



Thyatira Presbyterian Church at Mill Bridge

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August 2020 Newsletter

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PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

It's been 17 weeks since we last met together in Thyatira's historic sanctuary. I guess we can be thankful that we are not reduced meeting in catacombs like our ancestors in the faith, but there's no denying that not being together is hard.

I've heard from several people how much they appreciate "seeing" people at the end of the service pass by the camera to wave via Facebook. This month, I'm pleased to cede my space to some of our young disciples who were interviewed by Millicent Hoffner about what they have been up to these last 4+ months since we've seen their shiny faces.

Stacy



Homecoming Postponed (NOT CANCELLED)

The Session has decided to postpone this year's Homecoming in favor of another time that presents less risk to our members and friends. Please stay tuned for when you can break out your best covered dish!

Millicent asked her Sunday School students a few questions and here is what they have to say...

Addy M. -

What have you missed during COVID?

I have missed my friends, Sunday School, church, and just doing regular things!

What have you been doing?

I have been playing on my XBOX, playing with my brother, going to the pool, and the beach!

What are you looking forward to when this is over?

I am looking forward to not wearing a mask, not social distancing, and being able to give hugs!!

Adam S. -

What have you missed during COVID?

I've missed going to church and seeing people face to face. I miss singing in the choir with Mrs. Millicent and other Young Disciples.

What have you been doing?

We did communion at our house while we watched the service online. We didn't have grape juice, so we used apple juice instead. We thought God would be fine with that. When I miss church grandma shows me parts of the sermon. I especially like to watch Ms. Angela play the guitar because I am working on my ukulele skills this summer.

What are you looking forward to when this is over?

I'm looking forward to doing the things I miss at church when the pandemic is under control.

Prayer Concerns

Please keep in your prayers the Session, Deacons, and Staff of the Church, as well as all who faithfully serve one another and our community through the ministries of the church.

Mocksville Senior Living: Mary Moon

At Home: JoAnn Kerr

- Kitty and Tony Harris, temporarily living in Texas
- Andrea, dealing with grief and loss
- Keith Townsend, undergoing radiation therapy
- Millicent Hoffner's brother, Joe Kerr recovering from kidney replacement surgery
- Phares Sechler's daughter-in-law, Kathy Himes recovering from surgery
- Kathy Helm
- Families affected by the COVID-19 crisis
- Pamela Reeves, Sandra Swanson's sister-in-law, being treated for cancer
- Kaye Hawkins' family members, Cindy, diagnosed with cancer, and Mitchell
- Tony Albright
- Barbara Karriker, Joyce Caldwell's cousin, diagnosed with cancer
- Whitaker Raymer, being treated for leukemia
- Mike Hawkins, ongoing health issues
- Drema Clemens' brother, Arthur Warden
- Edna Stamper
- Julie, a co-worker of Jada, diagnosed with cancer
- Mike Hawkins' mother, Elizabeth, at Genesis
- Linda Gaylor's mother, Barbara

In Sympathy

The Seaboch family following the death of Jerri Seaboch's brother-in-law, Steve Seaboch

Family of Joe Shoaf, Doris Williams' brother



PHONE PRAYER CHAIN

If you, a family member, or friend would like to be added to our Phone Prayer Chain, please call Jim Albright at 704-279-3317.

Whatever your prayer need is, finding peace of mind provides a foundation of strength to face any situation. Your request is a sacred trust and is kept confidential among our prayer list members.



August Birthdays

2	Bradley McKnight	16	Walter Swanson
	Brian Waller	17	Kristine Franz
4	Stephen Milam	18	Juanita Turner
5	Ronda White		Amy Corriher
6	Dana Edwards	20	Christina Rowland
	Jennie (Graham) Geil	21	Bob Weast
	Norman McCorkle	22	Michael Swanson
	Vickie Stamper	26	Leona Guy
8	Cailey Nabors		Keith Vaughan
10	Jeremy Deal	27	Anaya Chandler
	Mark Wetmore		Jade Chandler
11	Eric Rouse		River Chandler
13	Tyler Bell		Linda Rogers
	Judy Chandler		Carolyn Wilson
	Randall Patterson	31	Kaye Hawkins
14	Dan Caldwell		Charlie King

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

We received 49% of our anticipated offerings for the month of July.

Giving During the Crisis

The Session of Thyatira would like to express its gratitude to you for your generosity so far this year. You have made much ministry possible.

In addition, please be reminded that should you find yourself economically affected by the COVID-19 measures, you should in no way feel obligated to give as usual.

With that in mind, please accept this gentle reminder that although we are not meeting together on Sunday mornings for a little while, the church still carries on and continues to have both obligations and opportunities to meet. If you are able, please share your regular offerings by mailing them to the church, using our website's online giving page (thyatirapresbyterian.org/giving), or taking advantage of the convenience of the GivePlus+ mobile app which you can easily download.

Thank you again for all the ways you express God's generosity!

