voices being raised about this that I would like to mention. One is on line for those who can go there, here is the site: <https://youtu.be/xJW5YwjWLFk> . The other is a name well known to many of you, Andrew Brunson, the EPC missionary imprisoned by Turkey. Here are his words as reported by Clarion News on Dec. 7, 2020.

Pastor Andrew Brunson soberly predicted on Sunday that Christians in the United States will face increasing hostility.

Nevertheless, Brunson said, the most that American Christians could hope for is a "delay" of the persecution that he discerns to be inevitable for his home country, for which reason he urges people of faith to prepare for intense push back.

Speaking Sunday evening to a group of Christians who [gathered via Zoom to pray](#) for the integrity of the U.S. election, Brunson explained how he has been burdened with "a new urgency" toward the U.S. since he returned after being released from his imprisonment two years ago.

“On my return to the U.S. just over two years ago, for the first time in my life—most of my life I’ve been focused overseas—for the first time in my life, I really have an urgency for this country, for the United States,” Brunson said. “And not just with this election. It’s not precipitated by this election, but it has been growing in me these last two years.”

“I believe the pressures that we’re seeing in our country now are going to increase, and one of these pressures is going to be hostility toward people who embrace Jesus Christ and his teaching, who are not ashamed to stand for him,” Brunson continued. “My concern is that we’re not ready for this pressure. And not being prepared is very, very dangerous on a number of levels.”

Referencing his own persecution in Turkey, which he described as “[relatively intense](#),” Brunson explained his belief that God had allowed him to suffer so profoundly so that he could better equip his fellow Christians at home to endure similar trials.

“I think one of the purposes God had for me in my imprisonment was that I learned perseverance at a deeper level again and again and again, as I was repeatedly broken and finally, he rebuilt me,” Brunson said. “But one of the purposes he had for me was to learn this perseverance so that I could help to prepare others to persevere.”

Brunson went on to describe the historically unusual freedom of religion in the U.S., which he attributed to godly ancestors and leaders whose legacy is running out. “So, we have been spared major persecution in the U.S. until now, because generations before ours honored God,” he said. “And surely there were many mistakes and sins in our country, but many of our leaders honored God. And today, a great many leaders in our society and corporations, media, entertainment, politics, and academia, they do not honor God. And, in fact, they openly defy him.”

Brunson pinpointed “[cancel culture](#)” as a key example of the rising persecution. “We see this in ‘cancel culture,’ silencing and marginalizing and DE platforming; removing access to spreading information, to communicating. I think it’s coming into financial transactions now, and that’s going to present a lot of challenges. So that’s already happening.”

Recounting how he recently spoke with “a significant leader” whose online ministry had been “canceled and moved off of platforms,” Brunson pivoted to the growing cultural antipathy toward Christianity that transcends politics. “Whoever ends up prevailing in this election, I believe that persecution is still coming and it’s coming quickly and it’s coming soon,” he said. “So, if President Trump prevails, it will delay persecution at a government level, but this will not keep us from the hostility that’s rising in our society toward followers of Jesus.”

As the Democratic Party seizes the reins of power, Brunson maintained that such an occurrence will “accelerate significantly” the opposition against people of faith at the levels of government.

“So, in either case, and this is what is heavy on my heart, is that we need to prepare ourselves to prepare our own hearts,” Brunson admonished.

Hmmmm. I remember a song from the late 70’s that asked the question, “If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?” Thought provoking, yes? Another chorus we used to sing said, “I am determined, I’ve made up my mind, I’ll serve the Lord.” May that be the cry of all our hearts. MARANATHA!



February Roster

Committee of Month:

Nursery Workers:

- Feb 07 Ivey Hardy
- Feb 14 Rhonda McManus
- Feb 21 Jessica Johnston
- Feb 28 Debbie Rankin and Serenity Johnston

Volunteers Needed

Newsletter Information

If you have information to include in the newsletter, please send it to Harvey Hess by the 15th of each month. You may email the information to harveyhess@bellsouth.net or by phone or text to 704-516-6503. Thank you!

Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request that needs to be communicated through the prayer chain, please contact Clara McGee at 704-709-7125 or Gloria Norwood at 704-843-2352. They will ensure that the word gets out! Also, if you have not been receiving prayer chain calls and would like to be added to the call list, please let Clara or Gloria know this as well.

Session Members, Prayer Chain Contacts, and Committee Information

2021 Session		
Elder	Phone	Term
Paul Rankin	814-279-5055	Pastor
Clara McGee Clerk of Session	704-709-7125	Class of 2023
Hazel Norwood	704-575-6258	Class of 2021
Dean Haney	704-533-1263	Class of 2021
Boyet Twitty	704-351-0833	Class of 2022
Betty Lou Mosley	704-764-3339	Class of 2023

Prayer Chain – Call to Activate	
Clara McGee	704-709-7125
Gloria Norwood	704-843-2352

2021 Church Committees		
Committee	Chair	Clerk
Building & Grounds	Russell Mosley	Bob Stirton
Christian Education	Debbie Robinson	Gloria Norwood
Congregational Care	Bob McCain	Tammy Mosley
Fellowship		
Missions & Outreach	Clay Murray	Betty Lou Mosley
Stewardship	Fran Griffin	Betty Lou Mosley
Worship		Sue Thornton

February 2021

	1	2	3	4	5	6
			3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 5:00 PM Mission & Outreach Committee No Choir			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Communion 12:30 PM Nominating Committee	7:00 PM – Men’s Bible Study 7:00 PM – Ladies Bible Study		3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 12:15 PM Operation Reach Out Meal No Choir			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Valentine’s Day	President’s Day		3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group No Choir 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	6:00 PM Buildings & Grounds Committee 7:00 PM Session Meeting		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
12:30 PM Worship Committee Christian and Education Committee			11:30 AM Senior Saints Luncheon Cancelled 3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 6:00 – 7:30 PM – Little Angels Youth Group No Choir	5:00 PM Congregational Care Committee		
28						
Game Day 12:30 to 2:00 PM						

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