



WALKERSVILLE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6204 BRADY ROAD, WAXHAW, NC 28173
MAY 2020

A Note from the Pastor...

In Paul's letter to the Philippians, which we will be considering all the way into August, a verse near the end of the letter tells us a great deal about Paul, his personality, and his outlook on life. In Philippians 4:8 it says,

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

It is true, whatever comes out of a person says something about what is in them. When we give blood for a blood test, it says something about what is in us. What do the words that pass through our lips and the thoughts from our minds say about what is in us? When we are in the Body of Christ the verse above should be one that guides us through life. If these are the sorts of things that come from us, what a blessing! Obviously, there will be circumstances that make it difficult to maintain this attitude. But when given the choice, this is a wonderful verse that needs to permeate our approach to life.

With that thought in mind, Paul's letter to the Philippians is thought to be only one of several letters he wrote to them. As he begins this letter, we immediately see his feelings for them. And according to Paul, if the Gospel is being preached, that is all that matters. Paul rejoices in that. So, should we.

Nearly all of Paul's letters contain some reminder for us that he not only sees what is happening in this life, but looks forward to the next. To be with Christ (to die) is the most wonderful, but to remain in this life means he will be able to continue in the ministry to which he has been called. Maintaining an eternal perspective while we live this life becomes one of those necessary elements that enables us to live a victorious life.

-Who are you able to remember that causes you to thank God? And when you think about them do you pray for them with joy?

-Are we able to be as focused as Paul was, whose mind was set on being a witness for the Gospel, bringing honor to the name of Christ?

-Is our greatest concern that the Gospel is being proclaimed?

-Are we able to unselfishly show compassion and sympathy, looking to the interests of others?

May I challenge you? Read all four chapters of Philippians each week all the way into August. See if you notice something different every time you read it. See if it speaks to you in some way you may not have expected. God's Word is like that!

Sermons for May

May 3: Philippians 1:1-6

May 10 (Mother's Day): Philippians 1:7-11

May 17: Philippians 1:12-18

May 24 (Memorial Day weekend): Philippians 1:18b-26

May 31 (Pentecost Sunday): Philippians 2:1-4

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

Session did not meet.

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 Jean Price, Robby Griffin, Eric Thomas, Ronnie Craig, Barb Castner, Gregg Ross, Phil Keyes, Lynne Dewlen, Henry and Phyllis 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, Faye Cox, Clyde Norwood, Bruce Griffin, Travis Price, Troyanne and Mark Hinson, Edith Kimmarling and Janice York.

We extend sympathy to the families of Phyllis Norwood on the passing of her brother Bryant Russel, Jean Simpson Hinson, Bill Helms and Kay McDonald.

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

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

Ladies Spring Luncheon Update: Let's change the name to Ladies Fall Luncheon. We'll talk later about an actual date, but at this time the Spring Luncheon is on hold due to the current situation.

College Goody Bags

College Goody Bags will not be done for this semester since we are social distancing and the students are at home anyway. We do wish our students the best finishing up this semester and taking exams.

News from Nicaragua

Hello from Nicaragua to all of you at Walkersville. As the whole world has changed in the last few months, so has Nicaragua. Many families are without sufficient food, without work, without seeds to plant for the upcoming training season. So, as you imagine the two containers of food that are moving very slowly through the clearing process, we ask that you pray a prayer of faith that these containers will be released so we can bless families in Jesus name. Ministering to their whole body, Mind, Body and Spirit. Thank all of you for your continuing support of Samaritans International of Waxhaw. On a personal note words cannot explain how much all of your kindness and love blessed our family during the passing of my father.

May the Love of God be with you all and protect you day by day.

In the name of our savior,

Patrick Brown

Good News and Praises

A Shout Out to our Congregation and Pastor for reaching out to our church members and checking on each of us during this social distancing time.

A special **THANK YOU** to all of you who have reached out to someone with a helping hand and support during these trying times.

A thank you to the Building and Grounds Committee and men who helped with the cleanup of our church grounds after storm we had.

It's a Happy Birthday to Mark Batson, May 2nd and to Lynn Twitty May 29th. Celebrate

Bristol Batson is graduating from UNCC this May with an Accounting Degree. His graduation ceremony was originally planned for May 8th but has been postponed due to COVID-19. He worked hard after changing his major and is still graduating in 4 years. He is currently looking for employment (which isn't easy right now) and plans to work in the Charlotte area. His parents are Mark and Allison Batson and his grandparents are Boyet and Lynn Twitty. His family is very proud of his accomplishments which have included being on the Dean's List and Chancellor's List at UNCC.

