

The Epistle

ST. PAUL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
October, 2013

Volume 13, Number 10



FROM THE PASTOR

I want to share with you a story that was sent to me. I don't know who the author is, nor whether the author is a Christian, but this is a wonderful example of Christianity in action.

"I arrived at the address and honked the horn. After waiting a few minutes I walked to the door and knocked. 'Just a minute', answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor.

After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 90's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940's movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

'Would you carry my bag out to the car?' she said.

I took the suitcase to the car, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness.

'It's nothing', I told her. 'I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother to be treated.'

'Oh, you're such a good boy, she said.

When we got in the car, she gave me an address and then asked, 'Could you drive through downtown?'

'It's not the shortest way,' I answered quickly.

'Oh, I don't mind,' she said. 'I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice.'

I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. 'I don't have any family left,' she continued in a soft voice. 'The doctor says I don't have very long.' I quietly reached over and shut off the meter.

'What route would you like me to take?' I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

From the Pastor – continued from page 1

As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, 'I'm tired. Let's go now'.

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her.

I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

'How much do I owe you?' She asked, reaching into her purse.

'Nothing,' I said.

'You have to make a living,' she answered.

'There are other passengers,' I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly.

'You gave an old woman a little moment of joy,' she said. 'Thank you.'

I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly, lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware-beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

People may not remember exactly what you did or what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel."

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

See you in church.

Jay

OCTOBER HYMN OF THE MONTH - #452 – “O Day of God, Draw Nigh”

This text, written by Robert Y. B. Scott for the *Fellowship for a Christian Social Order* and first published in 1939, is a prayer for the coming of the Kingdom of God on this earth, specifically to “bring quiet to our troubled minds, justice to our land and peace to our world of strife.” The tune in our hymnal, St. Michael, was arranged in 1836 by Englishman William Crotch, a child prodigy who began picking out tunes on the family organ at the age of eighteen months and by age three could transpose a piece into any key and name the notes of any chord by ear!



THE WORD PROCLAIMED

	<u>Sermon topics</u>	<u>Scripture Readers</u>
October 6	“Doing Your Duty” Text: Luke 17:5-10	Diane Hancock Reading: Lamentations 1:1-6
October 13	“Beyond the Gift Is the Giver” Text: Luke 17:11-19	Dana Reece Reading: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
October 20	“The B.A.T. of Prayer” Text: Luke 18:1-18	Rosalee Brewer Reading: Jeremiah 31:27-34
October 27	Dialog/Q&A Gospel: Luke 18:9-14	Kathy Carroll Reading: Joel 2:23-32

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

In the Book of Genesis, why did the Patriarch Jacob initially send Joseph’s brothers into Egypt?



IN HIS SERVICE

OCTOBER USHERS

John Miller
Judy Miller
Roger Coleman
Barbara Coleman

OCTOBER COMMUNION SERVERS

Sunday, October 6 – John Miller
Jack Brewer
Jamie Metzler
Merrilou Williams

ANSWER TO SEPTEMBER BIBLE KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

To whom did Jesus give the “Keys to the Kingdom” and what did this mean? After Jesus had declared that He would build His church on the truth of Peter’s noble confession, He went on to say, “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:19). Later, addressing all the disciples, he repeated these words. The concept of “binding and loosing” was commonly used among the Jewish people in relation to the authority of the rabbis to forbid and permit certain practices. Jesus gave Peter and the apostles authority over both the doctrine and practices of the first-century church.



St. Paul members make us proud every month with the support with the support you show to Urban Ministries Food Cart. Please continue to give. October's featured item is dried beans. Thank you!

* * * OUR SEPTEMBER RECORD * * *

	<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Stewardship</u>
September 1	49	\$ 4,077.00
8	50	\$ 1,785.00
15	49	\$ 1,387.00
22	55	\$ 1,793.00
29	not available	



Birthdays This Month

- October 3 – Roger Coleman
- 5 – Andy Bristow
- 13 - Diane Hancock
- 28 – Jeanetta French
- 28 – Sonia Metzler



Anniversaries

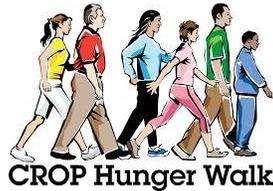
- October 14 – Joey and Donna Samsel

“Chains do not hold a marriage together. It is threads, hundreds of tiny threads which sew people together through the years.”

-Simone Signoret



PRAYER CONCERNS : Luke Finison, Barbara Carter, Marjorie and Jack Herndon, Andy and Emily Bristow, Lucy Smith, Aiden and Jeanetta French, Bob Berthold, the families of Myrna Stell and Chris Westmoreland, Katie Williams, Georgia Giberson, Wendy Woods, Betty Lawson, John Patzsch, Ron Ervin, Dale and Nita Holder, John Perkins, Edith Taylor, Jane Christopher, Gary Houglan, Roger Coleman, Mark Griffin, Luke Neal, Carl Hollman, Kevin Tewes, Terri Battle, Joyce Myer, 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, and all who serve in our armed forces.



The 2013 Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk and Run will be held on Sunday, October 20 starting at 1:30pm from Newbridge Bank Ballpark.

CROP Hunger Walks help support the ministry of Church World Service in fighting hunger around the world. Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk and Run returns 25% of the funds raised to Greensboro Urban Ministry's Potter's House Community Kitchen, which serves a hot meal to anywhere from 450 to 600 people every day! In 2011 over \$220,000 was raised but last year only a little over \$200,000 was raised.

This event is the second largest CROP event in the nation! Last year St. Paul did not have anyone to participate in this event, but everyone is encouraged to please donate as generously as you can this year. You can mail your tax-deductible donation check to:

Chase Brame,
Development Associate and CROP Coordinator
Greensboro Urban Ministry
305 W. Lee St.
Greensboro, NC 27406

Please make your checks payable to "CROP/CWS." You can also visit their website and donate online: "greatergreensborocropwalk.org." Thank you for your support.



CIRCLES - The Peace/Love Circle will meet Tuesday, October 1 at 9:45am in the Epiphany Classroom. The Charity Circle will meet that evening at 7:00pm in Janice Woods' home.

GAD-A-BOUITS

The Gad-A-Bouts will be going to the Cheese Factory in West Jefferson on Tuesday, October 22. Meet at the church at 8:30 a.m.



Once again this year St. Paul will be participating in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox project.

Those who wish to contribute money to the project need to get contributions to Janice Woods or Margaret Tewes by Sunday, October 27.

Completed shoeboxes should be given to Janice or Margaret by Sunday, November 3.

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

Urban Ministry Food Drive

St Paul will again be participating in the semi-annual grocery store food drive for Urban Ministry. Our day to collect food will be Saturday October 5th. We will need 2 St. Paul members for each 2 hour shift from 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM, as well as people to load and transport the food to Urban Ministry at the end of the day.

THE NEED IS GREAT! Please contact Janice Woods if you can help.

