
Lamplighter

Let your light so shine
before others . . .
Matthew 5:16



Up River Friends Meeting, Belvidere, NC 27919 -- Vol. XXXI No. 5

May 2017

WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR -----

DEAR FRIENDS,

FORMATION OF THE CHURCH:

In the prologue of Bruce Shelley's *Church History In Plain Language*, Shelley describes a *Peanuts* strip where Sally Brown is writing a paper for school titled, *Church History*. Sally records that one must go back to the beginning; at that juncture, she wrote, *my pastor was born in 1930* (2013, p. xi). One chuckles at the whimsy of Charles Schultz, but his rendering is telling of the mindset of many people: Jesus appeared, there was a vast gulf of time, *voila*, the church. How exactly did Jesus establish the church, and how did the Apostles (sent ones) facilitate its growth?

Jesus' resolution about the type of life that distinguishes the kingdom of God from competing counterfeits helped His factions understand following Him meant saying *no* to *supplementary* voices vying for devotion. "In one sense...[this] was the birth of the Jesus movement. And in that sense, at least, Jesus 'founded' the church" (Shelley, 2013, p. 4).

The moment was at Caesarea Philippi—a place that for centuries was devoted to the worship of the gods. Perhaps there were worshipers that day worshipping Caesar, or a multitude of other deities. In this place of worship, with its many voices, Jesus asks, *Who do people say I am?* (Matthew 16:13). "Peter's quick and confident response...prompted Jesus to designate Peter, as it were, to be the starting point from which Christ would build His church" (Stanley, 1996, p. 7). The Apostle Peter's response: "'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it'" (Matthew 16:16b-18, NLT).

Jesus was speaking about a body of believers, who like Peter, would place faith in Him. Paul, a later Apostle, explains in Ephesians 1:22-23 that the church is *Christ's body*, and that Christ is the head. Paul continues to clarify in 1 Corinthians 12:13 that the body of Christ is individuals who have a relationship with Christ—being baptized by one Spirit into one body of which Christ is The Cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). In Christ, the church is amalgamated, cultivated, and fashioned into the dwelling place of God (Ephesians 2:21-22). 1 Peter 2:5 states that each Christian is a *living stone*, uniquely positioned by God's Hand in the *transcendent building* of His church.

One such *living stone* was a Jewish Christian named Stephen—who "dared to renounce the law of Moses and attack the temple...openly and repeatedly" (Shelley, 2013, p. 14). Stephen argued that people could worship apart from the temple—stating that Moses had declared the Messiah. Stephen "told how the Lord gave Moses the pattern of the tabernacle and how Solomon built the temple, but he quoted the prophet Isaiah to prove that the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands" (Shelley, 2013, p. 14).

God promised Abraham that all the peoples of the earth would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:3). "While Jesus appealed to the lost sheep of Israel, his scope was greater" (Shelley, 2013, p. 15). Stephen was convinced that the Jewish people had missed that God's chosen people were, in fact, the whole world (John 3:16). The infant church grew at a prodigious pace in the first forty years—springing up in most major Roman cities. Noll stresses that the early church functioned out of Jewish expressions (2000, p. 23).

While Stephen never saw this growth, he was the first to grasp "the special meaning of Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection, and outpouring of the Spirit for biblical history" (Shelley, 2013, p. 18). Stephen knew Christianity could not be confined to Pharisaical law—Jesus had hinted this when He stated that one could not

put new wine into old wineskins (Matthew 9:17). Shelly writes, “the most important development in first-century Christianity was the rip in the old wineskins” (2013, p. 18).

By the year 70 A.D., with the fall of Jerusalem, Christianity began to move out on its own. “That move to independence from Judaism was greatly accelerated by Roman destruction of the Jewish temple and the cessation of the sacrifices that had played such a large role in Jewish worship” (Noll, 2000, p. 26). This became a liberating force to the church—finding “its destiny as a universal religion” (Noll, 2000, p. 26). With Rome’s system of roads and the Pax Romana, the Apostles could take Christianity “outward with increasing speed” (Noll, 2000, p. 29). Stephen was right, “the law of God was given for a time to convince men of their inability to fulfill the will of God and to leave them with no option except to embrace the good news of Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection” (Shelly, 2013, p. 21).

Of all Apostles, Paul was “uniquely qualified to bridge the gap between Jewish and Gentile Christianity” (Shelly, 2013, p. 21). The premier Jewish rabbi, Gamaliel, cultivated Paul, Paul fluently spoke Greek and was familiar with the culture—giving Paul a bridge to explain Christ to the gentile mind. Finally, Paul “was a Roman citizen, which gave him special freedom of movement, protection in his travels, and access to the higher levels of society” (Shelly, 2013, p. 21).

