

# The Epistle

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

August, 2014

Volume 14, Number 8

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## FROM THE PASTOR

Once upon a time there was a good and kind king who had a great kingdom with many cities. In one distant city, some people took advantage of the freedom the king gave them and started doing evil. They profited by their evil and began to fear that the king would interfere and throw them in jail. Eventually these rebels seethed with hatred for the king. They convinced the city that everyone would be better off without the king, and the city declared its independence from the kingdom.

But soon, with everyone doing whatever they wanted, disorder reigned in the city. There was violence, hatred, lying, oppression, murder, rape, slaver and fear. The king thought: "What should I do? If I take my army and conquer the city by force, the people will fight against me, and I'll have to kill so many of them, and the rest will only submit through fear or intimidation, which will make them hate me and all I stand for even more. How does that help them - to be either dead or imprisoned or secretly seething with rage? But if I leave them alone, they'll destroy each other, and it breaks my heart to think of the pain they're causing and experiencing."

So the king did something very surprising. He took off his robes and dressed in the rags of a homeless wanderer. Incognito, he entered the city and began living in a vacant lot near a garbage dump. He took up a trade - fixing broken pottery and furniture. Whenever people came to him, his kindness and goodness and fairness and respect were so striking that they would linger just to be in his presence. They would tell him their fears and questions, and ask his advice. He told them that the rebels had fooled them, that the true king had a better way to live, which he exemplified and taught. One by one, then two by two, and then by the hundreds, people began to have confidence in him and live in his way.

Their influence spread to others, and the movement grew and grew until the whole city regretted its rebellion and wanted to return to the kingdom again. But, ashamed of their horrible mistake, they were afraid to approach the king, believing he would certainly destroy them for their rebellion.

But the king-in-disguise told them the good news: he himself was king, and he loved them. He held nothing against them, and welcomed them back into his kingdom, having accomplished by a gentle, subtle presence what never could have been accomplished through brute force.

(continued on page 2)

From the Pastor (continued from page 1)

I don't believe it takes a particularly vivid imagination to see the parallels in this story to the Christ event of our faith. And even though the world certainly has not yet reached the point where everyone regrets their rebellion (sin) and wants to return to the kingdom (God), the invitation remains open.

Re-read the above story and think about one of our gospel texts of last month, in which Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

See you in church.

*Jay*



AUGUST HYMN OF THE MONTH - #488 – "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"

Although originally created in 1985 to be used with a video series on baptism, this hymn is appropriate at any time. Using the imagined conversational voice of God, the text reminds us of God's presence throughout the changing stages of life.

The author and composer, John Carl Ylvisaker, is a graduate of Concordia College in Minnesota. His words and music have been a powerful influence on the development of new worship materials for the church, with his compositions appearing in hundreds of worship resources. John has inspired audiences with his live performances and worship leadership at the many assemblies, conferences, and gatherings where he has appeared.

*\* \* \* OUR JULY RECORD \* \* \**

|               | <u>Worship Attendance</u> | <u>Stewardship</u> |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>July 6</b> | <b>46</b>                 | <b>\$ 3,242.00</b> |
| <b>13</b>     | <b>41</b>                 | <b>\$ 1,198.00</b> |
| <b>20</b>     | <b>26</b>                 | <b>\$ 809.00</b>   |
| <b>27</b>     | <b>31</b>                 | <b>\$ 1,890.00</b> |



**FOOD CART**

Food cart item for August 2014 is oatmeal. Please continue to support Urban Ministry.



Birthdays This Month

- August 1 – Tony Jones
- 1– Donna Samsel
- 23 – Gayle Lancaster
- 28 – Lane Bauserman
- 30 – Bobby Coble



Anniversaries

August 21 – Doug and Bronda Coleman

“More marriages might survive if the partners realized that sometimes the better comes after the worse”

*Doug Larson*

**TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE**

According to the Book of Genesis, which of his twelve sons did the Patriarch Jacob love more than all the others, and why?



