



WALKERSVILLE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6204 BRADY ROAD, WAXHAW, NC 28173

APRIL 2020

A Note from the Pastor...

Let's see, has anything changed since the last newsletter? WOW! Huge changes that are affecting lives all around the world, and all for the same reason.

As inconvenient and life-changing as all this has become because of the coronavirus pandemic, I see two paths being laid out at the same time, and we are called on to travel them both.

What is the good that will come out of all this? We may not totally know that answer until this is long over and we are looking back on it. At the moment, I am stepping outside of my comfort zone to preach to a camera, making a video for all to see. As I do this I am also being challenged technologically. Can anything good come out of all that? Of course!! OK, so the real answer is, I'm excited to see how the Lord will use this and how the Kingdom of God will be strengthened. If this is how the Lord is pushing me to take this technological step, I think he has quite a sense of humor. If this is what it takes, I'm all in. Are you?

What is the other path? Well, there may be more than two paths, but that's all I'm going to deal with at the moment. This other path is a different way the Lord might use this event in the life of the Church. We are being challenged to think about ways for all of us to maintain our worshiping community. Facebook recently had the statement,

"With church doors shutting across America, it is time for us to show that church have never been about the building."

Jesus basically made this same point during his conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well.

"...the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him." (John 4:21,23)

We are called on to worship in spirit and truth. Does this change how we think of the church and our mission of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ? We are to take Christ with us wherever we go, even on Facebook. We are to reach out to the world using an entirely new definition of "the church".

Does all this sound familiar? It should. The resurrection of Jesus Christ did the same thing. Are you up for the adventure? The paths ahead are not well marked. You know what that means? With God's leading it's time to cut our own trail.

Wednesday Bible Study

During the Wednesday Bible Study (every Wednesday, 3pm & 6pm) we have started a new study that utilizes the Old Testament acronym "CASKET" along with the New Testament acronym "EMPTY". What do the letters stand for? Come on Wednesday and find out

Website

Finally, the church website is up and running. If you happen to see a problem or even an error, please let Pastor Paul know. The site address is: walkersvilleepc.org.

Sermons for April

April 5 (Palm Sunday): Mark 11:1-11

April 9 (Maundy Thursday): Mark 14:12-26

April 10 (Good Friday): A Tenebrae service

April 12 (Easter): Mark 16:1-8

April 19: Mark 16: 9-14

April 26: John 20:24-31

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 and 6:00 PM in the Library

Walkersville's EPC Session Meetings Minutes

The session of Walkersville EPC met on March 19, 2020 @ 7:00 pm in the church fellowship hall. Elders present were: Boyet Twitty, Dean Haney, Hazel Norwood, Jim McGee, and Dennis Robinson.

Meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Paul Rankin. Minutes from the February 20, 2020 meeting were read. Jim McGee made the motion to approve the minutes as read and Hazel Norwood seconded. Session approved.

Baptisms/or new members – Hailey Jerrell daughter of Natalie & Kevin Jerrell will be baptized on March 29, 2020. Jim McGee made the motion to approve and Hazel Norwood seconded motion. Session approved. Walkersville EPC received a letter of transfer from Duluth First United Methodist Church for Richard & Frances Gamble. We welcome them to Walkersville EPC.

Ministry Team Reports:

Building & Grounds – Light was installed in the fellowship hall at the serving window.

Christian Education – Playground equipment and updates were suggested. Easter Egg Hunt for March 29, 2020 has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus. Vacation Bible School is being planned for July 12-15, 2020.

Congregational Care – No report.

Mission & Outreach – Rev. Paul Rankin attended the annual meeting.

Stewardship – Dean Haney presented treasurer's report prepared by Beverly Haney. Session approved. If you would like to mail your tithes and offerings for Walkersville, please mail them to:

**Walkersville EPC
Attention: Alice Gay
6202 Brady Road
Waxhaw, NC 28173**

Worship – Jim McGee made the motion to cancel all church activities until the coronavirus is over. Dean Haney seconded the motion. Rev. Paul Rankin will preach his sermons at 11:00 am on Sunday's via Facebook and they will also be available online at Walkersville EPC.org.

Old Business – Cost of new mic system for hearing impaired is \$589.00. Cost for 4 mics with antennas for the hearing impaired \$189.00. Equipment case cost \$89.00. Total cost is \$867.00 plus tax and shipping. This is required by law on June 1, 2020. Jim McGee made the motion for session to approve and Dennis Robinson seconded the motion. Session approved.

