

First Presbyterian News

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He Is Risen! Let Us Follow Jesus

In preparation for this wonderful season of Easter (Lent), we have endeavored to fast and pray in order to... what? Some may have desired to become more like Christ, to grow in spiritual maturity, possibly to restore a relationship with the Father. Or to gain a sense of peace, to discern the path God has laid out for you. Whatever your personal motivation or conviction, I wanted to encourage and

exhort you with a practical application piece and answer the question of, "Now what?" How do we now live as redeemed and reconciled children of God? To answer this question, naturally, we turn to God's Word to see what Jesus had to say on the subject. In Luke 10 Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan that gives us a beautifully simplistic picture of how God desires us to live.

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

²⁷ He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denary and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' ³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" ³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

This interaction between Jesus and "an expert in the law" is a fascinating story with many historical, cultural, and contextual nuances, but we will leave the details for the Walk Through Luke sermon series. Here I would like to highlight the main idea, and that is, not asking "Who is my neighbor" (limiting who you will share God's love with), but rather asking, "How can I be a neighbor to whoever I come across?"

The Samaritan was not looking to justify himself, or act super religiously, he just saw someone in need and had compassion for him. The Samaritan couldn't tell anything about this poor man who was robbed. The man had been stripped of his clothes and left for dead, so the Samaritan had no way of telling if he was a Jew or Gentile, peasant or royalty, he simply saw the hurt and chose to go out of his way to help. This was not motivated by a sense of obligation, but rather out of love and compassion ("he took pity on him"). The two denarii that he paid the inn keeper was two days wages in that time. In today's context, that is roughly \$275. To make this story even more scandalous, the hero of the story

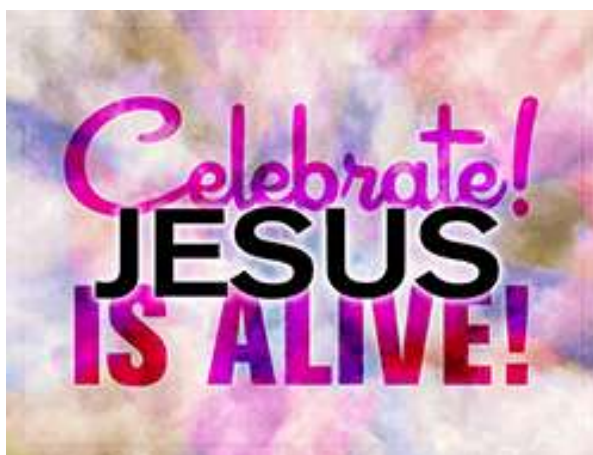
(Continued on page 2)

(the Samaritan) was considered to be unclean by the Jews, and there was historically bad blood between the Jews and the Samaritans. Jews traveling North to Galilee went around Samaria to avoid them. The expert in the law was forced to admit that the Samaritan was the model to follow because he *was a neighbor* to the man who was robbed.

In Matthew 22, Jesus spoke about the greatest commandment and said, “All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” So, you see, this is the Christian walk. Repenting of sin and entering into a salvific relationship with the Lord Jesus is the beginning of your journey. We now live as redeemed and reconciled children of God by showing God’s love to all we meet. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you the heart of God, so you may love like Jesus loved you. Pray for God’s eyes, to see those in need around you. For God’s hands and feet, to serve as the Holy Spirit leads you. It is through this kind of walk that we glorify our Lord and Savior and make disciples of all nations!

~ In Christ,

John



April 7 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: “A Walk Through Luke” pt 9

Scriptures: Jeremiah 31:31-34’ :ile 5”27-39

April 14 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: “A Walk Through Luke”, pt 10

Scriptures: Exodus 20:8-11; Luke 6:1-16

April 21 - 4th Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: “A Walk Through Luke”, pt 11

Scriptures: Psalm 23; Luke 6:17-36

April 28 - 5th Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: “A Walk Through Luke”, pt 12

Scriptures: Exodus 19:1-6; Luke 6:37-49

May 5 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: “A Walk Through Luke”, pt 13