Parish Nurse Ministry

Health Issues and Effects on Our Body, Mind and Spirit

Last year at this time, I was looking forward to 2020 because I just knew that 2020 had to be far better than 2019, the year of coding and cancer and bad experiences for so many. I still believe that optimism is good, but it does not replace reality. The reality of 2020 is one that few to none of us could have imagined.

Loneliness

In July, 2014 the topic for our health cabinet newsletter article was loneliness. The following are lines from that article: "Whether young, old or somewhere in between, most people have experienced loneliness. Chances are you might experience a feeling of isolation or disconnection from others from time to time. In a 2010 AARP survey, 35 percent of those surveyed reported feeling lonely. Close to half of the lonely group indicated that they had felt this way for some time."

During this pandemic, when social distancing is so important in efforts to control Covid-19, the profound effects of loneliness on our mental, emotional and physical health cannot be ignored. Not all of the suggestions listed in that article can apply to behavior today, but it's important to remind ourselves to do what we can to eliminate prolonged feelings of loneliness. Try these:

- Reach out to others—a phone call or email can be meaningful when a face-to-face visit is impossible. (With modern technology, having a face-to-face conversation is possible even while socially distancing.)
- Be positive—Kindness and approval lifts the person giving and receiving. Criticism and negativity only breeds more negativity. (While most friends and family members are willing to hear an occasional vent, they do not want to be a sounding board for only complaints. Also take care not to burden others with all the negative elements in the news.)

Listen-up—Ask what's going on in other people's lives. Let them know you are interested. No relationship can be solely about one person.

Finally, it is important that we not confuse loneliness with being alone. You can feel lonely in a crowd and you may be perfectly content by yourself. While the health benefits of socializing are considerable, time spent alone can be very valuable. This may be the time you recharge, pursue a solitary hobby, meditate, or renew yourself in some way. Solitude is not loneliness and it brings its own benefits.

(Mayo Clinic, WebMD)

National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month and allows the Center For Disease Control and other medical groups to highlight the importance of vaccinations for people of all ages.

The goal of public health is to prevent disease. It's much easier and more cost-effective to prevent a disease than to treat it. Immunizations protect us from serious diseases and also prevent the spread of these diseases to others. Immunizations have thwarted epidemics of once common diseases including measles, mumps and whooping cough. Some diseases such as polio and smallpox have reached almost complete eradication through immunization.

The CDC has specific recommendations on immunizations appropriate for infants, children and adults. Your health care provider will discuss the specific immunizations needed for each individual. In this unusual time, it is still important to keep your children up to date on their vaccines. The complete updated schedule for children 0-18 can be downloaded from the CDC web site.

(CDC Web site)

Positives on the Pandemic

Today everyone wants to hear that a vaccine for Covid-19 has been developed. Unfortunately, that wish has not become a reality. The positive news is that a pandemic engages the best scientific minds throughout the world and that progress is being made.

The importance of testing for and tracing of the disease seems more important each day. There have been developments that may help in these areas. On July 18, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration reissued an emergency use authorization to Quest Diagnostics to use a method of testing which pools up to four individual samples. Sample pooling is an important public health tool because it allows for more people to be tested quickly using fewer testing resources. The samples from these four individuals are tested in a pool or "batch," using only one test. If the result is negative, then it applies to everyone in the pool. If the test results in a positive, then each sample in the pool is tested again individually. This testing strategy is most efficient in areas with low prevalence, meaning most results are expected to be negative.

Throughout the U.S. and other countries, groups work to facilitate new approaches for getting more accurate test results more quickly. In Israel, scientists are working to develop a machine which they hope will be able to identify the presence of Covid-19 in a way that is similar

Parish Nurse Ministry—Continued from page 3

to the way a breathalyzer detects alcohol. This development and others, which are results of our need to control and even conquer this pandemic, may provide far reaching benefits.

(FDA, Covid-19 News Releases)

Normal Health Issues During the Pandemic: Hearing

It is important that we do not ignore common health issues during this time. About one-third of Americans ages 65-74 have hearing loss, as do close to 50% of Americans age 75 and older. To deal with this surging demand, there are a variety of licensed professionals who dispense or fit hearing aids.

Anyone with hearing concerns must be sure that they find those professionals who are most reputable.

First ask your health provider to refer you to an audiologist (hearing specialist). An audiologist will check for correctable causes of hearing loss. The audiologist will also help you choose the most appropriate hearing aid and adjust the device to your individual needs.

When considering hearing aids, it is important to watch for misleading claims. While technology has improved, hearing aids can't always restore normal hearing or eliminate all background noise. Be aware that most states require that a trial period for the device be allowed. This does not mean that the trial period is always free. Ask for specific details of purchase in writing when choosing hearing aids. These details should include cost of trial period, whether this amount is credited toward the final cost of the hearing aids, and how much is refundable if you return the hearing aids during the trial period. We are all individuals, and not everyone adapts well to wearing hearing aids.