Coming!

By Layne Dewlen

Let me be up front with you. I believe in the imminent return of Jesus Christ for his bride, the church, called the "Rapture." I'm in good company, John, Peter, and Paul believed in His imminent return in their day. There is no prophecy that must be fulfilled before His return for the Church, nor has there ever been one since the time Jesus left this earth almost two thousand years ago. That is what makes His imminent return possible, and why Christians of every generation have looked for His coming. Once again, I'll be up front with you, I believe we are VERY close to that wonderful day! If you don't agree with my interpretation of scripture that's fine, we can still love each other. However, I would invite you to think about what I have to say.

Jesus, in the Olivet discourse, Matt. 24:37-39, and Luke 17:26-30 states that, "As it was in the days of Noah and Lot, so shall it be when the Son of Man is revealed." Read again chapter 6, 18 & 19, of Genesis.

Now I will show my age, and the age of some of you readers. Do you remember a TV show called "You Are There"? It ended with Walter Cronkite saying, "What sort of day was it? A day like all days, filled with those events that alter and illuminate our times. All things are as they were then, and you were there." As we look at the world around us, think of it as a very big TV screen. We are looking at the times of Noah and Lot 3500-4500 years ago. May I say, "You Are There," we are there.

I could go into a lot of facts about what is transpiring in the world to point toward that day for which we long, but instead I would like to give to you a website to read which will give much food for thought, written by a retired minister who I much admire. I will sign off with the salutation and farewell saying of those very early Christians, MARANATHA! (HE COMETH!)

The site: www.raptureready.com/2020/04/19/enemies-of-god-by-daymond-duck/

Shared by Peggy Dvorak from "Sunday Afternoon Pages"

I chose not to put my Bible in my shoulder bag as I prepared to go to church. The Pastor was preaching a series on Saul and David so I would just use the pew Bible as I did last week. Strangely though my hand reached for my slimline New Testament and I put it in my shoulder bag. After church and lunch with friends, they went their separate ways and I journeyed to Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park. It was a lovely sunny day and people were gathering to listen to those who stood on little step stools and talked about whatever was on their mind. Always there was someone telling about Jesus and His love for us, teachers from various religions and even those concerned with Global Warming or whatever. I asked one man if he knew God loved him? His reply was that he did not speak English well but he would direct me to someone who did. As he beckoned me to follow, I found myself looking up at a religious teacher who was on one of those little step stools then the fun began. He told me my Bible had been corrupted so I pulled out my little NT and showed him what God's Word said about itself Matthews 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away". To his statement that Jesus was only a prophet, I turned to Mark 1:11 "Then a voice came from heaven 'You are my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.'" Next I shared Mark 9:7 when again a voice came from heaven declaring "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him." Now do not think this was any ordinary conversation because by this time a crowd was gathering and other believers were sharing with this Leader. Much to my surprise, I found myself asking them to be quiet so I could speak with this man. They were not quoting scripture but just yelling out their beliefs. At times it is a rather wild scene. At one point this leader gave me his Bible and asked me to look up a verse about women being silent in church. As I was trying to find it, some people noticed that I was having a little trouble turning the pages so they kindly said, "She can't find It" Sheer joy for them. My retort was "This is a new Bible and the pages are stuck together." Soon I located the verse, but before reading it I said, "The most important verse in the Bible is and I began quoting John 3:16." When I mentioned "His only begotten Son" there was an Arabic outcry. When they were silent, I finished quoting John 3:16 then read the requested verse about women being silent in church. Afterwards I boldly told the Leader we were not in church. This was almost too much as I could not believe my boldness in talking with this religious leader. As others in the crowd began badgering him, I would wave my hand in front of him to get his attention or tap him on the shoulder. When he was not asking others questions, but was looking at me I asked if there were not times that he felt an emptiness inside of him? This emptiness is a God shaped vacuum that can only be filled by God I told him. He began referring to me as the Christian lady. I mentioned how Jesus came to earth wrapped in human flesh. Because he believes that Jesus did not die on the cross and if we say he did, his reply was, "You mean God was dead for three days?" I reminded him that when he died, only the house he lived in would die, but the real him would live on forever. At that he said, "Because of this Christian woman, I am leaving." And he did! Wow, Father, thank you for this opportunity to interact with this religious leader. Please bring back to his mind your words that were read to him. Work in his heart and bring him to yourself. Thank you, Father, for having me take that New Testament with me. This experience was the icing on the cake for my trip!!!!