Paul used the idea of God’s grace to help non-Jewish groups understand that there are no outsiders—God chooses all who place faith in Christ. Therefore, believers were no longer limited to ceremonial and kosher laws. Moreover, it is the understanding of grace that keeps the church thriving and growing.

Through the efforts of the Apostles—traveling, teaching, and tenderly mining precious *living stones*, the church was built—a process which continues. Today’s Christian is an up-to-the-minute Apostle—continuing the work of mining *living stones* for the everlasting expansion of The Church.

Reference:

Noll, M. (2012). *Turning Points: Decisive Moments In The History of Christianity*. (3rd ed.). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

Shelley, B. (2013). *Church History In Plain Language* (4th ed.). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.

Stanley, C. F.. (1996). *Charles Stanley’s Handbook for Christian Living*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.

The Holy Bible, New Living Translation. (2007). Carol Stream, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers.

Blessings,

Chuck

* * * * *

PRAYER REQUESTS:

World leaders and those working to bring world peace. Our elders, children, youth and leadership of our meeting, Sonya Hartman, Jacque Pagels, Eura Hall, Lester Baker, Vivian Winslow, Chad Sweeney, Teri Needham, Barbara Saunders, Sherry Harrell, J.D. Carver, Eleck Winslow, Liz Wilson, Andrew Guyer (Judy Parsons’ grandson- tour of duty in Afghanistan), Louis Cullipher, Thomas Dail, Bobby Lane, Jobina Godfrey, Beth Cates & husband (Chuck’s friend), Herbert & Jessie Mae Williams, Janie Bundy, Parker and Barbara Copeland, Thomas Wade Stanton, Anne Chambers, Shelley Lamb, Calvin Casper, Pat & Mary Frances Twiddy, Barbara Stallings (Larry), Joe Liner, Claudia Bunch, Tommy Stallings, Kay Boyce, Archie Creed, Faye Lassiter, Sid Stallings, Gail Smith, C. J. Stallings, Dale Hunter, Baby Carter & grandfather, Carlton Rountree, Jason Warren, Tanner Sprague, Cecil & Ann Brown (friends of Jacqué in Kernersville), Melody L. White, Garland Anderson, Lela Bundy, Iona Baker, Ralph Hartley, Jackie Wiley, Kathy Turner, Linda Givens, Anna Spivey’s son-in-law Everett Egan, Jean Pressley (Sonya’s mother), Leah Jonson, Conna Gessler, Robert Hall (cousin of Rose Riddick), Lois Faye, Paul White and family, Chad Winslow, Quincy Riddick, Lewis Stallings, Karen & Freddie Boblit, Beulah Phthisic, Anna Wrae Smith, C. F. Stallings, Abby Baker, Anna Spivey, Carey Guyer and her best friend Erica, Ryan Caldwell and his family in the loss of his grandmother, the families of Millard T. Winslow, Helene B. Winslow, our care-givers, youth, and missionaries. If you know of anyone who needs to be added to our prayer list, please contact Pastor Chuck or Catherine. Thank you.

UP RIVER FRIENDS MEETING'S MISSION STATEMENT:
To know Christ and to make Him known.

SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY & WEEKLY SERVICES:

- 10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship Service
 Nursery and Junior Church

- 01st 7:00 pm Ministry & Counsel Meeting
 03rd 6:00 pm Choir Practice
 6:30 pm Light Meal
 7:30 pm Children Programs
 04th Mobile Food Pantry in Hertford
 08th 2:00 pm Elizabeth White Miss. Circle
 10th 6:00 pm Choir Practice
 6:30 pm Light Meal
 7:30 pm Children programs
 7:30 pm Monthly Meeting
 14th **MOTHER'S DAY**
 15th **LAMPLIGHTER NEWS is due - thank you**
 17th 6:00 pm Choir Practice
 6:30 pm Light Meal
 7:30 pm Children programs
 24th 6:00 pm Choir Practice
 6:30 pm Light Meal
 7:30 pm Children programs
 31st 6:00 pm Choir Practice
 6:30 pm Light Meal
 7:30 pm Children programs

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES:

- 02nd **MARK & JUNE WAMPOLE**
 Dena Richardson
 04th Faye Lassiter, Charles Baker
 Nathan Riddick
 05th **SCOTT & SHERREE WINSLOW**
CARL & DONNA SHOCKLEY
 Janet Riddick, Adam Winslow
 07th Richard Wilcox, Randy Lassiter
 08th Virgil Winslow
 10th Aaron Riddick, Brittani Rountree
 Lucas Julian Barton
 11th **JOEY & CRYSTAL COLSON**
 Adam Sanders
 13th Jessica Shaw
 16th Timothy Glenn Baker
 17th Jack Harrell
 19th Brandee Dail Phelps
 20th Owen Christopher Dail
 26th **ADAM & ASHLEY R. WINSLOW**
 Jo White
 28th Phyllis Watts, Audrey Riddick
 29th Evan Savaria

