

# The Epistle

**ST. PAUL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA**

February, 2014

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## FROM THE PASTOR

Let me tell you what happened to Ted Forbes back in 1984.

While walking down a street in Chicago...Ted found a wallet. Being an honest Christian man he wanted to return it to its owner. So he opened it to look for identification. The wallet contained just \$3.00. No driver's license...no Social Security card...no pictures...nothing to indicate who owned the billfold.

Looking through the wallet a little more, Ted found and an old envelope. It was wrinkled and looked as if it had been carried there for years. The only part of the writing on the envelope that could be read was the return address.

To find more information, Ted opened the envelope, and to his surprise, the letter was dated June 6, 1924. The letter had been written nearly 60 years before. It was a "Dear John" letter. It was written to a man named Michael, and it was from a woman named Hannah.

She explained that though she loved him, and she would always love him, her parents had forbidden her to see him anymore.

Ted Forbes wanted to locate the owner of the lost wallet. He drove to the location listed on the return address. He parked the car and walked up to the door.

A woman answered the door. Ted asked the lady if she knew a Michael or a Hannah. He was told that 30 years ago she had purchased the house from a family whose daughter was named Hannah. She said that Hannah had placed her mother in a nursing home just a few blocks down the street.

Ted drove down to the nursing home. He explained the story to the Nursing Supervisor. She told Ted that the lady he was trying to find had died. However, she gave him a telephone number where he might locate Hannah.

Calling that number he learned that Hannah was not living there anymore. The person answering the phone said Hannah was now in an apartment house for the elderly.

Ted began to wonder why he was making such a big deal out of an old, lost wallet which contained only \$3.00 and a crumpled up old letter. But he decided to keep looking until he ran into a dead end.

He finally tracked down Hannah and went to visit her at the elderly apartment house. She had an apartment on the 3rd Floor.

(continued on page 2)

From the Pastor (continued from page 1)

Ted knocked on the door. A gray-haired, alert, bright eyed lady with a warm smile on her face answered the door. Yes, it was Hannah Marshall. Ted told her about finding the wallet and, showing her the letter, asked if she knew someone named Michael.

Hannah took the letter. Tears filled her eyes. She told Ted that the letter was the last contact she had with Michael. She said that she had never married because she never met anyone she loved as much as Michael. Then she asked Ted if, when he found Michael, he would tell him she still loved him and that she thought about him every day.

Ted thanked her and left. As he was walking down the apartment house hallway, he was carrying the wallet in his hand. The janitor saw the wallet and stopped Ted in the hallway. "Let me see that wallet."

Ted handed it to him. "Why, that's Mr. Goldstein's wallet. I'd know it anywhere. He's always losing it." Ted asked where he could find Mr. Goldstein. The janitor said he lived in Apartment 6 on the 8th Floor.

So, Ted quickly made his way to the eighth floor. He found Apartment #6 and knocked on the door. Sure enough, an old man named Michael answered the door. Ted showed the wallet to the old man. He asked if it was his. Yes, it was. Ted admitted reading the letter to seek identification of the owner.

Mr. Goldstein asked, "You read it?" Then he told Ted that his life nearly ended many years ago when he lost Hannah. He had never married and had never stopped loving her.

Then Ted said, "Mr. Goldstein, I think I know where Hannah is."

The old man became very excited. Ted simply took him by the hand, led him to the elevator and down to the third floor to Hannah Marshall's apartment door. When she opened the door, they looked at one another in disbelief. Michael Goldstein walked slowly to Hannah. He took her in his arms. And the 60-year separation evaporated in the warmth of their love.

About three weeks after Michael and Hannah were reunited, Ted got a call asking him to be their best man. They were to be married after years of separation.

This beautiful story of unending human love reminds me of that wonderful promise we have in Romans 8:39 – "...There is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Thanks be to God!

See you in church!

*Jay*

FEBRUARY HYMN OF THE MONTH - #754 – "Help Us Accept Each Other"

Our first Hymn of the Month from the new hymnal, *Glory to God*. The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.



Birthdays This Month

- February 3 – Aiden French
- 15 – Jamie Metzler
- 20 – Marjorie Herndon
- 25 – Doug Coleman
- 28 – David Lancaster
- 28 – Andy Taylor



Anniversaries

February 14 – Andy and Diane Taylor

“Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half shut afterwards.”