To the Walkersville Family, I know that several in the church know Joyce Smith. We received this letter last week:

Greetings, dear friends, from Fort Wayne! What huge change has come to our world, literally the whole world, since last you heard from me. Tim and his fiancée, Shira, spent about a week with Andrea and me. For the 25th we were invited to the home of new friends from Andrea's church, which made the day special in a low-key way. The new year came with little 'hullabaloo' beyond thanksgiving for life and the Lord's goodness. Since then most of our days had been pretty ordinary...Andrea's 2nd school semester began with a new schedule, my volunteer work at church continued, and my new (very part-time) role with Wycliffe as HR Care Team Prayer Facilitator was officially set in motion. A staff member in Orlando HR office sends me prayer letters received there from members who don't have a specific Wycliffe USA HR person assigned to pray for and connect with them. I pray for their requests and write an encouraging note, letting them know their home office appreciates all their work. It's a joy to hear what God is doing in so many ways through so many people. Some are friends from years back, and it's fun to re-connect! In late January Jeff invited Andrea and me to join him, Rachel and Emily for a few days at the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter, just south of Cincinnati, March 15-18. It was the time they could fit into their busy schedule and happened to coincide with Andrea's spring break. As the date neared, we began to question whether we should go, but consulted with several people and were encouraged to go ahead. When we arrived at the Airbnb Jeff had rented, we learned that both museums were closing—on Tuesday! So, we were able to visit both on Monday, the 16th—a worthwhile experience and no crowds or lines! We took great care to follow safety guidelines which have now become 2nd nature to all of us, and have been totally healthy since our return home. Were so thankful to the Lord for the timing of that connection with family, as it will be quite a while before it can happen again. Now, like you, we're into a "new normal", and we don't know how long it will last. I'm staying home, not even going to the store, though I will go give blood on Saturday. (Andrea can't do that for me. 😊) Sunday morning church and small groups through the week are online, as are all Andrea's classes. No face-to-face except through a computer screen can feel constraining, lonely. But my goodness, how blessed am I—in a comfortable home, food in freezer and cupboards, electricity and running water, and God's Word in my language with more time to read it. Thank You, Lord! And spring is coming—birds and flowers remind us that we need not fear, need not be anxious. (Matthew 6:28-34) Our God is our sure Refuge! My prayer, for you and for myself, is that in this unprecedented time we will love Him more and more, and shine His light brighter in this troubled world. A blessed Easter to you—Christ has Risen Indeed!!

Joyce
3219 Copper Hill Run
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
joyce_smith@wycliffe.org



May Roster

Committee of Month: Buildings and Grounds

Nursery Workers:

- May 03 Rhonda McManus
- May 10 Nanci Beebe
- May 17 Jessica Johnston
- May 24 Debbie Rankin
- May 31 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

May 2020

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3	4 5:00 PM – Children Choir Practice	5 6:30 PM – Cane Creek Cruisers Square Dance	6 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice 3:00/6:00 PM Bible Study	7 9:30 to 11:30 AM Community Playgroup	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11 5:00 PM – Children Choir Practice 7:00 PM – Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM – Ladies Bible Study	12 6:30 PM – Cane Creek Cruisers Square Dance	13 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice 3:00/6:00 PM Bible Study Operation Reach Out Meal	14 9:30 to 11:30 AM Community Playgroup	15	16
17	18 5:00 PM – Children Choir Practice	19 6:30 PM – Cane Creek Cruisers Square Dance	20 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 7:00 PM – Adult Choir Practice 3:00/6:00 PM Bible Study	21 9:30 to 11:30 AM Community Playgroup 7:00 PM Session Meeting	22	23
24	25 5:00 PM – Children Choir Practice Memorial Day	26 6:30 PM – Cane Creek Cruisers Square Dance	27 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	28 9:30 to 11:30 AM Community Playgroup	29	30

31 Game Day 12:30 to 2:00 PM						
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Calendar is subject to change due to coronavirus.