

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR:

DEAR FRIENDS:

YOU ARE NOT ALONE:

Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the LORD your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you” Deuteronomy 31:6 (NLT).

Recently I heard Gymnast, Shawn Johnson tell of a time she felt abandoned. Her feelings of failure left her less than courageous and often in panic and turmoil. Johnson recalls how Nastia Liukin gave a beautiful routine in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Johnson remembers Liukin’s score being higher than she was anticipating, and at that point, she felt it was impossible for her to beat Liukin and take home the gold. In that moment she felt crushed and abandoned. Johnson went out and gave the performance of a lifetime; however, as earlier suspected, she did not take home the gold. Johnson secured the silver metal.

Standing on the platform, Johnson reminisces how the presenter gave her a hug and said, “I’m sorry” as he presented her with the silver metal. Johnson felt his words were the validation of her failure—this kind of perception can leave one feeling abandoned. Despite going on to win other gold and silver metals Johnson recalls that she still felt she had failed as a gymnast, and in her mind, that meant she had also failed as a human.

After many years of carrying that heavy weight with her, one day, while she was training, she felt the presence of God speak to her and tell her it was going to be okay. God assured Johnson He had not abandoned her. God was with Shawn Johnson, and in that moment she recalls the sensation of her heaviness being taken away. Once again she felt strong and courageous.

Johnson tells how Jesus’ salvation is the best “award” she ever received. Her silver and gold metals pale in comparison to Christ’s sacrifice—giving Himself at Calvary for her sin. Even Johnson’s feelings of panic, failure, and abandonment pale in the light of Jesus’ compassion for her. In that moment Johnson knew that God went ahead of her to assure her He had neither failed nor abandoned her.

God will never abandon you. If you are in right relationship with Christ, He is always with you. There may be times you feel alone, disappointed, and even abandoned, but Christ is with you. God’s presence will protect you *so be strong and courageous.*

Many times in life you might feel abandoned by friends, family, and even church, but, you can always count on God. God will stand by you through thick and thin; *He will neither fail you nor abandon you.* Jesus made it extremely clear, “*I am with you always, even to the end of the age*” (Matthew 28:20b, NLT). Isaiah 41:10 also reminds, “*Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand*” (NLT).

If you are feeling alone, and Christ is your Savior, don’t believe those feelings of abandonment, they are lies. God is always with you. First, “*Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you*” (1 Peter 5:7, NLT). Then, be *strong and courageous*, because you are not alone. “*And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Romans 8:38-39, NLT).

BLESSINGS, Chuck

SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY & WEEKLY SERVICES

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship Service
 Nursery and Junior Church
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05th LABOR DAY
 07th 6:00 pm Choir Practice
 6:30 pm Light Meal
 7:30 pm Adult Bible Study with Julane
 7:30 pm Jr. Youth – 3rd – 5th grade
 7:30 pm Building Blocks – K- 2nd grade
 08th Mobile Food Pantry in Hertford
 12th 2:00 pm Elizabeth White Miss. Meeting
 7:00 pm Meeting on Ministry & Counsel
 14 6:00 pm Choir Practice
 6:30 pm Light Meal
 7:30 pm Monthly Meeting
 7:30 pm Adult Bible Study with Julane
 7:30 pm Jr. Youth – 3rd – 5th grade
 7:30 pm Building Blocks – K- 2nd grade
 21st 6:00 pm Choir Practice
 6:30 pm Light Meal
 7:30 pm Adult Bible Study with Julane
 7:30 pm Jr. Youth – 3rd – 5th grade
 7:30 pm Building Blocks – K- 2nd grade
 28th 6:00 pm Choir Practice
 6:30 pm Light Meal
 7:30 pm Adult Bible Study with Julane
 7:30 pm Jr. Youth – 3rd – 5th grade
 7:30 pm Building Blocks – K- 2nd grade

01st Cheryl White, Lucy Rae McClaren
 03rd Eura Hall, Lona Stallings
 04th Chase Daniel Baker
 05th **BRAD & CLAUDIA RAWLINGS**
 06th Katherine “Katie” Jones
 07th Stacie J. Hutto, Eric Alan Savaria
 Brianna Page White, Gene Pope
 Caleb Richardson
 08th **T.A. & LOIS DAIL**
 10th James Owens
 11th Brad Rawlings
 13th Dianne Winslow, Pam Lothian,
 Sharon Lane
 15th Reby Stallings, Veronica Rountree
 Etta Florence Winslow
 John Lassiter, John White
 16th Steve Riddick
 18th **R.J. & HOLLY LASSITER**
 20th **WILFORD & EULA MAE FORBES**
 23rd Grant Ian Thompson
 24th **JULIAN & CONNIE BAKER**
 Freddie Boblit
 26th Donald Crowder
 27th Lynn Lassiter, Jay Rountree
 Jovi Woods
 28th Rodney Lassiter
 29th R.P. White
 30th Terrence Winslow

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UP RIVER FRIENDS MEETING’S MISSION STATEMENT:

To know Christ and to make Him known.

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FLOWERS:

04 th	WOULD YOU LIKE THIS SUNDAY?	18 th	Lynn Lassiter
11 th	Cheryl White	25 th	Virgil Winslow

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CONGRATULATIONS to Phil and Susan Harris on the birth of their granddaughter, Bailey Ann Lilly, born to Holly and Ben on August 17th. Bailey Ann weighed 6 pounds 3 ounces and 20 inches in length.

PRAYER REQUESTS; World leaders and those working to bring world peace. Our elders and leadership of our meeting, Carolyn & Lester Baker, Jimmy Rhodes, Tommy Chappell, Faye Lassiter, Kay Boyce, Rebecca Spivey, C.J. Stallings, Archie Creed, Everett Egan (Anna Spivey's son-in-law), Herbert & Jessie Mae Williams, Baby Carter, Carlton Rountree, Jason Warren, Dale Hunter, Tanner Sprague (Billy & Janice Winslow's grandson), Lacy Bunch, Cecil & Ann Brown (friends of Jacque in Kernersville), Melody L. White, Riki McGee, Garland Anderson, Lela Bundy, Iona Baker, Ralph Hartley, Peggy Wilcox (Richard's mother), Jackie Wiley, Kathy Turner, Reby Stallings, Linda Givens, Tommy Stallings, Jean Pressley (Sonya's mother), Leah Jonson, Conna Gessler, Alan Corprew, Aubrey Burgess, Sid Stallings, Robert Hall (cousin of Rose Riddick), Lois Faye, Paul White and family, Mary Frances Twiddy, 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, Bill Jones, the families of Mike Goodwin, and Annie Gibbs Hatfield, 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.

(Unless we know their needs or you make us aware of their needs, after 30 days the name will rotate off).

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**UPCOMING EVENTS:
CHOIR PRACTICE BEGINS AGAIN:**

Regular rehearsals for the Up River Adult Choir will begin again after the summer break on Wednesday, September 7 at 6:00 pm. The choir will be preparing music for Sunday morning worship and special occasions such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Fifth Sunday Night Community Singspirations. It was wonderful to have so many talented singers join together to sing for Homecoming, and the choir will welcome any and all who want to join with us to sing on a regular basis. No application fee, no audition, just come and join us on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm as we prepare to make a joyful noise to the Lord

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PERQUIMANS CHAPTER MOBILE FOOD PANTRY:

The Mobile Food Pantry will be in Perquimans County on Thursday, September 8th – time to be announced later in our Bulletin. If you are interested in helping with this avenue of personal ministry, please contact Pastor Chuck (pastorchuckhartman@gmail.com or 252-297-2442). If you would like to contribute funds to help this ministry to continue to distribute grocery items, you may earmark your check for The Perquimans Chapter Mobile Food Pantry. Thank you.

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UP RIVER MISSIONARY CIRCLE :

The Elizabeth White Missionary Circle met in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, August 8th at 2 o'clock. Rose Riddick brought the program centered around *Counting My Blessings* with scripture from I Thessalonians 5: 16-18 and Psalms 100 and 103. A fruitful time of discussion followed. The next meeting will be Monday, September 12th at 2 o'clock in the Fellowship Hall. At that time our program will be *Joy in the Divine Presence* with Etta Florence Winslow sharing the writers thoughts.

We welcome you to come and be a part of our Circle.