**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

|                  | <u>Sermon topics</u>   | <u>Scripture Readers</u>                             |
|------------------|--|--|
| <b>August 3</b>  | <b>“The Right Priorities”</b><br>Text: Matthew 14:13-21      | <b>Kathy Carroll</b><br>Reading: Genesis 32:22-31    |
| <b>August 10</b> | <b>“Lessons From a Rock”</b><br>Text: Matthew 14:22-33       | <b>Ron Lochbaum</b><br>Reading: Genesis 37:1-4;12-18 |
| <b>August 17</b> | <b>Jay on vacation – The Rev. Jean Rodenbough preaching</b>  |  |
| <b>August 24</b> | <b>“Conformation or Confirmation”</b><br>Text: Romans 12:1-8 | <b>Rosalee Brewer</b><br>Reading: Exodus 1:8-2:10    |
| <b>August 31</b> | <b>Dialogue, Q&amp;A</b><br>Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28         | <b>Grace Wyrick</b><br>Reading: Psalm 105:1-7        |

A reminder that our worship services are recorded each Sunday (thank you Lane and Janet!) on both CD and DVD. If you know of someone who would like to receive a copy, please let Jay know.

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**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS** for Emily Bristow: [Bristow.et@aol.com](mailto:Bristow.et@aol.com)



**IN HIS SERVICE**

AUGUST USHERS

Gerry Burnside  
Louise Coble  
Gayle Lancaster  
Emily Puckett

AUGUST COMMUNION SERVERS

Sunday, August 3 – Louise Coble  
Gayle Lancaster  
Diane Taylor  
Merrilou Williams



**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, CF Houglan, Roger Coleman, Sonia Metzler, Mark Griffin, Ed and Becky Taylor, Bob Miller, Rick Fulp, Jim Anderson, Luke Neal, Carl Hollman, Carolyn Davis, Pauline Hales, Candice Walker, Kevin Tewes, Terri Battle, Zachary Reavis, and our own family members in the military: James Lochbaum, Andy Bristow II, Shane Finison, Brian Fountain, 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)**

**ANSWER TO JULY BIBLE KNOWLEDGE QUESTION**

**From what document did Jesus read when he went into the synagogue at Nazareth? BONUS: What was his comment about what he read?** In the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Luke it is recorded that upon his return to Galilee following his wilderness experience Jesus went to the synagogue on the Sabbath and read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Following the reading, Jesus said, “The scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day.” (Luke 4:21, NLT)

**DON'T MISS THESE!**

What we have traditionally called our "Adult Vacation Bible School" will be happening at St. Paul on the evenings of August 11, 12 and 13. Departing somewhat from our theme of "other faiths" that we have looked at over the past few years, this year's schedule includes very interesting guests that will share their faith journeys and activities from a personal perspective.

The Lineup:

Monday, August 11 – Janet Ward Black, local attorney and former Miss North Carolina

Tuesday, August 12 – Korky Kemp, College Golf Fellowship Ministry

Wednesday, August 13 – Neill McNeill, WGHP Fox 8 News Anchor

The programs will begin each evening at 6:30pm and run until about 8:00pm. There will be time for questions and discussion as well as refreshments. Be sure to be with us to hear and talk with these outstanding Christian speakers.



**THANK YOU**

"...We are so thankful for the weekly food deliveries. It has been so beneficial to have the food available here for those who do not have transportation to get to your church. You have filled a huge gap for us."

*Tyra Clymer, Director Emergency Assistance Program  
Greensboro Urban Ministry*

And our thanks to Janice Woods for heading up St. Paul's food pantry ministry and for getting the food to Urban Ministry (with help from some others as well).



Mark your calendars now for Sunday evening, October 12 at 7:00pm. "The Master's Men" are coming to St. Paul for a concert of sacred music that you will not want to miss. This is an outstanding group of men who volunteer their time and talents to bring the gospel message to people through their music. More details to follow later.



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLES**

The Peace/Love Circle will meet Tuesday, August 5 at 9:45am at Tex & Shirley's. The Charity Circle will meet that same morning at 11:30am at O'Charley's.



**GAD-A-BOUTS**

The Gad-A-Bouts are going to the Wohlfahrt Haus in Wytheville, VA on Friday, August 29 to see "Then Sings My Soul."

