



WALKERSVILLE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6204 BRADY ROAD, WAXHAW, NC 28173

FEBRUARY 2022

A note from the pastor...

It should not be a new thought for any of us that faithful obedience to Jesus Christ will often be counter-cultural. Our decisions, words, relationships, and priorities will, in many cases, take us in the opposite direction from the world around us.

One of the most dramatic examples of this is found in Genesis 22 when God commands Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. The world would say, "No way! You waited 25 years for God to keep this promise, plus however old Isaac is at this point. Think about yourself! Hold on to what you have, don't sacrifice Isaac."

Jesus taught the same principle in his parable about the man who had a wonderful harvest, but his focus was on himself. This man's comment was a very worldly comment, "I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" (Luke 12:18) If anyone would have suggested that this man should have given away some of his blessings, he almost certainly would have answered, "No way! I've waited a long time for this kind of harvest. I have to think about myself. I'm holding on to what I have."

The Kingdom of God takes us in the opposite direction. We are to keep our focus on a God who is faithful and will always keep his promises. Abraham placed his faith in God and was ready to follow the command he had been given. No matter what. His only comment was, "God himself will provide..." (Gen. 22:8)

A "formula" is seen in the Kingdom of God that looks something like this:

-A faithful church will be blessed. A blessed church will give. A giving church will be faithful.

It is true that we need to seek Godly wisdom and show good stewardship with the various blessings we have been given, but when we place our focus on God, it will lead us to say, "God himself will provide..."

How are we able to have a faithful obedience that often doesn't make sense to the world around us, and perhaps not even to ourselves? James 4:7-8 provides the answer that resounds throughout this letter: "Submit yourselves, therefore, to God...Draw near to God and he will draw near to you..." Then again, this God-centered truth resounds throughout the entire Bible.

Pastor Pau

Sermon Passages for February:

February 6: James 4:1-10

February 13: James 4:13-17

February 20: James 5:7-11

February 27: James 5:13-18

Weekly Reminders:

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

Adult Choir Practice: Sunday at 11:15 AM in the Sanctuary

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

Walkersville's EPC Session Meetings Minutes

Walkersville EPC

Session Minutes

January 20, 2022

Prayer and Devotions (EPC Position Papers: Holy Spirit)

Approve December 16, 2021 minutes (stated meeting)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building & Grounds – WIFI to the Fellowship Hall in progress

Christian Education – next meeting: January 30, 2022

Congregational Care – Pray for the congregation and our church.

Note the prayer list in the bulletin

Mission & Outreach – February 2022 Mission of the Month: Ground 40 (new mission for the church)

2022 Chicken & Dumpling tentative dates: March 12, September 17,
November 12

2022 Project2Heal yard sale tentative date: May 21

Missions Donation: Josh & Katya Newsham

Missions Donation: Pochocuape School (Nicaragua)

Stewardship/Finance – Financial Report

Worship - next meeting: February 6, 2022

2022 tentative Communion dates:

Jan. 2

July 3

Feb. 6

August 7

March 6

Sept. 4

April 3, April 14 (Maundy Thurs.)

Oct. 2

May 1

Nov. 6

June 5

Dec. 4, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve)

Elder of the Month (from the Committee of the Month): lead 1st half of worship service beginning in February

(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 –

- A. Next Presbytery meeting: February 4-5, May 6-7, 2022 (active and inactive elders may represent the church)
 - 1. Boyet Twitty, Larry Schott will represent Walkersville EPC
 - Friday, 12-8pm (includes presbytery business, training, information, and evening worship)
 - Saturday, 8am-12pm (includes examination of candidates, information, and remaining business)
 - 2. What are we doing about the Great Commission at Walkersville?
- B. Nominating Committee (February 23, 2022)
- C. Pastor Paul: Study Leave, February 14-20

New Business –

- A. Harvey Hess fundraiser proposal: OK'ed by session. More details to follow.

Close with prayer

Next stated Session meeting: February 24, 2022, 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

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, Men meet in Fellowship Hall and Women at the Manse.

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.

