



## WALKERSVILLE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6204 BRADY ROAD, WAXHAW, NC 28173  
JANUARY 2021

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### A Note from the Pastor...

As Debbie and I have enjoyed receiving Christmas cards there was one from a family we know who live in another state. In their letter, among other parts of their lives, they described their church. It seems there are people who have strong enough opinions that factions have developed within the church.

My guess is that those opinions were centered around political interests and coronavirus debates. I was saddened and a little disturbed. This was their church. Factions and divisions should not exist in the Body of Christ, but we know they do. That is why throughout Paul's letters, one of the consistent themes is Christian unity. The fact that this reality continues should sadden us.

At the same time, I found this disturbing. This could happen within any church, anywhere. It could easily happen here at Walkersville EPC. We should not assume it won't happen here. What can we do about it?

In a word...humility. In Philippians 2:3-4 Paul says,

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

We are certainly entitled to our opinions...but...within the Body of Christ our focus is always to be on the interests of others. Christ-centered humility embodies compassion, mercy, grace, and, above all, love (see Philippians 2:5-8). When we respond with compassion and love, *especially* toward those we disagree with, this is humility.

Please be in prayer as you consider the Body of Christ. We all need to consider our words, actions, and opinions. Are they more likely to create unity or division? Responding with humility will often require deliberate action on our part. It does *not* come naturally and none of us are perfect. This is at the center of Jesus' command in John 13:34-35:

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

*"Just as I have loved you..."*

This kind of love requires humility and sacrifice.

This kind of love fills the Body of Christ with unity...and the world will notice.

"...the LORD sits enthroned as King forever." (Psalm 29:10)

In His service,

Pastor Paul

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## **Sermons for January**

January 3: (Epiphany) Matthew 2:1-12

(Sermon Series begins from Leviticus: "Offerings, and Levites, and Priests...Oh my!")

January 10: Leviticus 8-10 "Playing at Religion?"

January 17: Leviticus 11-15 "WHY?"

January 24: Leviticus 17-22 "God's Character"

January 31: Leviticus 23-25 "A Year of Jubilee"

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## **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

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## **Walkersville's EPC Session Meetings Minutes**

The Session of Walkersville EPC met on November 19, 2020 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 November 19, 2020 were read. Motion to accept as read by Dean Haney, Seconded by Betty Lou Mosley

The minutes from the call meeting of November 25, 2020 were read. Motion mad by Betty Lou Mosley to accept as read, seconded by Dean Haney

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Building & Grounds – Waiting on price for handicap rail  
Working on Roof Repair

Christian Education – No report

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

Mission & Out Reach - After much discussion, a motion was made by Clara McGee to CANCEL The chicken & dumplings for January, seconded by Betty Lou Mosley  
Still working on getting better internet

Stewardship/Financial Report – November Financial report was given. Motion to accept was by Betty Lou Mosley, Seconded by Dean Haney

Worship – Christmas Eve Services

4:00 service will have a Christmas play written by Linda Goodman  
9:00 service will have a service of Scripture and Carols.  
Both services will have Communion

(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 – Congregational meeting January 10, 2021 at 10:15 (between the services)  
to elect a nominating committee for new Elders  
Present 2021 Budget

New Business – Christmas gift for Sue Thornton \$300.00, Layne Dewlen \$200.00 and Debbie Rankin \$300.00 Motion to accept these amounts made by Clara McGee and seconded by Dean Haney  
Scheduled a January/February Leadership Meeting for Sunday afternoon January 24, 2021 Time & place to be announced (Elders and Committee Chairs)

Next Presbytery meeting is January 29, 2021 via zoom, 9-3:00 (RE's who wants to attend)

Next Session Meeting January 21, 2021

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

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Rev. Paul Rankin  
Moderator

Clara McGee  
Clerk of Session

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **Senior Saints Luncheon**

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

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### **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, Becky and Dennis Adams (sister of Phyllis Norwood), Carolyn Griffin, Shelia Medlin, Matthew Stewart, Larry 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, Jim McGee, James and Francis Gordon, Sandy Brady, Fran Griffin, Fran Coleman, Edward Barber, Doug Laney, Linda and Phil Goodman, Wilson Pierce, Paul Dvorak, Alice Gay, Alisa Pierce, Phil Mosley, Robbie Plyler, Brody Batson, Layne Dewlen, Pete Medlin and family, Leslie Couick James, Kenny and Andria Starnes, Karen Trull, Melanie Deal, Loma Tyson and Billy Thompson.