New Business – Restructure Fellowship Committee duties. This was tabled until next meeting on April 16, 2020.

Church Activities – Life Touch will do our church pictorial directory but this has been postponed for now until coronavirus is over.

Session approved for Caitlin Hardy to use the sanctuary on March 23, 2020.

There being no further business, Jim McGee made a motion to adjourn. Dean Haney seconded the motion and session approved. Dean Haney closed in prayer.

Rev. Paul Rankin
Moderator

Dennis Robinson
Clerk of Session

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 3:00/6:00 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 Clara McGee. 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 Clara 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 Marlene Brown Family, Jean Price, Robby Griffin, Bryant Russell, Eric Thomas, Ronnie Craig, Barb Castner, Gregg Ross, Phil Keyes, Lynne Dewlen, Henry Parker, Becky Adams (sister of Phyllis Norwood), Linda Goodman, Carolyn Griffin, Shelia Medlin, Matthew Stewart, Libby Kiser, Larry Schott, Jane Threatt, Marcie Barrell, Debbie Wallace, Phillip Carter, Marlene Brown, Faye Cox, Brenda Mosley, Clyde Norwood, Bruce Griffin and Janice York.

Our special prayer from the Congregation Care Committee is that our Walkersville Family will be spared from the coronavirus.

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

Mrs. Jean Price, White Oaks of Waxhaw 700 Howie Mine Rd. Waxhaw, NC 28173

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

Bryant Russell, Monroe Manor, 1101 Baucom Rd, Monroe, NC 28110

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

Wow, Walkersville!! What a blessing you are to the folks at Operation Reach Out. Let's continue to serve our God by helping others. Walkersville EPC has pledged to provide lunch once a month on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. We generally take chicken casseroles or soup or baked spaghetti or Walkersville Stroganoff (They're very appreciative of whatever we bring!), one or two sides, rolls, and a dessert. Please consider signing up for this ministry of our church.

We also donate items each month. Did you know that Operation Reach Out provides a food pantry? I copied this list from their website (<https://www.opreachout.org/>):

Always Needed:

Dry goods--cereals, rice, grits, dry beans, potato flakes, etc.

JELLY

PEANUT BUTTER

DRIED BEANS

RICE

CANNED SOUPS

OATMEAL

CRACKERS

MACARONI & CHEESE

CANNED MEATS

CANNED FRUIT

Women of Walkersville (WOW) News

Okay Ladies, let's get ready for our Spring Luncheon! The date has been set for May 2nd at 11:30 am. We need everyone to help make this a special event. Debbie Rankin has invited Nancy VanAntwerp and Katie Balsley to be our guest speakers. If you can decorate a table, please let Debbie Rankin or Marsha Stirton know before our next Bible Study meeting on April 13th.

Chicken and Dumplings

Thanks to everyone who helped with the March 7th C&D. Now, we can enjoy our time while we self-quarantine for a while without having to worry about C&D. In case you haven't heard, we decided to set September 12th as the date for our next C&D. So, go ahead and mark your calendars. Oh, and while you're at it, mark Homecoming on Sunday, September 13th. That's right! We're having C&D and Homecoming on the same weekend.

Good News and Praises

It's a Happy 20th Birthday to Brody Batson on April 4th. Not a teenager anymore. Celebrate....

Nathan and Rachel Mosley will be moving to Anderson, S.C. the last weekend of March where Nathan has accepted a job with First Quality. This makes Nathan's parents and grandparents **very** happy as Nathan and Rachel are expecting a baby BOY the middle of July. Anderson is a much easier drive than Baton Rouge!

Please help me in congratulating Brock Clonch who placed 2nd in the state of Virginia in his age/weight group in wrestling. Way to go, Brock!! For those of you who don't know Brock, he is the grandson of Bob and Marsha Stirton

Welcome Richard & Frances Gamble to our church family.

We will miss David, Kalen and Daniel as they move from our community to Troutman, NC. We wish them success and happiness in their new location and hope they will visit us often.

Operation Reach-Out Update

A few weeks ago, Operation Reach-Out held their *Annual Board Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Night*. Even now Walkersville EPC continues to support Operation Reach-Out by providing lunch on the second Wednesday of each month to about 25 or 30 individuals. Operation Reach-Out is not a 'walk-in' program, but rather everyone who receives support is referred by a social service agency then screened and becomes an 'official' participant in the program.