FLOWERS:

- 07th Eloise White
 14th Herbert Williams Family

- 21st Matt & Amanda
 28th Connie Baker



CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Adam and Dana Sanders on the birth of their daughter Kacie Lee, born on March 28th. Kacie weighed 8 lbs. 5 ozs.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

ELIZABETH WHITE MISSIONARY CIRCLE:

The Elizabeth White Missionary Circle met on Monday, April 10th with 6 members present. Lois Faye White brought a most interesting program followed by an excellent discussion.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 8th at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall and the program will be presented by Affie Spivey. We welcome you to come and meet with Friends/friends of the Elizabeth White Missionary Circle.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

Vacation Bible School will take place June 26-June 30 from 5:30-8:00. Friday night, June 30th will be the program and will start at 6:00 o'clock. All kids, ages 3 and up, are welcome to attend- this also includes youth age (Middle/High School). Supper will start off each evening from 5:30 - 6:00, followed by Crafts, a Bible lesson, Games and Music. Our theme this year is Galactic Starveyors, "Searching the Visible, Discovering the Invisible." The Key Scripture for the week comes from Colossians 3:15, 16 *"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."*

We are very excited about VBS 2017 and hope to see you there!! For any questions, please contact either Ashley Jethro, Caroline Sweeney or Hillary Lassiter.

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LOOKING BACK:

HOMELESS FEEDING IN ELIZABETH CITY:

On Friday afternoon/evening March 31st volunteers from Up River prepared and served approximately forty-two or more homeless people in Elizabeth City. Several came back for re-fills and expressed deep appreciation over and over. It is truly a blessing to be able to help those less fortunate.

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CLEANUP DAY AT THE MEETINGHOUSE:

Saturday, April 1st, was a beautiful day weather-wise and a beautiful, busy day at Up River as a great number of people took care of chores in the meetinghouse as well as the grounds. Some mulch had been spread the day before and some leveled on Saturday. Others were busy inside scrubbing, dusting, rearranging and taking care of many things that needed to be done.

Some of the chores were tackled by some of our younger members, some being under the age of ten. Much appreciation is extended to any and everyone that helped in any way.

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ALBEMARLE CHORALE SPRING CONCERTS:

The Albemarle Chorale will present "A Musical Picnic", a light buffet of musical delights, Sunday, April 30, 4:00 pm, Edenton United Methodist Church, and Sunday, May 7, 4:00 pm, in the auditorium of the Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City. Starting out with the boisterous "Russian Picnic", the program has a little something for everyone, including selections from "The Pirates of Penzance" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "The Teddy Bears' Picnic", the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic "It Might As Well Be Spring", "Carolina Moon", and a patriotic finale. Join The Albemarle Chorale for this fun musical frolic. Admission is free; donations are appreciated.

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THE QUERIES: The following comes from the Faith and Practice (Book of Discipline) of North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends under the heading THE QUERIES.

Please take time to consider these thoughts and hopefully our meeting will grow both Spiritually and numerically.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: Do you love one another as becomes the followers of Christ? Are you careful of the reputation of others? When differences arise, do you make earnest effort to end them speedily?

* * * * *

*To each of you, who contributed to this newsletter, **THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.** If you would like to share in upcoming newsletters, please feel free to do so – just give me a call at 297-2485 or e-mail me at lcwjr@inteliport.com. Also, if you have a loved one or a friend whom you think would like to receive our newsletter – or if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please let me know. Thank you very much. Catherine G. Winslow*



Food



Egg Hunt



Play



Crafts



EGG HUNT
APRIL 8, 2017
11:30A--1:30P

**LUNCH, CRAFTS,
 GAMES, & THE EASTER STORY**



Youth Group



**Christ
Redeemed
Our
Sin
Sufficiently**



Each youth had the opportunity to drive a nail into the cross.

"Why don't streetlamps have ears?"

"Mom!" my 3-year-old self hissed at 6 a.m. "Why don't streetlamps have ears?" My mom later wrote (in a 1974 article) that she peered at me sleepily, silently asking a question of her own: "Seriously?!"

That year I amused — and exasperated — my parents with countless questions: "Why did sister leave one shoe here and one there?" "If God is up in heaven, how did he make the grass?" "Why are dandelions yellow?" To that query, Mom replied, "I guess that's how God wanted them" — and wrote, "In our house, we let God answer many of our questions."

I still have questions: Why is my dynamic young friend dying of cancer? Why are a parent's own children sometimes hard to love? How can we end war, poverty, sex trafficking? Should we donate money or save for college? How, exactly, does salvation work? Sometimes science or professionals are God's instruments to answer my questions. Sometimes answers come quietly to my heart — and sometimes they don't come at all.