We extend our sympathy to the families of Debbie Wallace, Melvin McWhorter, Robert Hargette, Vickie Carter and Irene Mosley.

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:

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

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### **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

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### **Memorials for Cemetery Fund**

**For Atha Mae Laine**

**By Manley Councilman**

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### **Good News and Praises**

I want to thank the members of the Walkersville EPC family. Thank you for your generosity as I received an unexpected Christmas gift. Your kindness to Debbie and me has been a wonderful reminder of the love we have for each other.

In His service,

Pastor Paul

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### **PERSEVERANCE**

by Layne Dewlen

As I was thinking about the future the other day, and the uncertainties of the new year, I was brought to something that happened to me when I was 14 that taught me a lesson I've never forgotten. I think it will be good to tell it at this juncture of our lives.

When I was in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, living in Indianapolis, I was a crossing guard for the kids going and coming from school. Ralph Waldo Emerson, School 58 had three main thoroughfares with five crossing streets where the guards had to stand. I'm sure you've seen them in times past with the white belt that went around your middle and over one shoulder with a big silvery badge on it. Well, one of those boys was me. When I started at the beginning of my 7<sup>th</sup> grade, the man in charge talked to all of us, giving us instructions in how we were to act and being cognizant of safety at all times. I don't remember anything he said now except he mentioned how there was a lapel pin which we could get, a copy of our badge, if we did something outstanding in safety. I don't mind telling you, that made a big impression on me. I wanted one.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade passed with no chance for me to be a hero. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade, it seemed, was going to be a repeat of the year before. Then, with only a couple of weeks left in the school year, we moved to another house out of the school's district. I could have continued as a guard, but with difficulty, so I told the teacher I was quitting.

At the Awards Day that year the school decided to give all the guards the pin because we had such a great safety record. The man in charge told me he didn't feel it would be right for them to give me one, since I had quit.

Needless to say, that incident in my life made a lasting impression, not to give up. We are facing life struggles we have never seen before, spiritually, physically, even in our daily lives. WE ARE ALMOST HOME! DON'T GIVE UP! THE AWARDS DAY IS ALMOST HERE, PRAISE GOD!

As you know, songs mean so much to me, and there is an old song's chorus that fits in so well right here. "It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus. Life's trials will seem so small, when we see Christ. One glimpse of His dear face, all sorrows will erase. So, let us run the race, till we see Christ."

Maranatha!!



## January Roster

### Committee of Month:

#### Nursery Workers:

Jan 03	Debbie Rankin and Serenity Johnston
Jan 10	Ivey Hardy
Jan 17	Rhonda McManus
Jan 24	Jessica Johnston
Jan 31	Debbie Rankin and Serenity Johnston

#### Newsletter Information

If you have information to include in the newsletter, please send it to Harvey Hess by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. You may email the information to [harveyhess@bellsouth.net](mailto: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	Lynn Twitty	Sue Thornton

# January 2021

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3 Communion	4	5	6 3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group	7	8	9	
10 10:15 AM Congregational Meeting	11 7:00 PM – Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM – Ladies Bible Study	12	13 3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group Operation Reach Out Meal	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20 3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group	21 7:00 PM Session Meeting	22	23	
24	25	26	27 11:30 AM Senior Saints Luncheon 3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 6:00 – 7:30 PM – Little Angels Youth Group	28	29	30 Presbytery meeting (ZOOM)	

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**Game Day**  
**12:30 to 2:00 PM**

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