

The Epistle

ST. PAUL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

April, 2014

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FROM THE PASTOR

I wrote last month that the month of March always brings to mind different things for different people. The same can be said for April – income taxes, or special worship services or the beginning of baseball season, to name a few. And it is in connection with the beginning of baseball season that I would like to share a story with you – cute and simple, perhaps, but with a profound message.

It seems that one day Bob and the Lord were standing by to watch a baseball game. The Lord's team was playing Satan's team. The Lord's team was at bat with two out in the bottom of the 9th and the score tied at zero. A batter named Love stepped up to the plate and hit a single, because Love never fails. The next batter was named Faith, who also hit a single, because Faith works with Love. Next to hit was Godly Wisdom. Satan fired the first pitch which Godly Wisdom took for ball one. In three more pitches Godly Wisdom was on first with a walk, because Godly Wisdom never swings at what Satan throws.

The bases were loaded. The Lord told Bob that he was now going to bring in his star player. Up to the plate stepped Grace. Bob said that he sure didn't look like much, and Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace.

Thinking that he would win for sure now, Satan fired the first pitch. To everyone's amazement, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen. But Satan wasn't worried. His center fielder let very few get by. But the fielder went for the ball and it went right through his glove, hit him on the head and sent him crashing to the ground, and continued on over the fence for a home run. The Lord's team won.

The Lord then asked Bob if he knew why Love, Faith and Godly Wisdom could get on base but could not win the game. Bob did not know. So the Lord explained that if your love, faith and wisdom had won the game you would think you had done it by yourself. "Love, faith and wisdom will get you on base," the Lord said, "but only my grace can get you home. My grace is the one thing Satan cannot steal."

I don't know who originally wrote this (it was shared with me by a fellow pastor) but, as I said, simple though it may be, there is a profound message there for all of us.

This year, April is also the month of Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. See information elsewhere in the Epistle about our special services, and plan to be with us for our observance of these special times in the Christian year.

See you in church.

Jay



APRIL HYMN OF THE MONTH - #313, "Lord, Make Us More Holy"

Set to an African American Spiritual, this text is an appeal to God to grant us those qualities that will enable us to live as he calls us to live. Holy, loving, patient and faithful are included in the text, but any number of other petitions could be included as well. The prayerful tone of the text is an affirmation that God cares for us when we are together as a group as well as when we go our separate ways.



Birthdays This Month

- April 3 – Maddie Bauserman
- 3 – Lauren Walker
- 6 – Jack Herndon
- 14 – Katie Lancaster
- 16 – Carol Parke
- 19 – Charlie Bauserman
- 19 – Margaret Simmons
- 22 - Joe Miles



Anniversaries

- April 2 – John and Ann Patzsch
- 21 – Roger and Barbara Coleman

“Marrying for love may be a bit risky, but it is so honest that God can’t help but put a smile on it.”

-Josh Billings



IN HIS SERVICE

APRIL USHERS

- Kathy Carroll
- Jamie Metzler
- Sonia Metzler
- Dana Reece

APRIL COMMUNION SERVERS

- Sunday, April 6 – Kathy Carroll
- Bronda Coleman
- Ron Lochbaum
- Jamie Metzler

Maundy Thursday, April 17 – TBA

ANSWER TO MARCH BIBLE KNOWLEDGE QUESTION

What are the first words spoken in the Bible? God said, “Let there be light” (Genesis 1:3).



THE WORD PROCLAIMED

	<u>Sermon topics</u>	<u>Scripture Readers</u>
April 6	“If Only.....” Text: John 11:1-45	Phyllis Watkins Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14
April 13	“Uphill Both Ways” Text: Matthew 21:1-11	Janice Woods Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a
April 17 (Maundy Thursday)	“The Battle in Gethsemane” Text: Luke 22:29-53	Merrilou Williams Reading: Exodus 12:1-4
April 18 (Good Friday)	Good Friday Service at Noon “Service of the Three Nails”	
April 20 (Easter)	“Angel Gear” Text: John 20:1-18	Diane Taylor Reading: Jeremiah 31:1-6
April 27	Dialogue, Q&A Gospel: John 20:19-31	Ron Lochbaum Reading: Acts 2:14a; 22-32

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Which apostle was stoned but survived?

