



WALKERSVILLE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6204 BRADY ROAD, WAXHAW, NC 28173

DECEMBER 2020

A Note from the Pastor...

By the time you read this we are passed the first Sunday of Advent when we heard from a “prophet”. As we find ourselves well into the holiday season one thought I have often had about this time of the year, beginning with Thanksgiving and ending with New Year’s, is similar to something I have said about getting married, that whatever is present in your life will be “more”. It will be amplified. Like marriage, the good aspects of a couple’s relationship will become even better. The “less-than-good” aspects will become even greater.

When we place this same thought on the Advent season leading us to Christ, has there been anything this year that is covering, or even stealing, your joy and your peace? I realize we could point to numerous possibilities. All of us can point to COVID, the election, societal unrest, along with a host of personal issues, and how all of these hand us an uncertain future, especially as we attempt to look ahead toward 2021. If they have already been taking away your joy and peace, it will likely get even worse!

In Philippians 4 the Apostle Paul writes, “In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” He has learned to rise above his circumstances through the strength supplied by Christ. Have you learned the secret that Paul learned? How will your life’s circumstances impact your holiday season? How will the strength we find in Jesus Christ impact your holiday season?

The circumstances do not go away, but through the strength we have in Christ, they also do not steal our joy and peace. May the love, joy and peace of Christ fill you with strength this Christmas season.

Also, by the time you read this you may have noticed the “prophet” on Sunday morning “pointing”, at least I hope you did. What is God’s Word pointing to in your life? Where does your life point for others to see? There will be more Visitors, each Sunday of Advent:

Sermons for December

December 6: Matthew

December 13: Joseph

December 20: A Priest

December 24: (4:00) “The Shoemaker’s Three Visitors from Christ” (along with Communion)

December 24: (9:00) a Shepherd (along with “Lessons & Carols”, Communion, and candle lighting)

December 27: one of the Magi

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 November 19, 2020 in the library. 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 October 15, 2020 were approved as read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building & Grounds – Waiting on price for handicap rail

Christian Education – Playground is ready.

Congregational Care - Continue prayer during this Covid.

Mission & Out Reach - A special offering will be taken up Sunday November 29 and Sunday December 6 2021. Each year the four Chicken n' Dumplings meals fund many of the missions supported by the Men's & Women's ministries. Without the two Fall events the missions will not be receiving their usual donations. To make an offering specifically to mission please note this on the memo line of your check.

Stewardship/Financial Report – October Financial report was given. Motion to accept was by Betty Lou Mosely, seconded by Dean Haney and all approved.

Worship – Beginning November 29, 2020 both the 9:00 service and the 11:00 service will be held in the Sanctuary. Please consider wearing a mask Sunday morning while coming into and going out of worship as the COVID virus case are increasing in the area.

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

Old Business - None

New Business – January 10, 2021 Congregational Meeting: electing an Elder Nominating committee and presenting 2021 budget.

Next Presbytery meeting is January 29-30

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

Rev. Paul Rankin
Moderator

Clara McGee
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 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 Robby Griffin, Barb Castner, Gregg Ross, Phil Keys, Henry and Phyllis Parker, Becky and Dennis Adams (sister of Phyllis Norwood), Carolyn Griffin, Shelia Medlin, Matthew Stewart, Larry Schott, Jane Threatt, Marcie Barrell, Debbie Wallace, Clyde and Ruth Norwood, Bruce Griffin, Travis Price, Troyanne and Mark Hinson, Rick and Iris 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, Jean Leonard, Stephanie Williams, Paul Dvorak, Alice Gay, Alisa Pierce, Phil Mosley, Robbie Plyler and Billy Thompson.

We extend our sympathy to the families of Melissa Bowman, Joe Paul Price and Bill Brewer.

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

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

Church Secretary Hours

Tuesday thru Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., please stop by and say hello or call if you need help with something. Debbie Rankin, the Walkersville EPC secretary, is always ready to help or listen to suggestions to make God's kingdom better.

Church Directory

The Walkersville Evangelical Presbyterian Church Directory for 2020-21 are now available. You can pick up a copy on Sunday morning in the foyer of the sanctuary or in the secretary's office during the week. If you need one mailed to you, please let the church know.

Please add the following information to your 2020-21 Church Directory:

Norwood, Kyle (8/13) & Hayley (6/19)

7105 Tirzah Church Rd.

Waxhaw, NC 28173

Kyle: kylenorwood@precisionweldingandfabservices.com

980-313-0294(c)

Hayley: hayleypeck7@gmail.com

980-613-1349(c)

Norwood, Samuel

email: norwoodsam@icloud.com

CREW Time

(Christ's Radically Enthusiastic Whippersnappers Time)

We have had an amazing 9 weeks of sharing Christ with over 25 children in our community. The dinners have been terrific and approved by the children. We memorized Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." We have jumped for joy as we learned to be grateful for all Jesus has done for us. Then showed our gratitude by serving the church through various activities: cleaning under the pews in the sanctuary, stuffing the bulletins for Sunday service, and cleaning the toys in the church nursery.

Please continue to pray for CREW Time and the ministry it has provided for the children in the community as we hope to have another term starting in January.

Community Playgroup

Community Playgroup, which was for children, Moms, Dads, & grandparents every Monday, has been cancelled until further notice. Hopefully this ministry can begin again soon.

