



From the Pastor:

Dear Church Family,

If you could pick and choose various elements or characteristics of the lives of those around you, there's no doubt you'd tailor-make a wonderful life for yourself. You might say, "I'll take their marriage, his car, her house, their children..." And so the list could go. No doubt our eyes are sometimes on what others have and we wish to have it!

Last evening's ladies book study considered the topic of coveting. The tenth commandment tells us not to covet, or have inordinate desires for things that God has not chosen to provide to us. We are to be content with what we do have and charitable toward others when they have what we do not possess.

Easier said than done! Our eyes go to and fro, searching for the next thing we must have. Our gaze is over the fence to see what the neighbors have. Somebody somewhere has greener grass. We desire, we compare, we long for things.

There are such things as good desires: food, shelter, clothing, transportation, relationships and more. But there are bad desires! Things we want that we should not want. Tragic ends can come from unbridled desires. Remember David, King of Israel? He saw Bathsheba, another's wife. He coveted, stole, committed adultery, lied and murdered. Somewhere in there he possibly broke the other five of the ten commandments.

His unchecked desires wreaked havoc on his personal life, family affairs and the kingdom of Israel.

Ask the Lord to help you be content with what you have, thankful for many blessings and to rejoice when others have gifts, graces and things that you might desire but don't possess. Ask for him to give you a heart that is satisfied!

Our Deacons have called for a Spring Workday this Saturday, March 11 at 9 AM. The chore list is extensive and there are many things that all sorts of hands and skill levels can do. Off the top of my head are: washing glass & mirrors, cleaning the pews in the sanctuary, sanitizing nursery toys, raking mulch back into flower beds and around trees & shrubs, pressure washing, scrubbing handprints from our doorways, pruning roses & monkey grass and changing light bulbs. I'm sure there's more! Come out for an hour, a half-hour or the whole morning and help out. It will support our Deacons and help us take care of the wonderful property the Lord has entrusted to us. "Many hands make light work" and "the more the merrier"!

Men, be sure to pick up your copy of James I. Packer's *18 Words*. The lunchtime group discussed chapter 1 this past Monday and the evening group meets on March 13 at 7 PM at Panera Bread to discuss the first chapter. If you haven't yet joined either men's group, please consider it! We enjoy fellowship and discussion.

Easter is not far off and I want to be sure you have some dates in mind: Sunday, April 9 is Palm Sunday. We will have our Holy Week Service at 6 PM in the Sanctuary that day. The service is much like our Christmas Lessons & Carols where we read Scripture showing the progression of the passion of Christ in the Bible and sing appropriate hymns. This is a great event to bring a friend, neighbor or family, as they will hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Easter Sunday is April 16 and in place of Sunday School, we will have our Easter Breakfast and follow with morning worship at 11 AM.

Mark your calendars and hope to see many of you at the Workday on Saturday and in the Lord's House on Sunday,

Daylight Savings Time. Be sure to adjust your clocks forward one hour before going to bed next Saturday evening. The time changes on Sunday, March 12 at 2 AM.

Church Workday this Saturday, March 11. All hands on deck for a spring cleaning and workday! Meet at 9 AM or come by as you are able. There will be chores for all ages and skill levels.

Visiting Homebound. Saturday, March 18th, at 2 PM, please meet in the Fellowship Hall to gather gifts & depart.

Sunday Simple Supper after the Evening Service on March 26: real Christians eat Quiche!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Give thanks for the beauty of spring and the reminders of new life...that God makes all things new!

That we would all be more effective stewards of the resources (time, talents, financial means) that our Lord has entrusted to us, cheerfully giving to this and other ministries – investing in His Kingdom, from an eternal perspective.

Pray for those in our churches dealing with family & relational struggles.

Ask that the Lord would provide suitable employment for those seeking work.

Lift up those who suffer from addictions to substances or behaviors that are destructive.

Pray for Cindy Wright's rehabilitation from hip replacement, as well as her physical struggles from rheumatoid arthritis. Give thanks that she is at home!

Ask the Lord to continue to grant grace to Lynn Limon after surgery & her return to work.

Surgery: Connie Bennett, foot, March 22.

Health & Strength: for many in our church family who are suffering various illnesses, setbacks and chronic maladies.

For Andrew and Norene Brunson suffering persecution in Turkey. Pray for his release from prison and that our nation's leaders would intervene effectively.

Family of the Week: Harold and Shirley Boswell.

College Students: Isaac Sasser, Jack Snow, David & Seth Spaulding.

Military: Josh Limon, Qatar and Steven Mendiola, Kansas.

Homebound Members: Elizabeth Barber, Theo Baulding, Jean Cathey, Foy Evans, Doris Haywood, June Little, George McKinney, Catherine Mangum, Pat Montgomery, Gene Parks and Mae Wilburn.

Local Church: Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rev. Powell Sykes.

Local Ministry: Piedmont Rescue Mission.

Regional Ministry: ARP Connect/Ministry to Muslims in USA, Ali & Tari Mitchell.

Foreign Missions: Andy & Nanette Howard, Pakistan.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Booklets are available at the piano narthex entrance with information that will help you shop year round.

March:

- Soft items. All ages need something soft. See directions for making your own blankets.

- Fork & Spoon

- Small plate, cup, bowl

April: Toys (Any toys. These are just suggestions)

- Dolls

- Stuffed toys

- Small cars

- Small box puzzles

- Small coloring books

Young at Heart

Mark your calendar for March 28, 11:45 AM as our monthly fellowship resumes! Looking forward to seeing each of you there.

First ARP Calendar of Events

March

8 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM

11 Church Workday

13 Men's Evening Gathering

15 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM

18 Homebound Visitation

20 Stated Session Meeting

22 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM

28 Young at Heart Luncheon

29 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM

MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

Carolyn Constable	3/1
David Turner	3/2
Bryan Crotts	3/5
Kaitlyn Moore	3/6
Donna Vestal	3/6
Katherine Baird	3/10
Sarah Wright	3/10
Cathy Young	3/15
Larry Causey	3/18
Gary Gregory	3/24
Kelly Limon	3/24
Carolyn Christopher	3/26

ANNIVERSARIES

Doug & Tammy Cobb (29) 3/12

Nursery:

Mar 12: Laurene Howington & Jondeen Terry

Mar 19: Jimmy Smith & Carol Erb

Counter:

Mar 12: Jay Snow

Mar 19: Glenn Owens

Deacon Duty:

Mar 12: Stephen Robinson

Mar 19: Glenn Owens

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