

The Epistle

ST. PAUL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
May, 2012 Volume 12, Number 5

FROM THE PASTOR



I recently overheard someone say, “Well, Easter has come and gone for another year.” I wasn’t a part of the conversation, so I didn’t butt in. But later, as I thought about that statement, I began to wish that I had.

Now no doubt the person making the statement was referring to the hustle and bustle of the “holiday” known as Easter, which, even though it usually doesn’t get as hectic as Christmas, can nonetheless be a busy time.

But Easter come and gone? The very idea! The resurrection of our Lord, which we call Easter (the name, interestingly enough, comes from a pagan goddess, *Eostre*) is an event which is with us as Christians every day, and also points to God’s plan for the ultimate outcome of his creation.

I have a habit that may seem strange to some. Although I am fortunate to be able to attend a few Saturday afternoon football games in the fall, because of my schedule, I rarely get to sit down and watch a televised game, football or basketball. I do record games, and if they turn out right (Tar Heels win!) I may watch them and again and again. And if the Heels lost, I probably won’t watch at all. Watching a game as it is being played can be a tense, nerve-wracking experience. Every missed shot or tackle, every turnover or penalty is a potential disaster. But it is fun to watch when you know the outcome. The mistakes aren’t nearly so troublesome because I know how the game ends. With every play I savor the victory that I know is coming. It may seem crazy, but there’s a sense in which a well-played game is a form of art.

Have you ever watched a movie that you’ve already seen? Maybe the first time it was suspenseful, but not so the second time because you know how the story ends—you know the good guy doesn’t fall off the cliff and the bad guy eventually gets caught. But you still enjoy the movie. In fact, since you’re not all tied up in the plot, you begin to appreciate other aspects of the film: clever dialogue, outstanding camera work, the use of a special effect, and so on. Since you know the ending you can enjoy the movie on a whole different level.

Because of Easter, that’s how we can enjoy life--as if we are viewing it for the second time. We don’t have to sweat the outcome because we know God’s ultimate outcome. We need not wonder if he will take care of us, or if he will cause all things to work together for his good. We know the outcome. And we know that since Jesus conquered death, we can, through him,

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(From the Pastor, continued from page 1)

conquer life. And in the process, we can enjoy the journey. Every day is part of the celebration-- even the tough days. That's God's promise.

"And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you."
(Romans 8:11)

See you in church.

Jay



FOOD CART

Can we members of St. Paul give extra items for the food cart? This month's featured item is canned meat. Please remember not to bring glass jars.



MAY HYMN OF THE MONTH #368 - "I've Got Peace Like a River"

Our May Hymn of the Month is an African-American spiritual, familiar to many, which speaks of peace, joy and love, certainly things that the Easter season should bring to all Christians. The text portrays peace, joy, and love as like a river, a fountain, and an ocean. It conveys a sense of the moving, refreshing vastness of God's presence. Most directly it picks up the language of Galatians 5:22 as love, joy, and peace are cited as the first three in the list of the "fruits of the Spirit."

THANK YOU!

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, telephone calls, cards and food. It is so comforting to know that in times of stress we have so many friends thinking of us. The procedure was a success and I see improvement already.

-Jeanetta French



RINGERS NEEDED

The St. Paul Bell Tones will need some new ringers beginning in the fall. In addition to being a part of an important ministry here at St. Paul, handbell ringing is very enjoyable and educational. Jeannine is certainly glad to work with those who may feel that you don't have the skills or experience. Talk with her, and if you would be willing to give it a try she will be more than happy to have you.



THE WORD PROCLAIMED

	<u>Sermon topics</u>	<u>Scripture Readers</u>
May 6	"We Are The Branches" Text: John 15:1-8	Margaret Tewes Reading: Acts 8:26-40
May 13	"More Than A Suggestion" Text: John 15:9-17	Pam Houglan Reading: Acts 10:44-48
May 20	"Putting Our House In Order" Text: John 17:6-19	Barbara Coleman Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12
May 27 (Pentecost)	"Released From Babel" Text: Acts 2:1-21	Jim Tewes Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14



MUFFINS FOR MOM

On Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 13, we will have our traditional "Muffins For Mom" get-together in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:15 a.m. Everyone is invited to come for food and fellowship as we honor mothers on their special day.