Here is 2019 By the Numbers:

- 1226 clients assisted
- 47,337 lbs. of food distributed
- 817 pieces of household/furniture given
- 53 clients were provided beds
- 73 uniform shirts were purchased for Monroe Middle
- \$30,746.81 in financial assistance given
- 521 showers taken
- 278 loads of laundry
- 4553 daily lunches served
- 53 clients received dental care from Dental Bus

Yearly Projects:

- Pot Luck Drive (to collect pots, pans, and other kitchen items in March)
- Throw in the Towel (to collect towels, washcloths, and linens in October)
- Non-perishable food drives held in the spring and winter months to help keep our pantries stocked
- Collection of hygiene items: We utilize 'hotel' size items in our shower room and full-size hygiene items to be given out with our food boxes (soap, body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, etc.)

2020 Programs & Services:

- Daily bible Study & Lunch (in partnership with local churches, restaurants, and individuals)
- 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

- Partnership with area schools to help provide uniforms and needed items for low income children
 - Partnership with Tent City Ministry to assist those with no fixed address to utilize shower and laundry facilities, and obtain free haircuts each month
 - NC Baptist Men's Dental Bus (provide free dental care to our community)
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The Empty Tomb

by Linda Goodman, copyright 1995

I am the woman called Mary Magdelene. My beginnings were humble -- some would even say shameful.

I was born in the town of Magdala, which is on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. I never knew my mother. I was told that she was possessed by a demon who made her life such a misery that she threw herself to the bottom of a well grown dry. Her broken neck ended both her life and her memory. Because of her shameful death, no one would speak her name. Because she was denied a proper burial, there was not even a grave for me to visit.

I was raised by my grandmother for the first four years of my life. She blamed me for the death of her daughter. The demon had not bothered my mother until I was heavy in her belly, and my grandmother swore that the seed from my unknown father had been its host. "You are despised!" she would scream at me. "You are the ruination of my family and its good name! May God strike you dead!" At times, she would beat me so fiercely that I was sure that she herself would do the deed, but her love of drink kept her too weak to go quite that far. When she died, I did not mourn.

After her death, I was turned out into the streets to fend for myself. No one dared to take me in. Alone and scared, I lived like an animal. I learned to snatch morsels from food stalls. I wrestled bones from dogs. When others threw out the scraps from their tables, I was waiting. At night I would sneak into stables to sleep, making sure to wake up early so that I would not be found and kicked into the streets.

I would watch the other children walking hand in hand with their mothers. More than anything I wanted someone to love me. I wanted to feel strong comforting arms around me, stoking my hair as I was rocked to sleep. But there was no love for me, no kindness. I was an object of hatred and scorn. In time my heart grew as hard as the stones that bruised my bare feet.

When I was twelve years old, a woman approached me. She wore fine robes of gold and purple, and her lips and cheeks were painted crimson. "Come with me," she ordered. I followed her because I did not know what else to do. She took me to a great house that was filled with women and men doing unspeakable things. I hesitated, but she gently took my hand and led me into another room. There she drew me a bath and scrubbed my skin and hair. "Now, my pretty one, you shall no longer live such a mean existence," she said in a voice that dripped with honey. "There is much more in store for you." She handed me a glass and I looked at my reflection within and saw that what she said was true. I was indeed a very pretty girl -- a very pretty young woman.

"You can have anything you want," she purred, "jewels, fine clothes, sweet perfume." I looked at her and said, "Tell me what I must do."

"You need do nothing," she whispered. "Only give you soul to the demons. They will do all that needs be done. All you need do is reap the benefits."

I did as she said. I asked the demons to enter my body. I felt their power and their strength as they made their home within my heart. For the first time in my life.... *I smiled.*

Fear

by Layne Dewlen

Like so many boys of my generation, I had a fascination with the Lone Ranger, the Cisco Kid, and airplanes. For me the latter became foremost, needless to say.

When I was eight years old for some reason my dad decided to take the family for an airplane ride, I never thought when I got older to ask him why. Anyway, off to the local airport the four of us went, my father, mother, (stating you were never going to get her in an airplane), my sister who was twenty months my junior, and me. The plane was a Piper Cruiser, a small four place aircraft which I remember vividly. As we were getting into the plane my mother decided that if anything happened to us, she wouldn't want to be left behind, so she decided to go as well. Now we had a woman pilot as well as the four of us in a four-place aircraft, and somehow that little plane was able to struggle into the air. What an experience! That was when airplanes became number one in my parade.

I never had fear of flying. There were a couple of other times when I was able to fly in an airplane as I was growing up, I even won a ride in a contest, the only thing I've ever won, and I never had a twinge of fear. Later, when I started flying lessons, I had no fear, it was all excitement, then to have a job where they paid me to go up in the air.... well, for me it was "the living end," as the saying went. However, there was that one night.....it was the strangest thing.....it threw me for a loop.

