
Lamplighter

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



Up River Friends Meeting, Belvidere, NC 27919 -- Vol. XXXI No. 4 -

April 2017

WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR -----

DEAR FRIENDS,

JESUS AND QUESTIONS RELATING TO HIS NATURE:

Jesus' story is quite remarkable, and some have said it is too remarkable. To those assertions, renowned theologian C. S. Lewis juxtaposes the following possibilities about the identity and truth of Jesus as God incarnate. Simply put, Jesus was either a liar, a lunatic, or He was telling the truth (1952). Lewis' challenge is the same challenge that Jesus gave to his disciples. It is a question for those who seek Him out to wrestle with: "Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29). For, in the end, the affirmation to that question is where one's faith will either end or begin.

Why is it important for the Christian to affirm the humanity of Jesus Christ? Scripture states, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin" (Hebrews 4:15, NIV). God has never been affected by humanity's sin-cursed plagues; but, when He put on flesh and dwelt among His humanity, He was able to empathize with every aspect of humankind; this is why it is important for Christians to affirm Jesus' humanity. We can learn from His model and know that He has faced the same trials and temptations we face.

Why is it important to affirm His deity? John, the apostle writes, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (1:1-5, NIV). Jesus is totally Divine—He was in the beginning with God, and through Him, all things were made. Christians affirm Jesus' deity because if He is not virgin born, sinless, and wholly God, then the Christians hope and assurance is a hoax. It takes the Divine Blood of God to buy back His fallen creation from the curse of sin. Christians affirm Christ's deity because if He is less than God, our salvation is worthless.

What are the implications in affirming one but not the other? For the one who feels the need to affirm humanity over deity or deity over humanity, the consequences become that we have a Savior, Who is less than God—less than perfect—less than sinless, and incapable of saving humanity. If I cannot die for my sins, then a Jesus, Who is less than God, cannot die for my sins, let alone the sins of the entire world. If one makes Jesus totally God without being equally human, then we have a Savior, Who is unable to empathize with our humanity and sin nature.

Thomas Rausch argues, "Suffice it to say, the most faithful confession one can make is to acknowledge the mystery of God's incarnation in Jesus and leave it at that" (2003). Jesus' story is quite remarkable. As you celebrate the resurrection, appreciate the awesomeness of what Jesus has done for you.

References

Lewis, C. S. (1952). *Mere Christianity*.

Rausch, T. (2003). *Who is Jesus? An Introduction to Christology*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press.

Blessings,
Chuck

SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY & WEEKLY SERVICES:

- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- Nursery and Junior Church
- *****
- 03rd 7:00 pm Ministry & Counsel Meeting
- 05th 6:00 pm Choir Practice
- 6:30 pm Light Meal
- 7:30 pm Children Programs
- 6th Mobile Food Pantry in Hertford
- 10th 2:00 pm Elizabeth White Miss. Circle
- 12th 6:00 pm Choir Practice
- 6:30 pm Light Meal
- 7:30 pm Children programs
- 7:30 pm Monthly Meeting
- 14th 7:00 pm **Good Friday Service**
- 15th **LAMPLIGHTER NEWS is due – thank you**
- 16th 6:15 am **Sunrise Service followed with Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall**
- No Sunday School, Worship Service at 10:30 AM**
- 19th 6:00 pm Choir Practice
- 6:30 pm Light Meal
- 7:30 pm Children programs
- 26th 6:00 pm Choir Practice
- 6:30 pm Light Meal
- 7:30 pm Children programs
- 30th 11:00 am **Renewal/Rededication Service in the Fellowship Hall with lunch to follow**
- 30th Fifth Sunday Night Singspiration

FLOWERS:

- 2nd Holly Lassiter 9th Virgil Winslow
- 16th Tabatha Baker 23rd Crystal Colson
- 30th

BIRTHDAYS *and* ANNIVERSARIES:

- 01st David Jones, Carissa Lynn Baker
- 02nd Sonya Hartman
- 03rd R. J. Lassiter
- 09th Lois Dail
- 10th Jewel Winslow, Thomas Crain
- 11th Keith Rountree, Kim Harris
- 12th Jeffrey Winslow
- 13th Masyn Kirby Colson
- 15th Victoria (Tori) Jean White
- 21st Jett Cagle Winslow
- 23rd Susan R. Harris
- 24th Clark Baker, Mark Baker, Chris Jones
- 28th Lynette T. Baker
- 29th Hillary B. Lassiter



PRAYER REQUESTS:

World leaders and those working to bring world peace. Our elders, children, youth and leadership of our meeting, Jacque Pagels, Eura Hall, Lester Baker, Vivian Winslow, Jeff Sweeney, Herbert & Jessie Mae Williams, Helene B. Winslow, J.D. Carver, Eleck Winslow, Barbara Saunders, Bobby Lane, Dan & Carrie Baker, Carey Guyer, Andrew Guyer, Jobina Godfrey, Beth Cates & husband (Pastor Chuck's friend), Janie Bundy, Barbara & Parker Copeland, Pat & Mary Frances Twiddy, Barbara Stallings (Larry), Joe Liner, Claudia Bunch, Thomas Wade Stanton, Anne Chambers, Tommy Stallings, Kay Boyce, Archie Creed, Faye Lassiter, Gail Smith, Mary Bryant, Shelley Lamb, C. J. Stallings, Dale Hunter, Baby Carter and his grandfather, Carlton Rountree, Jason Warren, Tanner Sprague, Lacy Bunch, Cecil & Ann Brown, Melody L. White, Garland Anderson, Lela Bundy, Iona Baker, Ralph Hartley, Jackie Wiley, Tommy Chappell, Kathy Turner, Linda Givens, 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, Bill Jones, the families of Millard T. Winslow, Lessie C. B. Hobbs, and Charlie Raymond Cartwright, 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. (page 2)

UP RIVER FRIENDS MEETING'S MISSION STATEMENT:

To know Christ and to make Him known.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Jason and Caroline Sweeney on the arrival of their daughter Charlotte Hayes Sweeney on Wednesday, March 22nd. Charlotte weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 20.5 inches in length.

Congratulations to Brandon and Kelli Price on the arrival of their daughter Bella Noelle Price on Sunday, March 26th. Bella weighed 5 lbs. 14 oz. and was 19 inches in length.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CLEANUP DAY AT THE MEETINGHOUSE:

On Saturday, April 1st, the House and Grounds committee is planning on a church clean up day. There are areas inside as well as outside that need attention. From cleaning out and organizing the kitchen to painting the railings outside to more detailed cleaning and organizing in some of the classrooms. We are asking any willing volunteers to join us in the effort and lend a hand. If we can divide and conquer, this should take no more than two or three hours. If you are willing, please email Amanda at anwinslow@gmail.com so that she can keep you on an informed list. Also, if you know of an area you'd be willing to help with or see that needs attention, please also email Amanda with details.

ELIZABETH WHITE MISSIONARY CIRCLE:

The Elizabeth White Missionary Circle met on Monday, March 13th with 7 members present. Rose Riddick brought the program entitled *Joy In His Presence...* with scripture from Psalm 100. A most interesting program followed by excellent discussion.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 10th at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be *The Joy of My call...* with Psalm 34:1 as the scripture. This will be presented by Lois Faye White. We welcome you to come and meet with Friends/friends of the Elizabeth White Missionary Circle.

EASTER:

Up River will host the annual **EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA** from 11:30 TO 1:30 on Saturday April 8th. Please invite your friends and come and enjoy that fun filled day.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE:

Up River will observe Good Friday with a tenebrae service Friday, April 14 at 7:30 pm. "The Shadow of The Cross" will combine music and dramatic readings to recount the last days of Christ, leading to His ultimate sacrifice for us on Calvary. The Up River Choir will be joined by guest musicians and others from the meeting to share this moving time of worship and reflection.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE AND MORNING WORSHIP:

Friends will gather at 6:15 AM in Up River Cemetery for our annual Sunrise Service. This will be followed with breakfast at 7 o'clock in the Fellowship Hall. In case of inclement weather Sunrise Service will be held at the Meetinghouse. (continued on next page)

There will be no Sunday school on Easter Sunday. Morning Worship will begin at 10:30 in the Sanctuary. We extend a warm welcome to each and everyone to come and be a part of these meaningful services. **HAPPY EASTER!**

RENEWAL /REDICATION:

On Sunday April 30th, there will be a Renewal/Rededication service in the Fellowship Hall at 11 o'clock. If you feel led to participate with a song, poem, story, testimony, prayer or whatever creative way you feel led by God to express your love for Him, please feel free to do so. At the close of the service, there will be a time for fellowship over a meal. The hospitality committee will take care of the meat, however, we are asking the congregation to bring sides and desserts. Come and join us.

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.

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.

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP AND BUSINESS: Are all meetings for worship and for business duly held and are you regular and punctual in attending them? Do you come with heart and mind prepared for communion with God and fellowship with one another? Do you individually assume your rightful share in the responsibility of the work and worship of the Meeting? Are your meetings for business times of spiritual concern and prayerful search for the way of truth?

*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

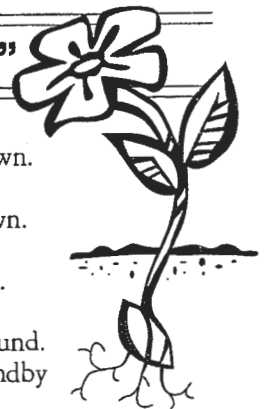
After Easter

After is every Christian's middle name. In his autobiography *A Song of Ascents*, missionary E. Stanley Jones tells of an African man who changed his name to After immediately following his conversion. Because all things were new and different and important after he met Christ, the man wanted to reflect that new reality in his name as well as in his thinking.

Easter is what makes us After Christians. After Easter, nothing in life is ever the same again.