Scriptures: Psalm 101; Luke 7:1-17





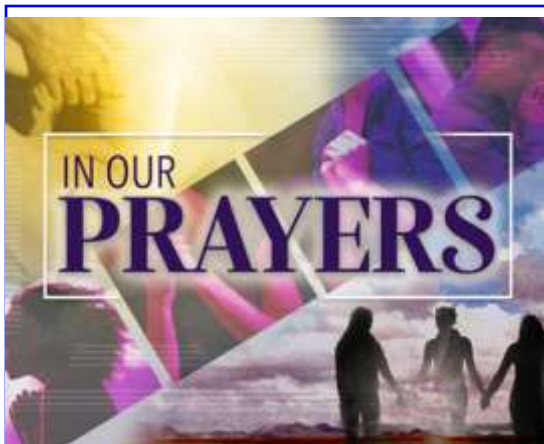
In the Old Testament, fire often symbolizes the presence of God's Spirit. For example, God called to Moses from a burning bush (Exodus 3:2-6) and defeated the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:30-39). In the New Testament, tongues of fire rested atop the believers gathered on Pentecost (Acts 2:3).

Some Christians have described a burning or current-like sensation when they encounter God. Methodism founder John Wesley said his heart was "strangely warmed" during worship. After such an encounter, people often feel compelled to share the Good News of Jesus. The flame of faith inside one believer can spark a revival of faith in others.

As Charles Spurgeon said, "A burning heart will soon find for itself a flaming tongue."

From NewsletterNewsletter

Thank you! - We received a wonderful note of gratitude from Ronnie, Ann Crabtree and Kathy: Dear Friends, Words cannot express how much we appreciate all the calls, visits, flowers, meals, cards, & memorials in our devastating loss of our precious son, Mark. Your many prayers were felt and helped carry us through the hardest time of our lives. We appreciate your kindness & thoughtfulness. We love our Church family.



Prayer List - Pool family after Nancy's passing. Wayne Hiner, Sterling Roberts' uncle - having medical and balance issues, doctors to determine cause. Kit Hooper had knee replacement surgery, she is doing well. Carol Foster has had some residual issues after her fall. Mark Foster has completed his treatment on his neck. Prayers for their healing. Ken McCarthy - PTSD diagnosis.

Prayers continue: Kim Albert, Patricia Burton, Chappell family, Crabtree family, Caroline Laughorn, Deborah Sizemore.

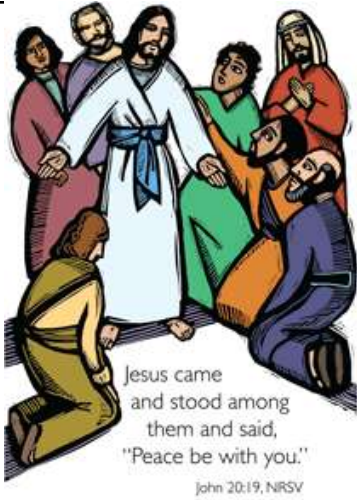
National Day of Prayer - Thursday, May 2nd. Mark your calendar for the annual National Day of Prayer event.

Beginning at 6:30 pm at Halifax County High School Auditorium. Our presenter will be Daniel Ritchie. What a motivational story he will bring.

"Born without arms, but God has glorified my difference and has given me a thriving life." "It is my joy to encourage others, and provide them with the hope of Christ."

Come out and help support this event. We need more prayer here in the community, for the nation, and in our individual lives.





Easter is over, but hopefully not out of our hearts. Easter is the most important date and event in human history, because of Christ's atonement. If it were not for this miraculous day, we would be doomed to be under the evil influence for life and eternity.

I find it interesting that just hours before His crucifixion, even though Christ knew the events that were about to take place, he spoke to His apostles about peace. *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. (John 16:33 KJV)*

When Christ returned and visited His disciples the first words and greeting were, "Peace be unto you." (Luke 24:36 KJV) *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:27 KJV)*

Peace is only attainable because of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. Isn't it interesting that just prior to His atonement and just afterward, His thoughts and words were about "peace."

Certainly, life can and is challenging. It can bring us down with all the depressing news of the world, with "unjust" things happening to us and/or family and friends. We can feel hopeless. But, because of Christ, we can have hope and peace that all will be well. Even when life gets chaotic and stressful, IF we turn to Christ, He will give us comfort and a calming peace.