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, Phil Keys, Shelia Medlin, Larry and Audrey Schott, Clyde and Ruth Norwood, Travis Price, Troyanne and Mark Hinson, Rick Moser, Beth Simpson, Frank Rogers, Rachel Brody, Sheldon Medlin, Martha Allen, James and Francis Gordon, Sandy Brady, Linda and Phil Goodman, Wilson Pierce, Paul and Peggy Dvorak, Billy Thompson, Terry McManus, Wendy Rose, Clara and Jim McGee, Shirley Starnes, Reece Starnes, Rev. Steve and Betsy Rembert, Mark and Nanci Beebe, Albert, Hazel, and Bo Starnes, Jenny Wilson, Bob and Brenda O'Kelley Lynn Dewlen, Karen Skirpol, Tim Morgan, Brody Keen, Sharon Barber, Robert Helms, Kaymon Carter, Frankie Norwood, Bill Cope, Claude Gamble, Geneva Desmond, Daniel McGuirt, George Huntley, Brittany Helms, David Rankin, Ray Phillips, Melody Carswell, Jeff Wren, Walt Venturo, Sue Haney, Silas Simpson, Pat Schlappich, Barb Salisbury, Tiffany Medlin, Bart Jackson Jennifer Corley, Janet Tyson, Pam Gordon, Jerry and Alice Griffin, Rudy Robinson, Ann and Grady Rose, Cara and Larry Schott Jr, Malachi Horne, Michael Mosley, Mary Edwards, Pam Hargis and Patty Outen.

We extend our sympathy to the families of Phil Mosley, Randy Richardson, Brice McCain, Janice Warner, Donald Simpson, Lenora Norwood Fincher, Nell McWhorter and Donald Beebe.

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

The Congregational Care Committee

Have you noticed Walkersville is sending birthday and anniversary cards to members and friends of the church? The Congregational Care Committee would like to extend this ministry by sending cards to your friends and neighbors who need pray encouragement or to be remembered on their special day. Please let Audrey Schott, 704-774-1691, know their name and address and she will make sure a card is sent.

Christian Education Committee needs you:

If you love God's word and want to see others love it too, then consider joining the Christian Education Committee. As we desire to see of the children, youth, and adults of Walkersville and the community grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and the Bible. The committee has bi-monthly meetings to coordinate and plan for up-coming events and to pray for our church. Help us as we pray and plan for Sunday School (Adult, youth & children), Advent, Bible Studies, Lent, Little Angels, CREW Time and special events like the Easter Egg Hunt, and a Children's Christmas.

Free Gospel Benefit Concert

The Cane Creek Cruisers would like to show their appreciation for using the fellowship hall with a gospel benefit on March 27, two weeks before Palm Sunday. Our caller Patty Greene would be doing the concert for free and all the love offerings accepted going to the church as a donation from the square dance club. The Gospel Singing would be open to anyone in the community and advertised through the square dance environment. Patty is a talented singer who sings with the Big Band group Reflections who perform at the Warbirds Event at Monroe Airport every year. If accepted she would prefer to do it March 27, a Sunday afternoon at around 3:00 PM.

Good News and Praises

Happy Birthday and Anniversary

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

New Address for Braylen Batson

Private Batson, Braylen
7130 Colorado Ave, Bldg 840
C Co, 701st BN 14th BG Suite C
Fort Leonard Wood, MO. 65473

Worried? Fearful? By Layne Dewlen

The days in which you and I live are so different from what we have known in the past, and for that matter the same can be said for the whole world. We are being inundated with very depressing, terrifying, and even confusing news and events almost every hour, or so it seems. There is no let up. The enemy, Satan and his demons, are on the loose as we have never seen before. The reason can be easily figured out considering we are looking at the world being set up for Satan's man, the Antichrist, to take over. His time on the world stage is short, and things must be ready before he arrives, so all he has to do is pick up the reins of power that are already in place.