"Little seeds"

Raindrops tumble to the ground
'cause God directs them to come down.
Little seeds sprout from the ground
'cause God directs them up, not down.
Tender roots sink in the ground
'cause God directs them to go down.
Pretty flowers will be found
where raindrops tumbled to the ground.
—MaryAnn Sundby





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QUERIES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS:

Do you go to your place of worship as regularly as you can, and do you make an effort to prepare your mind for helpful thoughts during the worship? While there do you try to find out what God wants you to be and to do?

Forsaken for us

Church reformer Martin Luther considered Jesus' cry from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46) as "the greatest words in all of Scripture," writes Timothy Keller. In *Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering* (Penguin Books), Keller notes, "Luther knew personally about what he called *Anfechtungen*, a word that means the 'assaults' that the world, the flesh and the devil make on human beings through the evils and suffering of life."

Jesus suffered *Anfechtungen* "in infinite degrees, beyond anything any other human being will ever experience," Keller writes. And he did it all for us. As Luther said, "In Christ, the God-forsaken sinner has a Savior who has taken on himself the full depths of human estrangement from God — and overcome it."

Easter lifts the fog

A friend stood one day where he could view the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. At first it was completely shrouded in early morning fog. But as the sun rose, the fog lifted between the upright piers of the bridge, leaving the land anchors still unseen.

Is it not so with life? We see only what is between the great piers called birth and death. But Easter lifts the fog from both. Easter is the time when we see more completely the anchorages that sustain life.

—George Mecklenberg

Lacquered with love

Japanese artisans practice a 500-year-old Japanese art called *kintsugi*, or "golden joinery," to reassemble broken pieces of pottery using a lacquer mixed with gold, silver or platinum. The premise is that brokenness doesn't render something useless or ugly. Indeed, another Japanese term, *wabi-sabi*, means "to find beauty in broken or old things."

We come to Jesus broken, but he doesn't discard us. He heals us, though our scars do often remain visible — just as the spear and nail prints remained in his own body when God raised him from death. The Holy Spirit coats our wounds and fractures with the lacquer of divine love, and we become uniquely beautiful, appealing to others so they can find support for their own healing. Our scars tell them they aren't alone, while the brokenness that's part of another's faith journey assures us that we, too, have companionship along the way.

Easter's dawn

On the third day, the friends of Christ coming at daybreak ... found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways they realized the new wonder; but even they hardly realized that the world had died

in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener, God walked again in the garden, in the cool not of the evening but of the dawn.

—G.K. Chesterton



Curing vs. healing

In *We Know How This Ends* (Univ. of Minnesota Press), Bruce Kramer writes about "living while dying" from Lou Gehrig's disease. While not denying his impending death, Kramer focuses on getting as much out of life as possible. Part of that involves the following distinction:

"Know the difference between curing and healing," he writes. "Curing implies that things will be brought back to the way they were. ... Expecting a cure will only result in frustration and disappointment. But healing can take place."

In Scripture, *curing* and *healing* are generally used interchangeably, yet one can happen without the other. We know people with disease or disability whose spirits are vibrant and faithful. Though they haven't been cured, their lives are marked by God's healing touch. Even in the Gospels, Jesus' curing of ailments was often a sign of his greater healing: sins forgiven, community restored, faith embraced.

For what have you prayed for a cure? Might healing be the greater need?

Christ risen and realized

Author George Thompson tells of a Jewish rabbi's appeal to Christians during the tumultuous 1930s. On Easter Eve, the rabbi wrote in a newspaper: "I challenge the Christian world to measure itself by the standards of Christ. As long as any group is judged by its creed or color or country in place of its character, Christianity is a sacrilege rather than sanctity. To this end, I summon Christians everywhere to make this Easter to signify Christ realized and not merely Christ risen."

LAMPLIGHTER

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Belvidere, NC 27919

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Meetinghouse: 252-297-2442

JESUS IS RISEN!

When Jesus' disciples saw that the stone was rolled away from his tomb, they knew he had risen. Make a moveable tomb to celebrate Easter.


What you need:

- 4 pieces of paper (brown, blue, black, yellow)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Brad fastener
- Marker



What you do:

1. Fold the brown paper in half, short side to short side. Cut along the fold. On one half, draw and cut out a large half-circle (the tomb). On the other, draw and cut out a palm-sized circle (the stone).
2. Glue the brown tomb onto the blue paper.
3. Cut a black circle (the inside of the tomb) the same size as the brown stone and glue it onto the brown tomb.
4. Place the brown stone over the black half-circle; this is the entrance. Push the brad through one edge so the stone can move from side to side.
5. Cut out a cross from the yellow paper and glue it by the tomb.
6. Write "Jesus is risen!" atop the blue paper.



PUZZLE

> NEW LIFE <

How did God work through Jesus to give us new life at Easter?

Directions: Use the puzzle pieces from the box to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.

dead	hope	resurrection	given	of
birth	living	Christ	mercy	great
Jesus				

In his _____ he has
_____ us new _____ into a
_____ through the
_____ from the _____.

1 P E T E R 1 : 3 , N I V

Answer: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3, NIV