Finally, make sure that you ask about a warranty. How long is the warranty and what does it cover? Is future maintenance included? Can the individual or group providing the hearing aid do needed maintenance, and do they provide loaner hearing aids while yours is being serviced. Also ask if office visits or other professional services are included in the warranty.

(Mayo Clinic)



Rowan Helping Ministries-West is in need of food donations

Peanut butter, cold cereal, jelly, spaghetti sauce, and canned vegetables are a few items that they are requesting. Please bring your donations of non-perishable food on Sunday mornings or you may leave them in the bins on the front porch or on the pew outside the church office.

In these economically challenging times, there are many people who are relying more than ever on community support. Please do your part.

If you would like to give cash donations through the church, please write the check out to Thyatira with RHM-W in the memo. These donations are used to purchase groceries as needed throughout the year and let you skip the shopping trip. Thank you for all the support!

Congregational Meeting August 9

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, August 9 following worship in order to elect a Deacon to fill the place held by the late Bill Bergstrom.

The Nominating Committee has identified someone to complete Bill's term, but nominations from the floor are always in order. If you will not be present in the Picnic Shelter that day, but would like to nominate someone for the position, please make your nomination known to Pastor Stacey before the meeting.

Voting for the meeting will take place by those physically present as well as through the comments section of the Facebook feed.

Thanks in advance for taking seriously this corporate responsibility.



Scholarships

The Thyatira Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the scholarship recipients for Academic Year 2020-2021:

C.J. Ingram, *Western Carolina University*
Chloe Patterson, *North Carolina State University*
Claudia Patterson, *North Carolina State University*

Congratulations and many blessings on your journey!



I had the most wonderful dream recently. I was sitting in the room at the end of the hall upstairs. with "My kids" singing, "Jesus I Heard You Had A Big House," and Charlie had the piano humming. This is the song we had been practicing to sing for the congregation.

Most evenings, I find myself listening to samples of children's Christmas music. Am I doing some wishful dreaming, or will we be together by December? I pray we will. If not, I will be totally devastated! I hope we all can unite to get this virus under control and once again make a joyful noise unto the Lord!"

Ms. Millicent



Church Groups...

If you are interested in conducting Sunday School, Youth Group, or any other church programming via Zoom, please contact Pastor Stacey or the church office and we can facilitate that!

Note from Jimmy Hoffner, our Sunday School Superintendent

I believe this past Sunday, Stacey said we were in our 17th week of worshipping remotely. So, I have no numbers to report. I can say that I am appreciative of the calls and cards I received since my hip replacement in June. Recovery is going well and am already scheduled for my other hip surgery in September.

Jimmy

K-3 Sunday School News

As the saying goes, "No news is good news," is certainly not true when it comes to these articles. How I long to fill up an entire page of the activities grades 1-3 are doing in Sunday School. When the pandemic hit, our new material had arrived and we had used it for only two weeks!

With some planning, I hope to send out some kind of weekly Bible activity, devotional, or memory verses for the children to do during our continued absence.

Our card ministry continues. If you are a recipient of one of the unique greetings, I hope you can somehow reach out to the sender. If you don't know exactly who the child is, contact me and I can assist with that information.

When the school bells ring, I pray for the children, whether in class, or remote learning, that they have a successful year, and most importantly be happy. This generation is experiencing circumstances we adults never dreamed of having to face. They will certainly have some remarkable stories to tell their children. Where we can exaggerate and say, "We had to walk a mile in the snow to school," the "I remember when" experiences they can recite!

Missing you ALL and pray our time apart will end soon.

Millicent

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August 2020 Newsletter

We are currently accepting 2020-2021 preschool applications for the 2's, 3's and 4's classes. Please contact the church office or go to the church website for the registration form and more information. Preschool will begin Tuesday, September 8.

Preschool Registration
NOW OPEN



Preschool Teacher(s) Needed!!

Preschool is looking for 2's and 3's teacher(s). 2's is currently scheduled for Tuesday-Thursday and the 3's class is Monday-Friday. *Due to the COVID pandemic the classes are not as full as they need to be for a 2's & 3's class so at this time we are looking at the possibility of combining the 2's and 3's students and would only need one teacher for the 2's and 3's combined class, however if the classes fill up we will need 2 teachers.*

Job Description

Part-time position (Could be 3 or 5 days depending on need and registration)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

September - May

General Qualifications

1. Bachelor's degree, associate degree or experience in early childhood education

2. Early childhood developmental knowledge preferred

3. Christian background

4. Must pass background check and drug screening

We are looking for an energetic, dependable, creative and caring individual who has experience and a true love for children. You will be responsible to plan curriculum that will provide each child with a classroom that meets their emotional, intellectual and social needs in a Christian learning environment. Records of each child need to be kept and reports sent home weekly keeping an open line of communication with parents. Additional responsibilities include the application of positive discipline, adhering to safety guidelines, help with potty breaks and diapering, planning special programming and working well with coworkers.

Please send resumes, salary requirements, and/or questions to the church office by email to: office@thyatirapresbyterian.org.