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FAITH PROMISE PROJECT:

Jacque Pagels will be spending the first six months of 2017 as Friend in Residence at the Friends School in Ramallah, just outside Jerusalem. Friends will have the opportunity to invest in this ministry through Faith Promise Giving to support Jacque and her work for God among the students, faculty, and community there. More information on Faith Promise, dates for the project, and the Friend in Residence program will be made available soon, so be in prayer that God will lead you to step out in faith and be ready to support Jacque. (pg.3)

VAN/MINI-BUS SEARCH:

At the March Monthly Meeting , it was approved to begin searching for a van/Mini bus. At the April Monthly Meeting the committee of three asked for guidelines to begin their search. The Meeting approved \$15,000 for a down payment when a used vehicle is found that will fit the needs of our youth and aging members. Russell Lassiter, Mike White, and Jacque Pagels have begun the search. They will welcome comments and input from our congregation. Please be in prayer for God's Guiding Hand to lead this committee in their search. Blessings & Peace to all.

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150th ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING OBSERVED AUGUST 7:

Up River celebrated a special day of praise and thanksgiving in observance of 150 years of worship and ministry on Sunday, August 7. Approximately 250 people gathered for this event, and it was wonderful to see so many f/Friends, family, and former members together again.

The day officially began with registration at 10:00 a.m., but the meetinghouse and grounds were busy with individuals making last minute preparations long before that hour. Details were tidied up, music and presentations given last minute reviews, and dinner preparations finalized in time for worship to begin at 10:30 with "Now Thank We All Our God" played as a prelude by violinist Julane Belcher. Friends were welcomed by Pastor Chuck Hartman and joined in singing "To God Be The Glory" – this was truly glorious as voices joined in heartfelt praise! Up River Monthly Meeting clerk, Stan Winslow, listed those pastors who have served Up River, and recognized former pastor Tom McClaren and his family Jennifer, Sean and Lucy. Commenting that his life overlapped all of the pastors listed (although he was too young to remember the first few), Stan recognized those members who have been at Up River much longer than he, including Herbert Williams, who at 94 was the oldest member present, and Eura Saunders Hall was the next oldest at 93. At the other end of the spectrum, Stan called attention to our youngest members, Mattie Winslow and Hudson Jethro, both of whom happen to be his grandchildren, the youngest being Hudson, aged five months.

More of our younger members contributed to worship as the Children's Bell Choir played "Into My Heart" led by Lynn Lassiter and LuAnn Winslow. The congregation joined in singing "Trust and Obey", after which Jacque Pagels presented reminiscences on Up River Past, Present and Future, illustrated by a slide show of pictures from the meeting's history prepared by Lynn Lassiter. R.J. Lassiter's contribution to this presentation is included in this edition of "The Lamplighter", and additional excerpts will appear in "Lamplighters" to come.

The offering was received as Julane Belcher and Lynwood Winslow played "The King of Love My Shepherd Is". The Up River Choir and Praise Team, joined by several friends and former members, sang "Come, Now Is The Time To Worship". Pastor Chuck Hartman shared a moving message on "Where We Came From; Where We Are; and Where Are We Going?". Pastor Chuck drew from several scriptures – Numbers 14:2, Habakkuk 2:2, James 1:4, Psalm 90:2, Revelation 21:6 and James 4:8. The Choir and Praise Team sang "What A Friend We Have In Jesus", and Friends settled into a time of open worship, out of which several spoke.

The congregation once again raised their voices in song with "Blest Be The Tie That Binds", a "family portrait" was taken by Susan Harris and Tabatha Baker, and a prayer of benediction and thanksgiving was offered. Friends proceeded to the fellowship hall for dinner planned by the Hospitality Committee and catered by Topside Restaurant. The Praise Team shared special music during the meal.

In the afternoon, a program of music was given. Participating were Caroline Wright, Thelma and Richard Skinner, Lynette and Carissa Baker, Lynn Lassiter and Jamie Salvatore, Robert Winslow, Shelby Harrell, Veronica Rountree, Chuck and Sonya Hartman, Russell Lassiter, Julane Belcher, The Up River Praise Team and Choir, and music director Lynwood Winslow.