OK, with all this bombarding us, how are we to keep our hearts and minds from being overwhelmed? I'm glad you asked. Paul in Phil.4:6+7 has given us the answer in these familiar verses. "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 passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." There are three things here we need to see clearly. One, thank God for anything, the sky, the trees, your hair, (if you have any), keep a continual heart of thanksgiving. Two, pray about everything. Everything? Yeah, everything! Third, be careful, or don't worry about anything, nothing! (Yes, that space between now and thing is for a reason.) I know, I know, it's this one that is the hardest, but if our minds are set on continual thanksgiving and continual prayer, when can we worry? By doing these three the peace of God WILL guard and rule in your heart and mind, telling fear and doubt to leave.

One other familiar passage to remember is Prov.3:4+5. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy ways." Again, there are three things for us to do. First, trust Him with all your heart. Second, don't lean on your own understanding. He's not saying not to have understanding, but don't lean on it, lean on Him. Third, acknowledge Him in all..... (You fill in the blank). If you do your part, He has promised to direct your ways, or may I change the wording a bit without changing the message, He will straighten out your way.

The God that has promised to take us out of this world before His wrath is poured out upon the earth is the same God that is big enough to keep our hearts and our minds, filled with His peace and joy, till He comes!
Maranatha!

A Different Kind of Guest

By Linda Goodman

From Luke 7:36-50

Good morning. My name is Rachel and I am the daughter of Simon the Pharisee. My father is a well-respected man, who often invites other important men to be guests at our table. Last night, however, was different.

The word *Pharisee* means *separate*. The name serves us well, as Pharisees do not like to keep company with people who are not Jewish, or Jews who do not follow the same practices that we do. That is why I was surprised when my father announced that Jesus would be a guest in our home.

Jesus of Nazareth.... have you heard of him? He is a vagabond who keeps company with the rabble; the peasants, tax collectors and women of ill repute. Our guests are usually great men who wear the finest clothes and have servants to attend their every need.

When Jesus entered our home, he was dressed in the garb of a simple peasant. I expected that, but he was not even clean! He was covered with dust from his head to his filthy feet! He looked as though he had walked miles through the wilderness without bathing for days.

My father was so disgusted that he refused to offer Jesus the simple courtesies that were normally afforded our honored guests. He did not have Jesus' feet washed, as was the custom. Neither did he give him the expected kiss of welcome that would have been followed by the anointing of Jesus' head with olive oil. My father merely said, "This is Jesus of Nazareth, who has gained quite a reputation of late. Let us sit down at the table."

The servants were just beginning to bring us our meal, when a strange woman walked through the front door. Many of the lower class pass our home when we have important, or, in this case, infamous, guests. None, however, would dare to enter our home without an invitation.

My mother gasped when she saw the woman, and when I looked at the woman's face I understood why. This woman was the town harlot! Whenever I saw this woman walking down the road, I would cross to the other side and look away. One must not keep company with, or even acknowledge, such a vile being!

No doubt she did very well plying her chosen trade, for she wore scarlet robes made of the finest silk, and her sandals were studded with pearls and rubies. In her arms she carried an exquisite alabaster jar that was filled with sweet perfume. She must have paid a fortune for it!

She took no note of my family. She ran straight to Jesus, where she knelt at his feet and began sobbing. She cried so hard that her tears, like rain, washed over Jesus' feet, turning the dirt to mud. Horrified, she undid her long hair, all the while begging, "Please forgive me, Lord. Please forgive." She wiped Jesus' feet clean with her own hair! Then she kissed his feet and poured the perfume from the jar on to them, gently massaging it into his skin. And Jesus let her do these things!

My horrified father muttered under his breath, "And I thought this man might be a prophet! He does not even know what this woman is!"

Jesus must have excellent hearing, for he heard every word that my father said.

"Simon, I wish to tell you a story," Jesus announced.

"I know a banker," Jesus continued, "who was owed money by two men. One owed him fifty silver coins. The other owed him 500 silver coins. Neither could pay his debt, and the banker decided to forgive the debts of both men. Which of these men, Simon, do you think was more grateful to the banker?"

"I do not see what that has to do with anything," my father retorted, "but I would judge that the man who owed the banker 500 coins would have been the more grateful of the two."

"You are correct," Jesus told him. "Those who have been forgiven more are more grateful than those who have been forgiven little."