Faith doesn't mean never questioning. It means trusting enough to ask, even when a question seems silly or pointless. Thanks, Mom and Dad, for teaching me by your loving example that God always welcomes my questions.

—Heidi Mann

Willing recipients

A young graduate longed for a certain sports car and knew his dad could afford it. So on the big day, he was infuriated to receive instead a leather-bound, embossed Bible. He threw it down and left for good.

Years later, after his father died, the son entered his father's study with sorrow and regret. Sorting through belongings, he found the gift and this highlighted verse: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (Matthew 7:11, ESV). Suddenly something dropped from the back of the Bible: a key with a tag from the dealer of the car he'd wanted long ago. On the tag was his graduation date and the words "Paid in Full."

How often we miss out on God's generous gifts because they come "packaged" differently than we expect! At graduation — and throughout life — may we be open to every gift God bestows on us with a Father's deep love.

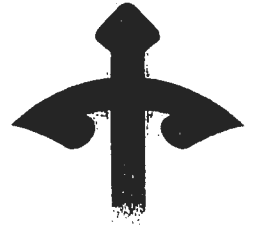
A sign of honor

Even he who died for us upon the cross, in the last hour, in the unutterable agony of death, was mindful of his mother, as if to teach us that this holy love should be our last worldly thought — the last point of earth from which the soul should take its flight to heaven.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"Jesus, Stand Among Us"

Jesus, stand among us,
in your risen power;
Let this time of worship
be a hallowed hour.
Breathe the Holy Spirit
into every heart;
Bid the fears and sorrows
from each soul depart.
Thus with quickened footsteps
we pursue our way,
watching for the dawning
of eternal day.



—William Pennefather

(image above: CROSS_15703, CROSS_15703C)

Beginning ... and beginning again

During the coming weeks, as you or loved ones celebrate graduation, remember it isn't a closed door, an end or a farewell. Instead, it's an entryway threshold, a beginning, a hello — and one of many such opportunities that mark life.

"God wants us to know that life is a series of beginnings, not endings, just as graduations are not terminations but commencements," writes Bernie Siegel. "Creation is an ongoing process, and when we create a perfect world where love and compassion are shared by all, suffering will cease."

Of course, we can "create a perfect world" only by letting God guide our actions. So, dear graduates, may you partner with God to meet suffering with love, kindness and compassion through all the new beginnings of your life!

Restoring the balance

In *Springs in the Valley* (Zondervan), pioneer missionary Lettie Cowman tells of a traveler making a trek through an African jungle. Native tribesmen who helped carry loads walked rapidly on day one, covering a great distance. Yet the next morning they refused to move. When the frustrated traveler asked the tribesmen why they were just sitting, they said they'd gone too fast on the first day and "were now waiting for their souls to catch up to their bodies."

Cowman writes, "This whirling rushing life which so many of us live does for us what that march did for those tribesmen. The difference: They knew they needed to restore life's balance; too often we do not."

God promises rest for our soul *and* body, so don't overlook the importance of physical restoration. Only by taking time to recharge can you be an effective laborer in God's kingdom.


LAMPLIGHTER
 Up River Friends Meeting
 523 Up River Road
 Belvidere, NC 27919

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 Permit No. 1

Meetinghouse: 252-297-2442

QUERIES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS:

Do you try to feel and show friendliness toward people of other races and nations, who like ourselves are children of God?




CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE

Make this craft to display a bit of springtime year-round!

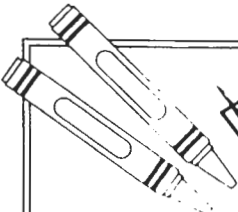
What you need:

- An old shirt
- Tempura paint (brown, dark pink, light pink and white)
- Paintbrush
- Light blue or white construction paper
- A paper plate
- Q-tips
- Paper towels



What you do:

1. Roll up one sleeve and paint your arm and the palm of your hand brown.
2. Lengthwise on the paper, carefully place your painted arm and hand, with fingers spread apart. (This is the tree trunk and branches.)
3. Place the other paint colors on the plate.
4. Using Q-tips, place dots of paint (blossoms!) all over the branches.
5. When dry, display your tree – or give it as a Mother's Day gift.

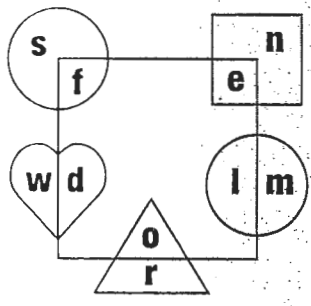



PUZZLE

GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their daily needs. What example does he give of God's care for his creation?

Directions
 To complete Luke 12:27 (NIV), match the shapes under each blank with the letter shapes shown to the right.

“Consider how the wild _____
 grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you, not even _____
 in all his splendor was _____
 like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV



Answer: “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV