



From the Pastor:

Dear Church Family:

There's a fancy word that we use from time-to-time to name the place from where a piece of writing was written. That fancy word is provenance.

In our study of Philippians we have discovered that Paul wrote what we call the "prison epistles" (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon). He happened to be in prison in Rome waiting to make his appeal to Caesar. He was daily chained to a palace guard, he received many guests and we have no doubt he performed many fruitful ministries. This imprisonment lasted for quite some time.

Why is it helpful to know the provenance of Philippians? It helps us to know Paul's situation. It makes his words more meaningful - especially his talk of joy in circumstances.

Sometimes we say things like, "When my circumstances get better, I'll have joy." Or, "When thus and so takes place, I can be in a better position to do this or that." Paul gives us great reason to keep on going no matter our surroundings. That's hard!

As we face all kinds of circumstances - health concerns, relational matters, ups and downs, losses and crosses, and so much more - we can trust God for grace to endure, persevere, overcome and even triumph. This is wonderfully shown to us in Paul's statement (Philippians 4:11-13 ESV) - "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

May God give us grace as we face the hardships of life! Our congregation has lately been under duress with sickness, stresses and lots of life! Let me commend to you a couple of things that will help you through rough patches: 1) Make your prayer requests known to me - we will get them on the weekly list and pray for you on Sunday nights. 2) Either come to Sunday School and hear the lessons on Job or ask and we can make those lessons available to you for your viewing at home. They are worth your time!

I'm writing this newsletter from the back of the Sanctuary on Tuesday morning. First Presbytery is meeting at our church. There are 100 church representatives from the state of North Carolina here to work on matters related to our regional church body, our Presbytery of Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders (or ministers).

Let me extend a hearty thanks to all hands who have planned, purchased, cooked, cleaned, neatened, parked cars, directed traffic, replenished supplies, carried trash, baked bread, brewed coffee, and so much more! Our hosting was a big undertaking and so many hands working so many hours made the day possible.

Please be sure to join us this Sunday morning - Resurrection Sunday - for our Easter Breakfast. It is a covered dish breakfast during the Sunday School hour at 9:45. Get out those wonderful breakfast recipes for all to enjoy from the following - *Breakfast Casseroles *Ham/Sausage/Butter Biscuits with Jellies *Fruit. *Beverages provided. We will enjoy breakfast first thing, so bring your dish HOT and READY to serve!

After breakfast we will worship the risen Christ and consider the blessings of the resurrection from Acts 3.

See you the Lord's Day!

Easter Breakfast: We would like to enjoy a covered dish breakfast during the Sunday School hour. Get out those wonderful breakfast recipes for all to enjoy from the following ~ *Breakfast Casseroles *Ham/Sausage/Butter Biscuits with Jellies *Fruit. *Beverages provided. We will enjoy breakfast first thing, so bring your dish HOT and READY to serve!

Young at Heart

Our next Young at Heart Luncheon will be April 25 at 11:45 AM. Shannon Pointer, MSN, RN, Community Educator with Hospice & Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell will be our speaker. This education session will offer a glimpse into all of the programs and services available through Hospice & Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell. We will cover hospice, but so much more. Education will be provided on all available programs and services for the community, including grief counseling for adults and children, dementia support services, advance care planning and more. Please take the time to attend the presentation to learn more about resources that are available so that no one ever says "I wish we would have known about these resources sooner. The menu will be announced soon!"

PRAYER REQUESTS

Praise the Lord for many answered prayers in our lives, families and church.

That God would continue to grow our congregation, enabling us to expose others to Biblically sound teaching, and that we might have a more effective impact on the community-at-large.

That the Lord would continue to heal and sustain those with physical and emotional illness.

Pray for mercies for Vicki McPherson's family as her mother recently passed away.

Ask the Lord to grant success to Ben Gregory in his CPA examination.

Recovering Health: Gene Parks (heart), Audrey Turner (heart), Lynn Limon (cancer surgery), Cindy Wright (hip replacement), Connie Bennett (foot surgery), Jean McKinnon (mini-stroke).

Upcoming Surgery: George McKinney (cataracts).

Health & Strength: Ariel Constable (injured arm), Tom McPherson (blood clot), Ferald Mann (sciatica), Connie Bennett (Parkinson's).

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: Stephen and Kathryn Crotts.

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

Military: Josh Limon, Stateside and Steven Mendiola, Middle East (Maggie & Baby Girl due August).

Homebound Members: Elizabeth Barber, Theo Baulding, Jean Cathey, Foy Evans, Doris Haywood, June Little, George McKinney, Catherine Mangum, Pat Montgomery, Gene Parks, Mae Wilburn and Al Wright (Memory Care/Hospice).

For the Church of God to grow through the work of First Presbytery Church Extension and Synod's Outreach North America.

For those in our congregation who are sent on short-term missions: Summer 2017 - Wales & Scotland - Karen Hoke, Lynn Limon & Joyce Payne. Mexico Music Camp - Ed Limon.

That we'd be salt and light in our spheres of influence as we go about our daily lives in our community.

Foreign Missions: Andy & Nanette Howard (Pakistan).

Choir News. No choir practice today. **Handbell** will practice on April 18 at 6:30 PM.

Easter Denominational Offering

Each year at Easter time the ARP Church collects a special offering to support some of the ministries of our denomination. An insert will be in the *Easter Sunday* bulletin Please use the special envelope provided. This offering will be collected Easter Sunday, April 16 through Sunday, April 30, 2017.

Men's Evening Gathering will be April 17 at 7 PM at Panera Bread. We will discuss chapter 2 of *18 Words*.

First ARP Calendar of Events

April

16 Easter Sunday-9:45 Easter Breakfast
 16 Worship 11 AM
 17 Men's Evening Gathering 7 PM
 19 Ladies Bible Study-11 AM
 25 Young At Heart Luncheon
 26 Ladies Bible Study-11 AM
 30 Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing and Social

May

1 Men's Lunch
 1 WHS Class of 1955 Set-Up in Fellowship Hall
 2 WHS Class of 1955 "80th Birthday Lunch"
 2 Women's Envy of Eve Book Study - 7 PM
 3 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM
 7 Lord's Supper
 10 Ladies Bible Study Luncheon
 15 Joint Officer & Stated Session Meeting
 22 Men's Evening Gathering - 7 PM
 23 Young at Heart Luncheon

APRIL

BIRTHDAYS

Alex Newton	4/3
Kay Moore	4/4
Hannah Roy	4/5
James Constable	4/6
Jim Knox	4/6
Patricia Pack	4/6
Glenn Owens	4/8
Steve Kyaw	4/9
Jessica Sneed	4/10
Stephen Crotts	4/14
Gene Parks	4/14
William Roy	4/15
Rachel Pelone	4/17
Randall Cobb	4/21
Russ Payne	4/21
Jean McKinnon	4/25
Debbie Childrey	4/27

ANNIVERSARIES

Seth & Laura Nicholson (11)	4/15
Harold & Shirley Boswell (24)	4/17

Nursery:

Apr 16: Jimmy Smith & Fran Haynes
 Apr 23: Vicki McPherson & Carol Erb

Counter:

Apr 16:
 Apr 23: Stephen Robinson

Deacon Duty:

Apr 16: Larry Isley
 Apr 23: Stephen Robinson

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