IN HIS SERVICE

MAY USHERS

Myrna Stell
Emily Puckett
Gerry Burnside
Carole Park

MAY COMMUNION SERVERS

Sunday, May 6 – Myrna Stell
Jean Shuping
Lane Bauserman
Carole Park



Birthdays This Month

May 4 Rosalee Brewer
5 Michelle Saunders
7 Bronda Coleman
12 Margaret Tewes
15 Jack Brewer
23 Phyllis Watkins
27 Paul Walker
28 Jim Tewes
29 Bob Berthold
31 Myrna Stell



Anniversaries

May 4 – Dale and Nita Holder
12 – Jamie and Sonia Metzler
31 – David and Gayle Lancaster
31 – Ben and Carole Park

“You don’t love someone because they’re perfect. You love them in spite of the fact that they are not.”

-Jodi Picoult



THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL

Many of you will remember Dr. Jennifer Bird of Greensboro College, who spoke to our Bible School a couple of years ago about the origins of the Bible. Dr. Bird is putting together another trip to Turkey for the “Follow the Footsteps of Paul” series. The dates of the trip are December 27, 2012 to January 8, 2013. Included in the trip will be visits to three warehouses: leather goods, ceramics and Turkish rugs. Cost of the 13-day/11-night tour itself is \$3,500, plus lunches, tips and souvenirs. A current visa (\$20) is also required. A deposit of \$200 is required by June 1 to secure your spot. If interested, or for more information, contact Dr. Bird at 336-272-7103, ext. 293, or by email at jbird@greensboro.edu.



ANSWER TO APRIL’S BIBLE KNOWLEDGE QUESTION

Who are the only two angels mentioned by name in the Bible (Old and New Testaments)?

Answer: Gabriel and Michael.

(We had several winners on this one)



PRAYER CONCERNS: Luke Finison, Jack and Louise Coble, Barbara Carter, the family of Ernestine Whittemore, Marjorie and Jack Herndon, Tony Jones, Andy Bristow, Anna Pace, Lucy Smith, Aiden and Jeanetta French, Beverly Long, Archie Wheeler, John Patzsch, Ron Ervin, Dale Holder, John Perkins, Edith Taylor, Jane Christopher, Jean Shuford, Roger Coleman, Mark Griffin, Luke Neal, Carl Hollman, Becky Trollinger, Kevin Tewes, Chris Westmoreland, Joyce Myers, J. D. Hall, Jo Hall, Zachary Reavis, Eric Laming, Joe Herndon, Tim Gard, and our own family members in the military: James Lochbaum, Andy Bristow II, Shane Finison, Brian Fountain, Amy Losoncy, Rob Salka and all who serve in our armed forces.



*** * * OUR APRIL RECORD * * ***

		<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Stewardship</u>
April	1	60	\$4,793.00
	5*	37	\$86.20
	6**	29	-
	8***	69	\$2,123.65
	15	62	\$2,013.50
	22	55	\$1,371.10
	29	65	\$2,833.05
*Maundy Thursday			
**Good Friday			
***Easter Sunday			



TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Which Old Testament prophet was instructed by God to marry a prostitute?
Bonus: Why? What was the lesson here?



GIFTS FOR WORSHIP

The Worship Committee wishes to thank the anonymous donor for the wooden cross necklaces for our acolytes. And also thanks to Andy and Diane Taylor for the gift of two candle-lighters/ snuffers for use in our services.



The Women of the Church will have their Birthday Dinner in McCann Hall on Tuesday, May 1 at 6:00pm. Bring a salad to share. The birthday offering will be taken at this time.

OUR MONTHLY "REGULARS"



Sunday School – Sundays, 9:45am

Worship – Sundays, 11:00am

Good News Ringers – Sundays, 5:00pm (through May)

Bell Tones – Rehearsals resume in September

Alanon – Mondays, 7:00pm

Men's Fellowship – First Tuesday, 7:00am, Tex and Shirley's

All other weeks, Mondays, 7:30am at the church

Bag Supper – Wednesdays, 5:30pm

Bible Study – Wednesdays, 6:15pm

Youth Fellowship – 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30pm

Choir Rehearsal – Wednesdays, 7:30pm



Wheels4Hope is a faith-based, non-profit car donation program that is now serving Greensboro. Donated cars are repaired by volunteers and placed back into our community through organizations such as the Barnabas Network, Family Service of the Piedmont and Malachi House that refer clients who are in need and are proving themselves to be committed to self-sufficiency. Those referred pay \$500 for their car. It is a hand-up, not a hand-out. Wheels4Hope needs cars and volunteers. They take cars in any condition, and you will get a nice tax deduction along with the knowledge that you are changing lives in our community. To find out how you can help go to www.wheels4hope.org