Jesus turned back to the woman and placed his hand on her head as he continued speaking to my father. "Simon, I am a guest in your home, yet you did not wash my feet. You did not welcome me

with a kiss or anoint my head with olive oil. This woman, on the other hand, has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. She has kissed my feet and anointed them with sweet perfume.”

I could see my father’s face turning red with rage as Jesus told him, “This woman has sinned much, and she will be forgiven much. She will be more grateful for that forgiveness than any Pharisee would be.” Then Jesus said to the woman, “Go, woman. Your sins are forgiven.”

After Jesus left our home, my father and the others laughed. “What makes him think that he has the power to forgive a woman like that?” they roared. “He must think he is God!”

I did not join in the laughter. I did not laugh because I had seen that woman’s face as she left our home. I saw serenity there, and a peace that I cannot begin to understand in one so damaged.

I want that peace. Tomorrow I will go find this man Jesus. You are welcome to come with me if you like.

The Bag Lady

© Linda Goodman, August 2013

I was not doing what I wanted to be doing on July 4, 1975. I wanted to be sipping ice tea at the cookout that my boyfriend had invited me to attend. Instead, I was working.

July 4th is a big sales day for retail establishments, and the Portsmouth, Virginia furniture store that employed me was no exception. At 9:00 a.m., I and five of my co-workers stood at the front of the store, waiting to service the hoard of furniture shoppers who were sure to be coming through our doors soon. We worked on the “up” system. Before the store had opened, we had drawn numbers from a basket. The sales person who drew number 1 would attend to the first customer who came through the door; the one who drew number 2 would attend to the second, and so on. I drew number 4.

Sales persons one and two greeted customers almost immediately. About ten minutes elapsed before customer number 3, a tired looking older woman, walked through the door. This woman looked like someone who had been hit by hard times. She was wearing a ratty winter coat (even though the temperature was in the nineties), flip-flops, and a wide-brimmed straw hat. In her right hand she held a large brown paper grocery bag.

“Do I have to help her?” asked the salesman who had drawn number 3. “She’s a bag lady, for Christ’s sake!”

The store owner, Mr. S, scrutinized the woman before replying, “She’s probably come in to take advantage of our air conditioning. Just ignore her. She’ll leave soon enough.”

She did not leave, and while I waited for customer number 4, she looked back at us repeatedly.

“Don’t you think someone should at least say hello?” I inquired.

“If you talk to her, she’ll never leave,” Mr. S answered. “She’ll monopolize your time and you won’t make any sales.”

I knew he was probably right, but I looked back at her, and she was staring at me. The puzzled look in her eyes was clearly saying ‘why won’t you help me?’

She reminded me of my mother. Even after my father had gotten a job that paid well, my mother refused to buy new clothes. “We never know how long the job will last,” she reasoned. “I aim to save as much money as I can for that rainy day that’s sure to come.” I used to wonder why the clerks in the stores where we shopped sometimes ignored her. Now I knew the reason.

I could not look away from this bag lady’s eyes. “I’m going to go speak to her,” I told Mr. S.

“Go ahead,” he sighed. “But don’t blame me when everyone else racks up big sales today and you end up with nothing.”

I nodded and walked over to the woman. “Hi,” I greeted her with a smile. “How can I help you today?”

"I'm looking for a new living room suite, a new dining room suite, and a new bedroom suite." She asserted. "I just got a new apartment."

"Very well," I responded, "come with me and I will show you what we have."

After walking through the living room section three times, she finally stopped to ask questions about royal blue velvet sectional that cost \$999.99. She wanted to know what made that sofa worth that much money. I was well-versed on the strengths of that particular suite, so I quickly explained them to her. She nodded, accepting my explanations.

"And those tables," she asked, pointing to the set of 3 chrome and glass tables that accessorized the suite. "What makes them worth \$300.00?"

"They're tempered glass," I enlightened her. "They're four to six times the strength of regular glass, and if the glass breaks it shatters into round pieces that can't cut anyone." She did not seem impressed, so I added, "These tables are so strong you can stand on them."

"I'm looking for tables that lamps can stand on; not people," she informed me. She pointed to a set of wooden tables across the room. "I'll take those," she said.