Memorials

For Sara Gordon

By James Gordon

For Jean Johnston

By Bob McCain

Dennis and Debbie Robinson

Bob and Marsha Stirton

Betty Lou Mosley

Good News and Praises

It's a HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Allison Twitty Batson on Dec 10th. It's one of the big ones (but I'm not saying which one) Celebrate BIG....

Congratulations to Devin Moser for recently receiving the honor as Chief from the US Navy. We are proud of you Devi

The Founding Father's Wisdom

by Layne Dewlen

I don't know about you, but I have come to realize more and more the wisdom our founding fathers had in writing our foundational documents. It's far above what we see today; they saw so many of the shortcomings of men and did everything they could to counteract those shortcomings. There can be no doubt that God interjected himself in the founding of our country, in answer to their prayers.

At the time of this writing, Nov. 20, the presidential election is still up in the air, and there are questions in many people's minds wondering what lies ahead?

Who chooses the President of the United States? This question is by no means rhetorical. Mass media has decided Biden has been chosen, but they have nothing to do with it. The Supreme Court? No. The citizens of America? Not according to the Constitution! So, who chooses the President?

Before answering this question, let us note that, contrary to popular misconception, the President of the United States is not a representative of the American people. State legislators and governors are representatives of the people, and at the federal level so are the members of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress. (*Currently, senators are also representatives of the people, but before the ratification of the 17th Amendment to the Constitution in 1913, they were appointed by state legislators*). So, who does the President of America represent?

The President of the United States of America, according to the Constitution, represents state legislators' interests and no one else.

In general, the federal government's structure in America reflects the numerous attempts of the Founding Fathers of the United States to introduce a system of effective state control over the federal government. The fact is that the main difference between our country and all other countries, without exception, is that it was organized "*from the bottom up*," that is, individual colonies voluntarily united against a common enemy – the British Empire. All other "republics" on the planet were created "*from the top down*," when the already existing provinces were graciously granted some independence by the already existing central government.

In building the American state, the fundamental principle was state control over the newly created federal power structure. Therefore, from the Founding Fathers' point of view, the federal government in Washington should consist of both representatives of the people (congressmen) and representatives of the state leadership – the federal President and senators. This is how the institution of the Electoral College was invented and implemented. *The electors are appointed by the state legislatures, and they are the ones who elect the President of the country.*

So why do American citizens need to participate in the presidential elections? Well, strictly speaking, it is not necessary. It is just that there is a long tradition in America – state legislators appoint electors in such a way that these appointments correspond to the mood of the people (*in some states, this is even enshrined by law*). This is a tradition, but according to the U.S. Constitution, the participation of the people in presidential elections, generally speaking, is not required. According to the Constitution, the people participate in the direct elections of their legislators, which is quite enough.

There is nothing reprehensible in this – after all, the President of America is not the representative of the American people. *He is the representative of state legislators*. From the point of view of the states, the President (and pre-1913, two senators from each state) are the "overseers" of the federal government. In other words, the

President, from the point of view of state legislators, is "our man in Havana" (that is, in Washington), who is responsible for the observance of state rights by the federal government.

Thus, under the Constitution, state legislators have the right to generally ignore the results of the voting of citizens of their state and appoint those who they deem necessary to the Electoral College. Why did the Founding Fathers of the United States give state legislators such unprecedented power? Because most of the Founding Fathers were geniuses with impressive foresight. They did not know precisely

when this would happen, but they knew it would eventually happen: *the election's published results would have nothing to do with how the citizens voted.*

This is exactly what happened in 2020.

According to the Constitution, all courts and all other voting problems must be resolved by the first Monday after the second Wednesday of December, which falls on December 14 this year. *If on December 14, the Electoral College fails to elect a president, then the Constitution also provides for this scenario.* Per the 12th Amendment to the Constitution, in this case, the President and Vice President will be elected by the House of Representatives.

In the House of Representatives, state delegations will be voting, not the individual congressmen themselves. Each state delegation will have one vote, so the person receiving 26 votes or more will be the President-elect at that time. Soooo, we have a way to go before we know who the president-elect truly is.

Thank you, founding fathers.

After the Constitutional convention someone asked Benjamin Franklin what kind of government the we had. His answer was, "A republic, if you can keep it!" Personally, I feel this year is the biggest test of his statement than any time in our history.

MARANATHA!

(Some facts taken from an article by Gary Grindler, PhD.)



December Roster

Committee of Month: Building & Grounds

Nursery Workers:

- Dec 06 Debbie Rankin and Serenity Johnston
- Dec 13 Ivey Hardy
- Dec 20 Rhonda McManus
- Dec 27 Jessica 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

2020 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

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

December 2020

		1	2	3	4	5
			3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group Operation Reach Out Meal			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	7:00 PM – Men’s Bible Study 7:00 PM – Ladies Bible Study		3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group	7:00 PM Session Meeting 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Crew Time Christmas Party		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group	Christmas Eve 4:00 PM The Shoemaker’s Three Visitors and Communion 9:00 PM Lessons & Carols, Candlelight and Communion	Christmas Day	

<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>Game Day 12:30 to 2:00 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>New Year's Day 2021</p>	
--	---	---	--	---	--	--

1.