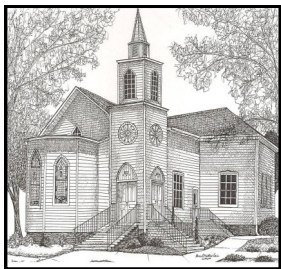


THE ABBEY NEWS



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AUGUST 2020

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FROM THE PASTOR

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"
~Ephesians 1:1-2

"The church is not an ideal to be striven for; she exists and they're within her" ~Georges Bernanos, *Diary of a Country Priest*

This month, we begin a twelve-week sermon series on the book of Ephesians. As a starting point for sermons, I am using the late Eugene Peterson's book *Practice Resurrection*. In the introduction to this book, Peterson writes: "So—growing up 'healthy in God, robust in love.' That is my subject: finding and living into the form of what one psalm translation terms 'the beauty of holiness' (Ps. 29:2 KJV). The formation of our minds and spirits, our souls, our lives—our lives transformed, growing up strong in God, growing to maturity, to the stature of Christ."

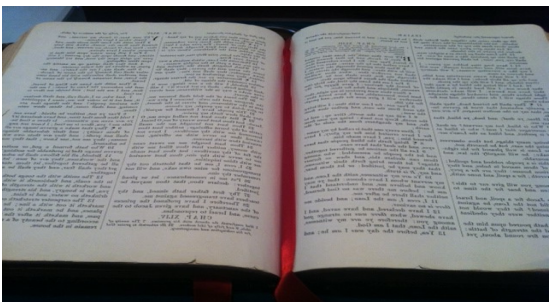
From as early as we can recall, we are asked "what do you want to be when you grow up?" It's an age old question, and my answers ranged from a professional cheerleader to a veterinarian, from a spotlight operator on Broadway to a seminary professor at Harvard, to a small church pastor. As we grow, our desires, which have always existed within us, mature and develop. It's funny to look back on that list of things I said I wanted to be when I grew up—to some extent I've reached all of those goals in one vocation! (Well...except spotlight operator, but you could probably interchange that with tech producer in the age of virtual worship).

Peterson points out that because of Christ's resurrection, the church is called to practice resurrection—moving from sin-death to resurrection-life and we do this by growing up spiritually. Spiritual growth, he points out, is often relegated to Sunday School, isolated retreats, and other specialized programs, but is rarely the focus from the pulpit, although it should be. So for the next twelve weeks, we are going to look in depth at how Paul pastored the Ephesian church both in his letter and with his presence. In doing so, we are going to have a new understanding of what it means to be the church, warts and all.

C.S Lewis introduced the term "deep church" to convey the ocean fathoms of tradition that are continuously re-experienced "at all times and everywhere." Like Peterson, I like that: deep church. Church is an appointed gathering of named people in particular places who practice a life of resurrection in a world in which death gets the biggest headlines: death of nations, death of civilization, death of marriage, death of careers, obituaries without end. The practice of resurrection is an intentional, deliberate decision to believe and participate in resurrection life, life out of death, life that defeats death, life that is the last word, Jesus life.

So we are not just born into new life; that's step one. Steps two through a million are growing up in Christ, maturing in Christ. And I do think we finally get to the epitome of spiritual maturity. Some of us will reach it in this life. Almost all of us will figure out in the next life that we did as best we could or we actually grew up spiritually without even knowing it. Whatever the case may be, I hope that we enjoy growing up in Christ together.

God's grace and peace be with you all,
Rev. Audrey



We will celebrate Holy Communion Sunday, August 23rd during Morning Worship, 11:00 am.

AUGUST SERMONS

- 2: "Who is This Church?" Ephesians 1:1-14
- 9: "God is Looking for Us" Ephesians 1:15-23
- 16: "Sin-dead, Resurrection Alive": Ephesians 2:1-10
- 23: "Peace and the Broken Wall" Ephesians 2:11-22
- 30: "There is No B.C: Before Christ" Ephesians 3:1-13



We are so blessed to have a loving and caring church family here at WPC! If you would like to be a part of this family, we would LOVE to have you! You are only a visitor once at WPC! There are so many offerings of service through our church.



God Is Love



Our doors are open once again to our beautiful sanctuary! It is such a blessing to see our church family members each Sunday! We are blessed with wonderful donors who have generously given to enhance our Virtual worship experience as well! Whether you are watching our service at home or sitting in our pews, God is there! God is with us, blessing us and holding each of us in the palm of His hand!



TREASURER’S REPORT

June receipts\$ 13,498.71
expenses 8,869.66
+ 4,629.05

YTD receipts \$ 74,894.13
expenses 59,855.64
+ 15,038.49





Your giving to WPC directly affects the ministry and programs of our church. We are grateful for all that you give in your time, talents and money!

Please reach out to your Session with any concerns or needs. They are willing to serve in any way they can!