The Up River Worship Committee, which acted as a coordinating committee for the Anniversary Homecoming, would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make this a successful and memorable day, from planning, cleaning, and setting up, to greeting, speaking, singing, playing, and taking care of a thousand unseen details. Go ahead and mark your calendars to be ready in 2041 when we can celebrate 175 years!

Up River turning 150 is quite a milestone. I am fortunate enough to be a birthright member. This is a good thing, because at Up River no longer are you a stranger after 15 minutes, but a newcomer for the rest of your life. 'Only kidding.

Often when celebrating a church's anniversary (or in this case a meeting's anniversary) one typically shares an epistle on what I call the three R's; **Remember, Rejoice, and Rededicate.**

Remember

Precious memories! How they linger! I remember my parents bringing my brother and sister and me to church every Sunday morning and Sunday night. As a matter of fact, if the doors were open and services were being held; we were likely there. If I was with my grandparents then I was also there Wednesday night for prayer meeting. All were always in their Sunday best in full suit and tie or dress. Whole families would occupy an entire pew, or even an entire section for that matter. Up River is family, and family oriented; a place where Quaker heritage and Christian legacy is passed down generationally. The gift goes on because the father tells the son. This passing down of the torch has sustained Up River.

In my vigorous youth, I found meetings for worship to be rigid and solemn. Worshipping in the manner of Friends was taken seriously, and as I grew and experienced open worship, I began to understand the reasoning behind silence and stillness. We are reverent and fear the Lord; taking a humble approach to sanctification. Consciousness takes focus and effort. As devout worshippers it is necessary to focus in order to hear the Holy Spirit and His leading. More than anything at Up River, I appreciate open worship and the sacred times spent alone with God as the body of Christ. The most moving, spiritual, and impactful services have come out of our congregation listening and being obedient to the voice of God and the Holy Spirit. Up River is real, and so is God. This is no more evident than when the Spirit falls on us and popcorn testimonies are shared and received, putting us in one accord.

Also in my youth, I remember all the many ministries. I attended Sunday school, Children's Church, Missionary Children, Jet Cadets, Whirleybirds, Youth Group, and VBS. Collectively, all of these programs instilled good character and biblical knowledge for life application. These ministries were all led by unpaid leaders from within the meeting. Their dedication built relationships and strong bonds with me and my peers that we recall often.

As a teen, Up River graciously and generously supported a mission trip where I worked in Jamaica to assist in leading VBS and building a church. Relevantly, this is one of my Faith Promise testimonies.

The Quaker Men were also influential missionaries who led construction projects; building and rehabbing for the underprivileged and misfortunate. They once took us kids to a Norfolk Tide's baseball game, would host oyster roasts and homemade ice cream socials, showcasing ways to have clean fun and fellowship together.

Up River is rich with talent and music! When our congregation or choir sings, the rafters ring as it resonates off of the riveting tongue and groove ceiling. To this day I still skip a verse to listen and meditate on the words while honing in on my favorite voices. The music we make and share together

has always set the tone or affirmed the message of the day. Over the last few years Up River formed a contemporary worship service with a full five piece house band for interactive praise and worship that fuses technology and visual aid to keep current with the times, appealing to the next generation. This is possible because of our new fellowship hall and vision to develop and experience God in a new way.

Rejoice

These remembered ministries have changed lives. There is no greater reason to celebrate and rejoice than when a soul is saved, a prayer is answered, a life is dedicated or a loved one has crossed over. If the alter could talk, how many lives have been changed, or sins washed away, and hope given because Up River has provided a place to come before the Lord seeking whatever is on an individual's heart. Our unlocked doors are a metaphor of God's saving grace and availability to reconcile and lift up any issue or concern with Friends supporting in a unique loving way. I know this first hand for I was saved at Up River, married at Up River, dedicated my two children at Up River, and buried my beloved grandfather at Up River.

While we are near to the heart of God, we also know how to eat, love, laugh and pray. We truly know how to fellowship. We spend a lot of time breaking bread. Every Wednesday night we eat together. Every holiday we feast. This time is spent strengthening our relationships, celebrating an occasion, or planning our next steps to make Christ known.

