



Life-Lines

919/772-9044
MAY 2017

WONDERMENTS FROM PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

During Holy week and into the Easter Season I cannot help but think of the wounds of Jesus as He suffered on the cross. There were five of them; 2 on the hands, two on the feet and one in the side. A work by Bellini in the exhibit at the Museum of Art in Raleigh has those wounds of Jesus almost nonexistent. They had been healing. So I think of those wounds as that which necessitate Christ. That is they are what we the people of the world inflict upon the world that can only be overcome by the love of God in Christ Jesus. He takes those wounds upon Himself, buries them in the ground and leaves them behind in His resurrected life.

So let me mention five wounds of the world at this time: the

dehumanization of the North Korean people, the atrocities of the Syrian government against its people, the bombings in Russia and other terrorist acts throughout the world, the unleashing of the "mother of all bombs", and a pastor referring to President Lincoln in very negative terms.

You can think of your own 5 wounds, but whatever wounds you might come up with, they necessitate Christ, a Christ that can take such wounds unto Himself, bury them, and then leave them behind. And that same Christ can give us hope that the leaders of the world, and we the world's people can leave behind those dastardly wounds and bring about new life.

Pastor Wayne

Were You There?

Does that question sound familiar? There's no denying that it should especially around the most holy of holy times. During the Eastertime we think, talk, and listen to sermons about our blessed Savior's crucifixion; a time when we sing solemn hymns that ask that exact question, "Were you there . . .?". Thankfully, Lord of Life affords us opportunities to fully reflect and pay homage to that timeframe; particularly Maundy Thursday service and Good Friday Tenebrae Service. These are gifts to us as members of this church, for the sporadic pew sitters, for our visitors, and especially for the leadership of this church . . . we should all accept these gifts!

On Maundy Thursday, as I looked around the sanctuary, another question hit me . . . do they know? But, then I recalled the Sunday morning announcements leading up to our Easter observance events, the blurbs in the Newsletter (including the back-page calendar), and the email messages capped off by email reminders. So the answer is . . . yeah, we all knew. The number of people in attendance was equal to the number of people in our small choir!! So, the subsequent question is "Were you there?" Okay, it was Thursday evening and people have to work on Friday, but wait! Good Friday has "holiday" recognition, so there goes that logic!

And speaking of Good Friday . . . the Tenebrae service was an excellent rendering of the emotional aspects of the passion story. It

was readily apparent from the programs, to Pastor Wayne, down to the choir, that the Tenebrae Service was the result of much coordinated and individual effort. It isn't a happy service because the circumstance is not a happy one. The intention of the service is to highlight the betrayal, disloyalty, desertion, and agony of the events . . . and it sort of leaves us hanging; unfinished to be precise, because the story isn't over until Easter Day.

"Were you there?" I ask this time because the attendance at that service was abysmal also; this time the choir literally outnumbered those in attendance (including our four visitors). You shoulda been there; it was just what we all needed to reflect . . . to empathize . . . to commiserate . . . and to feel pure compassion for our Savior Jesus Christ as prophesy was fulfilled. Midway the service I was brought to tears by the sheer feeling of helplessness as Jesus was chosen to die and I'm certain that I was not alone.

But, such are the services of Holy Week. You see, attending the Easter service without attending the Holy Week services is like reading the end of a book that ends well, without reading the middle . . . you skipped it! And in doing so, you only robbed yourself of joy. So next year when the question is asked, I pray that you can say "Yes, I was there."

---Gale J. Isaacs



May

- May 6 Carla Niemann
- May 10 Mary Cook
- May 11 Leslie Hash Jarrett
- May 11 Penny Tarleton
- May 17 Virginia King
- May 22 Tucker Britt

June

- June 4 Karen Post
- June 5 Wesley Patrick Niemann
- June 8 Lori Harrison
- June 8 Chase Ticher
- June 10 Monna Stamm
- June 14 Perry Proper
- June 14 Seth Rebbeor
- June 18 Jean Marie Dubnansky
- June 18 Paula Pickler
- June 20 Barbara Proper
- June 20 Susie Havenstein
- June 28 Ray Green
- June 28 Dan Stamm

And I think to myself, what a wonderful world . . .

“Well I ain't bragging, it's understood everything I do, well, I sure do good.” I found myself singing this old song as I drove home from the grocery store one Wednesday afternoon. I had checked all the ads in the morning paper looking to find the best deals when it comes to shopping for Gamer Area Ministries food pantry. I was so pleased with the way this trip turned out.

I bought a total of 23 items: 18 cans of a well known brand of vegetables, 2 cans of the store brand, and 3 cans of peaches. My bill came to \$20.93. I paid \$12.89!!! By buying in groups of 6, the vegetables were 48 cents a can. Try this sometime and see if it doesn't make you want to sing.

The food pantry is in constant need of any kind of food imaginable and it doesn't cost that much to help fill the shelves. We have folks who will shop for you if you want or we will let you know about the bargains we find. Social Concerns thanks all who help keep the food baskets filled week by week. Once again, thanks to Terry Barnes for delivering the food to GAM. He also is busy recruiting others to help out.

---Connie Fortmeyer
Social Concerns Ministry



Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Thank you to those who helped on Saturday, April 8, in the cleaning of the sanctuary and silver after a brief meeting.

We are currently in the "50 " days of Easter celebration The paschal candle will remain at the left side of the altar and lighted for all worship services through the Day of Pentecost as a reminder of the unity of these great fifty days of celebration.

The altar paraments will remain white until the celebration of Pentecost, June 4, at which time we will use red and the Festival of the Holy Trinity when we will use white; all the following Sundays in the season of Pentecost will be green.

If you are interested in being a member of the Altar Guild please call Carol Wallace at 919 553 5984.

---Carol Wallace

Time for camp!!

Social Concerns Ministry and the Men's Group are very happy to announce that we are sending seven young people from our congregation to summer camp this year.

Avery Britt will be going to Surf Camp; Anaylia Jones (aka Sam) will be going to Trail Blazers Camp; Antonio Smith will be going to Prime Camp; Gavin Hans will be going to Prime Camp; Adia Hans will be going to Young Folks Camp (this will be her first time going to camp!); Charlie and Ella Fairchilds will both be going to Prime Camp.

Social Concerns Ministry and the Men's Group are so very happy to be able to send our kids to camp! We are so excited for them, and look forward to hearing all about their experiences.

Yours always in Christ
Sarah Watkins
Social Concerns Ministry

WE'RE GOING TO A



May 7 -
Hotdogs in fellowship
hall after worship,
then carpool
See
Dave Hash
for tickets

MUDCATS BALL GAME