-Benjamin Franklin



**IN HIS SERVICE**

FEBRUARY USHERS

- Louise Coble
- Gayle Lancaster
- Megan Saunders
- Michelle Saunders

FEBRUARY COMMUNION SERVERS

- Sunday, February 2 – Louise Coble
- Gayle Lancaster
- Michelle Saunders
- Janice Woods



**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

	<u>Sermon topics</u>	<u>Scripture Readers</u>
<b>February 2</b>	“Blessed Are.....” Text: Matthew 5:1-12	<b>Diane Hancock</b> Reading: Micah 6:1-8
<b>February 9</b>	“The 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Church” Text: Matthew 5:13-20	<b>Ron Lochbaum</b> Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a
<b>February 16</b>	“Dealing With Anger” Text: Matthew 5:21-26	<b>Rosalee Brewer</b> Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
<b>February 23</b>	<b>Dialogue/Q &amp; A</b> Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48	<b>Eb Hancock</b> Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2; 9-18

**ANSWER TO DECEMBER BIBLE KNOWLEDGE QUESTION**

**The book of Hebrews tells us of something the Patriarch Jacob did by faith before he died. What was it?** He gave a special blessing to both of the sons of Joseph. See Hebrews 11:21.

*\* \* \* OUR JANUARY RECORD \* \* \**

		<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Stewardship</u>
January	5	45	\$ 2,947.00
	12	48	\$ 2,836.00
	19	45	\$ 1,591.00
	26	43	\$ 2,873.00



**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 and Earney Walker, Katie Williams, Chuck Adams, Betty Lawson, John Patzsch, Ron Ervin, Dale and Nita Holder, Ruby Whitley, 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, Joe Herndon, 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)**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Each year the Guilford County School System PTA holds a reflection contest. Students submit entries in the areas of art, literature, dance choreography, film and photography based on a theme. This year’s theme was “Believe, Dream, Inspire.” Ashley Wyrick wrote, directed and filmed a play that won first place for Pleasant Garden Elementary. Grace Wyrick choreographed a dance that not only was a school winner but also won first place on the county level. Her entry will now go to the state level for judging. Congratulations to Ashley and Grace! We are so proud of you.

## NEW REPORTING STRUCTURE ADOPTED

At its December meeting the Session approved a new reporting structure for St. Paul, recognizing that a smaller organization such as our church does not need as many “levels” of reporting, and also to bring some things more in line with the latest PCUSA Book of Order. It is intended not just for present personnel, but as an effective, efficient practice going forward.

Now in effect:

A. Reporting:

1. All committee chairs are directly responsible to the Pastor, as moderator of the Session, through the Session. (This has been and is, in effect, our current practice.)
2. The part-time financial assistant (currently Carolyn Painley) reports to and is directly responsible to the Finance Committee, through its chairperson. This committee is solely responsible for performance, performance reviews and compensation recommendations.
3. The Custodian (currently Larry Bailey) reports to and is directly responsible to the Property Committee, through its chairperson. This committee is solely responsible for performance, performance reviews and compensation recommendations to the Finance Committee.
4. The Music Minister reports directly to the Pastor (currently being done, since one person handles both), who is solely responsible for performance, performance review and compensation recommendations to the Finance Committee.
5. The organist and the handbell director report directly to the Music Minister, who is solely responsible for performance, performance review and compensation recommendations to the Finance Committee.

B. Re-name the former “Personnel Committee” to something like “Pastor/Church Relations” or “Pastoral Committee” or something similar. This committee would be responsible for meeting with the Pastor (and only the Pastor) on a quarterly basis (or a different frequency if desired) to discuss and evaluate all aspects of the church operations and conduct periodic reviews of the Pastor’s job performance.\*

C. All compensation recommendations would go from the appropriate supervisor (Pastor, Music Minister, Finance Chair, Property Chair) to the Finance Committee and would be incorporated into budget recommendations to the Session.

D. Any needed recommendations for personnel changes or adjustments would be brought to the Session by the appropriate supervisor (Pastor, Music Minister, Finance Chair, Property Chair). All personnel decisions (hiring, termination, job description adjustments) would be the ultimate responsibility of the Session and only the Session.

\*NOTE: As long as the Pastor and Music Minister are the same person, the Music Minister’s evaluation would be included in the Pastoral Committee review.

**FOOD CART**

St. Paul members collected a total of 174 pounds of food in December. For the entire year we collected 2,424 pounds. The Food Cart feature item for February is canned fruit. No glass jars, please.

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*THANK YOU*

My heartfelt thanks for all of the birthday cards, goodies and other expressions of remembrance. Your love and support continue to be an inspiration and source of strength!

*-Pastor Jay*

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**TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE**

What did Jesus say is “more difficult than a camel going through the eye of a needle”?

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**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**

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**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S CIRCLES**

The Peace/Love Circle will meet Tuesday, February 4 at 9:45am in the Epiphany classroom. The Charity Circle will meet that evening at 7:00pm at Margaret Tewes’ home.

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**GAD-A-BOUITS**

The Gad-A-Bouts will be going to GTCC for lunch on Thursday, February 27.