We had been flying all day, nothing out of the ordinary. I was a four-year co-pilot on a trip which I had made a number of times before. The captain was one with which I had flown any number of times. We ended up in Islip, NY for the night, and was taken to the motel to spend the night, as had happened on every other trip. It had been a totally normal day. I got into bed and was getting to that point where sleep was about to take over when out of nowhere, **fear** hit me like I had never had before. The strangest part of it all was, it was a fear of flying!! **There was no way I was getting on that airplane in the morning!** I wish I could tell you the overpowering feeling of fear that came over me that night. I tried to think about it using some common sense which didn't work, nothing worked. I was gripped totally with this terrible feeling of **fear!**

Thank God for parents who instilled in me spiritual truths. I came to realize, when all my thinking and reasoning didn't work, that the fear must be from Satan. I got out of bed and knelt beside the bed and started praying for all I was worth! I rebuked Satan in the name of Jesus, I asked the Lord to cast out the fear from my mind, and something my folks had taught me, I plead for the blood of Christ to cover my mind and protect me from the attacks of the enemy. Satan cannot come where the blood of Jesus is applied.

After praying for some time, that horrible fear left. I got back into bed and went to sleep. The next morning, I was ready to catch the car for the ride to the airport, bright eyed and bushy tailed!! **Never again**, from that night onward did I ever have any fear of flying throughout my career. All this reminds me of the words of a song, (so much of life reminds me of the words of a song).

I feel the touch of hands so kind and tender,
They're leading me in paths that I must trod.
I'll have no fear for Jesus walks beside me,
For I'm sheltered in the arms of God.
So, let the storm rage high, the dark clouds rise,
They won't worry me, for I'm sheltered in the arms of God.
He walks with me, and naught of earth shall harm me,
For I'm sheltered in the arms of God.

The world is in turmoil and overriding fear. This writer believes it is only going to get worse until Jesus comes to take us Home. But!!! we have no reason to fear, we are sheltered in the arms of God and the Devil can do us no harm!! Remember 2Tim 1:7, "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Phil 4:5-7, "The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passata all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." **Amen!!** Maranatha!



April Roster

Committee of Month: Mission and Outreach

Nursery Workers:

- Apr 05 Kayleen Rankin
- Apr 12 Nanci Beebe
- Apr 19 Jessica Johnston
- Apr 26 Debbie Rankin
- May 03 Rhonda McManus

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

2020 Session		
Elder	Phone	Term
Paul Rankin	814-279-5055	Pastor
Dennis Robinson	704-764-9025	3 Years
Jim McGee	704-709-7125	3 Years
Hazel Norwood	704-575-6258	2 Years
Dean Haney	704-533-1263	2 Years
Boyet Twitty	704-843-1245	1 Years

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

2020 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	Lynn Twitty	Sue Thornton

April 2020

			1 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice 3:00/6:00 PM Bible Study	2 9:30 to 11:30 AM Community Playgroup	3	4
5 Palm Sunday	6 5:00 PM – Children Choir Practice	7 6:30 PM – Cane Creek Cruisers Square Dance	8 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice 3:00/6:00 PM Bible Study Operation Reach Out Meal	9 9:30 to 11:30 AM Community Playgroup Passover 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday 7:00 PM Tenebrae Service	11
12 Easter 7:00 AM Sunrise Service 9:00 to 10:30 PM Breakfast	13 5:00 PM – Children Choir Practice 7:00 PM – Men’s Bible Study 7:00 PM – Ladies Bible Study	14 6:30 PM – Cane Creek Cruisers Square Dance	15 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice 3:00/6:00 PM Bible Study	16 9:30 to 11:30 AM Community Playgroup	17	18
19	20 5:00 PM – Children Choir Practice	21 6:30 PM – Cane Creek Cruisers Square Dance	22 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice 3:00/6:00 PM Bible Study	23 9:30 to 11:30 AM Community Playgroup 7:00 PM Session Meeting	24	25
26 Game Day 12:30 to 2:00 PM	27 5:00 PM – Children Choir Practice	28 6:30 PM – Cane Creek Cruisers Square Dance	29 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice 3:00/6:00 PM Bible Study 11:30 AM Senior Saints Luncheon 6:00 – 7:30 PM – Little Angels Youth Group	30 9:30 to 11:30 AM Community Playgroup		

Calendar is subject to change due to coronavirus.