- Matthias
- Philip
- Stephen
- Paul

THANK YOU

Many thanks to all of you for the cards, visits, flowers, and most of all the prayers during my surgery and recovery. You are such a caring, supportive group of people and I am so glad that my church home and “second family” is at St. Paul. Love to all of you.

-Ruby Whitley



April's featured food cart items are Applesauce and any kind of canned vegetable. Please remember there is a great need in Guilford County. No glass jars please.



Congratulations to Grace Wyrick! The dance that she choreographed that won first place in the Guilford County PTA reflections contest was sent on to the state competition. She has been notified that she won 3rd place in the North Carolina competition for 3rd-5th graders. She will be recognized in an awards ceremony in Raleigh on April 5th. We are proud of you, Grace. Keep on dancing!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Peace/Love Circle will meet Tuesday, April 1 at 9:45am in the Epiphany classroom. That evening the Charity Circle will meet at 7:00pm at Gerry Burnside's home.

The Presbyterian Women's co-ordinating team will meet immediately after church on Sunday, April 27.

The Presbyterian Women's birthday dinner will be Tuesday, May 6 at 6:00pm in McCann Hall. Bring your favorite salad to share.

GAD-A-BOUITS

The St. Paul Gad-A-Bouts will be going to Madison, NC on Tuesday, April 22.

*** * * OUR MARCH RECORD * * ***

	<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Stewardship</u>
March 2	54	\$ 3,787.00
9	44	\$ 1,844.00
16	48	\$ 1,952.51
23	54	\$ 1,741.89
30	not available	



Holy Week

Holy Week worship will include our traditional Maundy Thursday service with the Lord's Supper at 7:00pm on Thursday, April 17, and on Friday April 18 we will have the very moving "Good Friday Service of the Three Nails" at 12:00 noon, an experience you will not soon forget! Please plan to be with us for both of these meaningful observances at this special time of the Christian year, and also for Easter worship on Sunday, April 20 as once again we celebrate with the joyful strains of "He Is Risen!"



PRAYER CONCERNS: ☩ Luke Finison, Barbara Carter, Marjorie and Jack Herndon, Andy Bristow and family, Emily Bristow, Lucy Smith, Aiden and Jeanetta French, Bob Berthold, the families of Myrna Stell, Earney Walker and Joe Herndon, Katie Williams, Chuck Adams, Ron Ervin, Dale and Nita Holder, Ruby Whitley, Jane Lochbaum, John Perkins, Joe Miles, Edith Taylor, Gary Houglan, Roger Coleman, Mark Griffin, Ed and Becky Taylor, Rick Fulp, Jim Anderson, Luke Neal, Carl Hollman, Carolyn Davis, Kevin Tewes, Terri Battle, Zachary Reavis, and our own family members in the military: James Lochbaum, Andy Bristow II, Shane Finison, Brian Fountain, Rob Salka, Brandy Zehr, Brett Slate and all who serve in our armed forces.

"...pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."

James 5:16 (NLT)

OUR MONTHLY "REGULARS"

Sunday School – Sundays, 9:45am

Worship – Sundays, 11:00am

Session meets at 12:15pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month (except July)

Good News Ringers – Sundays, 5:00pm

Men's Fellowship – Mondays, 7:30am

Bell Tones – Mondays, 6:15pm

Alanon – Mondays, 7:00pm

Circles normally meet on the 1st Tuesday, times and places announced

Gad-A-Bouts normally meet on the 4th Tuesday, times and places announced

BYO Bag Supper – Wednesdays, 5:30pm

Bible Study – Wednesdays, 6:15pm

Choir Rehearsal – Wednesdays, 7:30pm