I also rejoice because of the two generations I have seen before me. Though different in their witness; each has held the same common core belief that Jesus is the only way, and that we should always stick together in service and in love. All things are possible with God, and nothing is possible or holds true value away from Him.

Rededicate

Human life expectancy is at most 100 years give or take, and though Up River's birthday exceeds that we are still in infancy. This is a time to celebrate and to recall our past, but also to evaluate where we are in our own Christian walk. It is also the time to decide what we will do with what has been built and provided to us for the betterment of the kingdom. I feel called to say it is our duty to carry on and to continue to seek God's distinct purpose for us. Our prayerful and faithful commitment to God and one another, and how we embrace time, opposition, and change determines how successful we will be at expanding and continuing to grow corporately and individually.

I count it a huge blessing to have been raised in this church and community, and want to say thank you to all who have contributed to my life in order for me to know God, and for continuing to do the same in my family's life. I want them to experience all the love that I have received and I want to give as has been given to me. Thank you.

THE QUERIES: Please take time to consider these thoughts and hopefully our meeting will grow both spiritually and numerically.

ATTITUDES IN RACE RELATIONS: Does your attitude toward people of other races indicate your belief in their right to equal opportunity? Do you believe in the spiritual capacity of men of all races and do you recognize their equality in the sight of God? Are you aware of your responsibility as a Christian to help in the elimination of racial discrimination and prejudice?

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 – please let me know; or if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, let me know. Thank you very much. Catherine G. Winslow

Prayer warriors

After tragedies, natural disasters and terrorism, people now commonly turn to social media to request prayers. Although it can feel “jarring” to see “so many references to the divine in spaces normally reserved for vacation photos,” writes journalist Eleanor Barkhorn, it’s a modern-day version of the New Testament’s reminders to pray constantly and in all circumstances.

Over the years, churches have encouraged members to pray through letters, phone chains, prayer breakfasts and prayer groups. “With that context in mind,” Barkhorn writes, “Facebook shouldn’t cheapen prayer any more than the Postal Service or the telephone does.”

Russell Moore of the Southern Baptist Convention says, “Asking for prayer via Twitter or Facebook is no different than calling someone and saying, ‘We should really pray for this.’ ... Social media can be a tremendous force for good in alerting people to things they can be praying about right away.”

Heavenly vision

Known as the “queen of gospel song writers,” Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) wrote more than 9,000 Christian hymns, including “Blessed Assurance” and “Safe in the Arms of Jesus.” Blind from a young age, she developed a love for poetry and Scripture, memorizing about five chapters of the Bible each week. Crosby was the first woman to speak in the U.S. Senate, lobbying to support education for the blind. She also was an abolitionist who made friends with several presidents.

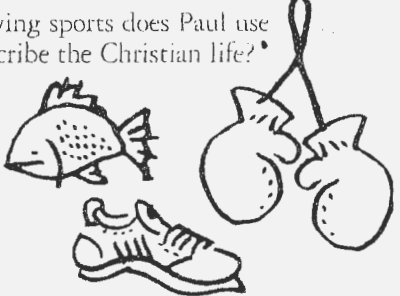
A well-meaning pastor once told Crosby, “It is a great pity that the Master did not give you sight when he showered so many other gifts upon you.”

She responded that her blindness was a blessing she would not wish away. “When I get to heaven,” Crosby said, “the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior.”

Bible Quiz

Which of the following sports does Paul use metaphorically to describe the Christian life?

- A. Fishing
- B. Running a race
- C. Boxing
- D. Both B and C
- E. All of the above



Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.)

[images above: BOXING_14585, BOXING_14585C, FISH_14586, FISH_14586C, SHOE_14589, SHOE_14589C
quiz above: QUIZ0916, QUIZ0916C]

The Providence of God

The seed was sown long months ago,
And through the winter's cold and snow,
We trusted that God's care would bring
The green and tender blade in spring,
Which cherished by the sun and rain
Of summer, now has yielded grain
In autumn, when the reaper leaves
His cot to cut and bind the sheaves ...

So God's great mercies thus abound;
His love still brings the seasons round;
His blessings fill our happy fields,
And all our land its increase yields:
So if we serve him as we should,
Our Lord will give us all things good;
And he who doth the ravens feed
Much more will give us all we need!

—Author unknown