I found five aspects or blessings that come to us because of the Atonement:

Purifies – Though we all sin, His atonement purifies us.

Enables – Not only to rise from the dead and be with Him, but to make it through the every day.

Assures - In Isaiah we are taught, "The work of righteousness will be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever."(Isaiah 32:17 NKJV)

Comfort – *I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you (see John 14:15-18 KJV).*

Exalts- As we humble ourselves, we allow God to bless us (see Matthew 23:12 NKJV).

Not only are these powerful and wonderful blessings from the atonement, but they also spell PEACE, and can help us to feel and enjoy the peace that Christ has to offer.

May peace fill our hearts and lives throughout the year. ~ Sherolyn

"Peace"
BE WITH YOU!



Women's Bible Study - Meeting each Wednesday at 10:30 am. Come join the group.

Men's Bible Study - Meet each Thursday at 6:30pm. Men come join their study of "The Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel.

Evangelism Study - meet each Thursday at 1pm at The Busy Bean. Studying "They Like Jesus But Not the Church" by Dan Kimball. Come join them.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 - Easter 7 am - Sunrise Service Breakfast 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm - Flowering of the Cross	April 1 	April 2 10:30 am—GCM	April 3 10:30 am - WBS 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	April 4 1:00 pm -Evangelism study (ES) 6:30 pm - MBS 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	April 5 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	April 6
7 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	8	9	10 10:30 am - WBS 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	11 1:00 pm - ES 6:30 pm - MBS 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	12 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	13
14— 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm - Diaconate	15	16	17 10:30 am - WBS 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	18 1:00 pm - ES 6:30 pm - MBS 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	19 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	20 9-12 NA
21- 5 Cents a Meal collection 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm - Fellowship luncheon 12:45 pm Session	22	23 	24 10:30 am - WBS 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	25 1:00 pm - ES 6:30 pm - MBS 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	26- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	27
28 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	29	30	May 1 10:30 am - WBS 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	May 2 1:00 pm - ES 6:30 pm - MBS 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	May 3- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	May 4



- 2 Del Pool
- 5 Sunny Watkins
- 6 Kim Albert
- 7 Joseph Roberts
- 8 Patricia Seat
- 11 Carter Henderson
- 12 Ed Fraser*
- 13 Mark Foster
- 16 Frances Harrell
- 16 Buck Wilkins*

* In Memory

- 23 Jessica Lumsden Thompson
- 24 Mike Rand
- 24 Jane Willis*
- 25 Kaitlin (Marvin) Buchanan
- 25 Brian Raney
- 29 Daniel Roller
- 30 Debbie Roller



We want to recognize everyone. If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office and let us know.

From the Elders

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Since our last Newsletter, our Session on March 17, discussed:

1. Rev. Coleman opened the meeting with prayer.
2. News of the congregation was shared.
3. Minutes of the February 18th Stated Session Meeting were approved.
4. Membership Roll –
 - A. Nancy LaNeave Pool went to be with the Lord on March 16, 2024.
 - B. We continue to reach out to inactive members on the church roll. Responses received were shared.
5. Property –
 - A. Several roof leaks need to be addressed.
 - B. Lawn mower is in the shop for repair and service.
6. Budget & Finance –
 - A. Financial reports for February 2024 were reviewed.
 - B. Discussed possibly replacing the current church accounting software.
7. Worship –
 - A. Maundy Thursday service – March 28th at 7:00 pm.
 - B. Next communion date is Sunday, April 21, 2024 (Covered dish luncheon after worship).
8. Rev. Coleman closed the meeting with prayer.
9. Next Stated Session meeting will be on Sunday, April 21, 2024, at 12:45 pm.



5 Cents-a-Meal collection - Sunday, April 21.
Choir - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.
Deacons - April 14 at 12:15 PM
Elders - Sunday, April 21 - Elders at 12:45
Evangelism Study - each Thursday at 1 pm at Busy Bean.
Greeting Card Ministry - Tuesday, April 2 at 10:30.
Men's Bible Study - each Thursday at 6:30 pm
Women's Bible study - Wednesday's at 10:30 am

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Here is your April 2024 Newsletter