Clerk: Brad Stancil
Congregational Care: Martha Brancazio
Mission/Outreach: Trish McCoy
Worship: Virginia Gordon
Christian Education: Lou Haynes
Property: John Merritt
Stewardship/Finance: Michael Meades

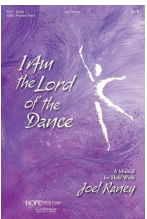
****Session will be communicating via email and telephone to discern the best scenario for the health of our members.**



August Flowers

- 8/2 Nita McMillan
- 8/9 Gloria Prater
- 8/16 Nancy Johnston
- 8/23 PaulaMeades
- 8/30 Kathleen Skillen

THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP TEAM!



Choir members! Continue to listen to your CD and sing through the cantata!!



Thank you for the generous donation received!! The technology and

software needed for a flawless Virtual Worship experience was paid for through this donation. Also, WIFI was placed in the sanctuary as well! We are grateful for God’s gift of generosity from all WPC members!



How to Make Christian Living Recipe

Blend 1 cup of Love with 1/2 cup of Kindness
Alternately add in small portions of:
1 Cup of Appreciation
3 Cup of Pleasant Friendships
2 Tsp. of Deserving Praise
Flavor with 1 tsp of Carefully chosen advice
Lightly fold in 1 cup of Cheerfulness
Add a pinch of Sorrow=Pour with Tender care
And a loving hand
A heart that will never give up
No matter what comes around.
Mix all together
Put all together and turn out on the Surface of Everyone, all around the community and world too
Humbly involve God's in the blessings
Of this Christian Living Recipe.This is a homemade christian living recipe=for everyone to hopefully enjoy and will share with others!



Thank you so much to our wonderful Worship Team! There’s so much “behind-the-scenes” work that goes into our services each Sunday! All of these members play a role in making it happen each and every Sunday! From Virginia Gordon lovingly placing all the bulletins in the pews for us to Ellen Stancil keeping all the slides right on time for our viewers and everything in between, God’s hand is leading and guiding us to provide you all with a spirit-filled service each Sunday! God Bless You!



Imogene Giles is 100 years Young!



Happiest of Birthdays to our dear friend Imogene Giles! Imogene celebrated her 100th birthday on July 5, 2020! We are most privileged to know and love this beautiful lady. Our wish is for her continued health and happiness for many, many more years!



How to remember the 10 Commandments?

(Linda White shared a version of this at Circle a few years back! I bet you'll never forget them again!)

- 1 – (hold up 1 index finger) Number 1 is You shall have only one God.
- 2 – (hold up your index and middle finger, putting one behind the other) Number 2 is you will not make or worship idols, or you shall have no other Gods before me. This means God should be the most important thing in your life!
- 3 – (hold up your index, middle, and ring fingers, pointing out how they make the letter “w”) The third commandment Is do not take the Lord’s name in vain, and the three can remind us to watch our words
- 4 – (hold up index, middle, ring, and pinkie finger, motioning as if the four fingers are a family going to church) Number 4 is keep the Sabbath holy, which means give one day a week to God, like when you come to church on Sunday with your family
- 5 – (hold up all 5 fingers, then salute) Number 5 is honor your father and mother, and the salute helps us remember to listen and obey our parents
- 6 – (hold up all 5 fingers on one hand, then your index finger on the other; the single index finger becomes a gun pointing at the other 5) Number 6 is do not murder.
- 7 – (hold up all 5 fingers on one hand, then your index and middle finger on another, showing how the two are separate from the other five) Number 7 is keep your marriage promises, which means that when two people are married, they stay with each other and don’t mix with other people

Praying for You

Imogene Giles
Ruth Payne
Kathy Darnell
Robbie McClure (Marie Dunnam’s brother)
Nancy Dougherty
Fred Guidotti (Kathy Skillen’s friend)



Presbyterian Women

During the summer months, both PW Circles decided to have a Zoom meeting! It was just wonderful to see everyone “virtually”!



We plan to resume our regular monthly meetings this month on August 3rd! Morning Circle will meet at 10:30 am and Evening Circle will meet at 4:30 pm. If you have not joined a circle, now is the PERFECT time! Circle is a great time to come together to study God’s Word as well as to fellowship in Christian love! Please make plans to join us! You will receive a blessing!

Dates to Remember!

- | | |
|------|----------------|
| 8-3 | PW Circles |
| 8-5 | Dot’s Kitchen |
| 8-11 | Dot’s Kitchen |
| 8-23 | Holy Communion |



Join Rev. Audrey each Wednesday at Noon for a time of Virtual Prayer, Bible Study and Fellowship! If you would like to join in, please let Rev. Audrey know and she will send you an invitation to join the Zoom Meeting. We hope to see you there!



- 8 – (hold up 4 fingers on each hand, hiding your thumbs) Number 8 is do not steal, and we can remember it with our hands like this because in some cultures in history, if you stole something, they would cut off your thumbs.
- 9 – (hold up all 5 fingers on one hand, hold up 4 on the other, hiding your thumb in your palm) Number 9 is do not lie. When we lie, we leave something out or hide something, just like our thumb is hiding behind our hand.
- 10 – (hold up 10 fingers, then turn your palms up and wiggle all 10 fingers like you’re trying to grab something or saying “give me give me”) The 10th commandment is do not covet, which is a fancy way of saying don’t be greedy or jealous of what others have.