By this time, I had been with the woman for forty-five minutes. Meanwhile, sales persons 1, 2, 3, and 5 were closing multiple sales. I silently berated myself to not listening to Mr. S. He had been in this business a lot longer than me. His was the wise voice of experience.

After similarly scrutinizing the dining room furniture, she selected a chrome and glass dining room table with 6 leather chairs. "I might actually want to stand on that sometime," she shared with me. She took over two hours to select a bedroom suite, a French provincial set made of fruitwood. At \$1,549.99, it was the most expensive suite we carried. I invited her to join me at my desk, but she insisted she needed to choose lamps for her new living room and bedroom suites first.

After another hour had passed, she was satisfied that she had everything she wanted. As I pulled a chair up to my desk for her, I glanced at Mr. S. He was shaking his head. I knew exactly what he was thinking, "I told you so!" I did not relish the thought of the scorching lecture that would soon be coming my way; not to mention the beating I would be giving myself for offering to help this woman.

I took a blank contract from my desk drawer and began to fill it out. She supplied me with her name, address, and phone number (clearly, she was making this stuff up!), but hesitated when I asked for her Social Security number. "What do you need that," she wanted to know.

"I need your Social Security number to get your credit approved," I insisted (like I actually thought she could get approved).

"I'm not buying this on credit!" she thundered. "I'm paying cash."

Mr. S, standing behind me, actually giggled, prompting snickers from the rest of the sales staff. I ignored them. They could be dealt with later. I needed to get rid of this woman before she ruined my sales for the rest of the day.

"Very well," I said in my most business-like voice, "your total with sales tax comes to \$3,795.96. Since you are paying cash, I won't charge you for delivery. I'll write up your receipt while you go get the money."

"I don't need to go get the money," she smiled. "I got it with me."

She proceeded to open up that brown paper grocery bag sitting beside her. After removing several layers of newspaper, she started lifting banded packs of one-hundred-dollar bills and placing them on my desk. "There's \$3,800. You owe me \$4.04 change," she announced.

I wrote up a delivery slip and sent it back to our warehouse. Mr. S. was speechless, as the sales staff gasped in disbelief. I could hardly believe it myself. This had to be a dream!

But it was not a dream. I escorted her to the front door, and as I opened the door for her, I advised, "You ought to put that money in a bank account. It's not safe to walk around this city with that kind of cash in a paper grocery bag."

A sly smile spread across her face. "Don't you worry about me, Sugar," she reassured me. "Everybody thinks I'm a bag lady."



February Roster

Committee of the Month:

**Congregational
Care**

Mission of the Month: Ground 40

Nursery Workers:

- Feb 06 Rhonda McManus
- Feb 13 Mark and Nanci Beebe
- Feb 20 Jessica Johnston
- Feb 27 Debbie Rankin and Serenity Johnston

Volunteers Needed

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.

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!

Session Members, Prayer Chain Contacts, and Committee Information

2022 Session		
Elder	Phone	Term
Paul Rankin	814-279-5055	Pastor
Clara McGee Clerk of Session	704-709-7125	Class of 2023
Larry Schott	704-774-1691	Class of 2024
Bob Stirton	704-361-4888	Class of 2024
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

2022 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	Marsha Stirton Frances Gamble	Sue Thornton

February 2022

		1 7:00 – 9:00 PM Square Dancing	2 3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group	3	4 Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic, Central Carolinas Noon to 8:00 pm Location: TBA	5 Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic, Central Carolinas 8:00 am to Noon Location: TBA
6 9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service Holy Communion 11:15 AM Adult Choir Practice	7	8 7:00 – 9:00 PM Square Dancing	9 12:15 PM Operation Reach Out Meal 3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group	10	11	12
13 9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Adult Choir Practice	14 7:00 PM – Men’s Bible Study in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM – Ladies Bible Study at Manse Valentine’s Day	15 7:00 – 9:00 PM Square Dancing	16 3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group	17	18	19
20 9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Adult Choir Practice	21 Presidents' Day	22 7:00 – 9:00 PM Square Dancing	23 3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group 5:30 PM Little Angels	24 5:00 PM Session Meeting	25	26

27 9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Adult Choir Practice	28					
--	-----------	--	--	--	--	--