



Back in October we had the Stewardship Campaign, the theme of which was “Many Hands Make Light Work.” The Parish Committee recognized that people tend to be busier now and

that making yet another commitment is often difficult to fit into a busy schedule. The idea was that if more people participated, the burden on any one person would be smaller. At the last council meeting, concern was raised that there is often no one signed up to perform certain offices during weekly worship service. Each week we have sign up sheets for Ushers, Acolytes, Readers, Communion Assistants, Crucifers, and Assisting Ministers.

The commitment with any of these positions is small. Basically, if you can commit to being here a week in advance, you can commit to performing an office during worship. Won't you join me in signing up for some of these positions so that your name can be included in the bulletin?

Yours in the service of our Lord and Savior,
Wade Jensen, President
 Church Council

Refugee welcome committee update

We have now been supporting the Masimango family now for slightly less than two months and we can celebrate numerous accomplishments. We have provided some important improvements in furniture: a sofa bed, a futon, and a throw rug; kitchen supplies: a microwave, pots and pans, dishes, and a vacuum cleaner; also, linens, toiletry packets, video tapes, and children's' clothes are just some of the smaller but needed items procured. A variety of sports balls were given also to the children.

Members of the family were taken to Garner Area Ministries and to the grocery store for food supplies. Grandpa Yusuf worked both weekends of the Pine Straw Sale, and had assistance applying for a maintenance position at Montlawn Cemetery. Several times rides were provided for family doctor's appointments. The Masimango family children and friends were brought to the Easter Egg Hunt which was truly a “blast” for them and those observing them.

Individual members of the congregation have given monetary gifts and others have suggested ongoing contributions to give them

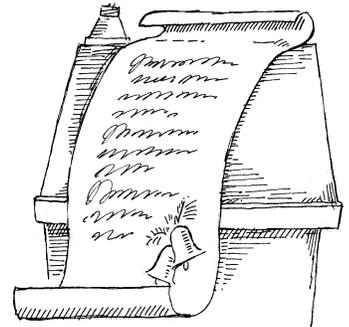


Parish Committee

So many exciting things happening in May – school graduations, vacation plans underway, trees turning green and flowers blooming, birds greeting each morning with song, and lots of sunshine! Many of us agree that there is no place like North Carolina in the spring, and May the perfect spring month.

Another exciting event in May 2017 is Lord of Life's 40th anniversary celebration beginning on May 20. As we reflect on all our community of faith has accomplished in 40 years, with God's help, it is awesome in the true sense of the word to acknowledge His presence among us. We feel His guiding hand in our daily lives and in our blessings great and small.

As we prepare for the 40th anniversary celebration, the Parish committee is organizing and preparing an updated history of our congregation. One of the greatest gifts God has bestowed on us is the close community of faith and fellowship we share. We will be reaching out to charter members, members involved in



key events for our congregation, and those who have memories to share. We also are asking each of you to help in one extra way. There will be bulletin inserts to request a sentence or two from you, telling us what you like best about Lord of Life or what you think best characterizes our congregation. These can be anonymous if you prefer but we encourage each of you to contribute at least a few brief words about what Lord of Life means to you. Your thoughts and comments will be compiled as a written memory of the anniversary celebration. Thank you!

If you have any questions about the Lord of Life church history project, please feel free to speak to Rebecca Swanson or any other member of the Parish Committee: Grace Barnes, Terry Barnes, Tim Clark, Dave Hash, John Nalepa, Karen Wright, Vince Wright, and Don Craig, Council representative.

---Rebecca Swanson, coordinator

financial assistance in “making ends meet”. My response to that was initially to hold off on that because the committee is still trying to get a better handle on what their needs are. I am in constant contact with them either by stopping at the apartment or by text (yes, you heard that right, text). Notecards with times and dates and texting with the written, rather than spoken word are the best ways to communicate.

It takes a congregation to make the type of impact we are making, which is substantial. THANK YOU ALL for your support.

Pastor Wayne

100 Years: North Carolina and World War I

A review, not of a movie, but an exhibit.

The North Carolina History Museum has outdone itself as it has put together an outstanding exhibit about North Carolina's role in World War I. April 6 marked the 100th year anniversary of the United States entering World War I, almost three years after the commencement of hostilities in Europe. The exhibit tells the struggle America had over whether to enter the war or not. It focuses on President Woodrow Wilson's efforts to keep the United States out of the war.

When one hears about the exhibit on the radio, one hears about the replica of an actual trench, but it has to be mentioned as well the creative way they showed a view through a port hole of a ship or the "action" one might see through a periscope. There is a plethora of actual footage of soldiers training, soldiers in battle, big weapons shooting, and vintage airplanes flying. I could not help but think that those planes were only 10 plus years since the first flight of the Wright brothers. There is the broad historic piece of the exhibit, but where it really shines is the North Carolina connection it makes.

Kiffin Rockwell, an Asheville native, was the first American aviator to shoot down an enemy plane, and he was killed when his plane was shot down. James McConnell, who lived in Carthage, North Carolina, was also killed when his plane was shot down. A

brother and sister from North Carolina served in World War I, the brother of course in the military and his sister in the medical unit.

The North Carolina connection that most struck me was Ruth Schmick (Woodall) from Johnston County who served in the medical unit. After the war she taught at Bellevue Hospital in New York City, then returned to North Carolina to help establish Johnston County Health Center.

If you like artifacts, the exhibit has them. It is said people are still finding World War I souvenirs on the battlefields. If you like short bits of interesting history, it has that. If you like period videos, it has that. I was amazed at how clear footage 100 years old was. If you like to learn about religion's impact on the war, the "Marks of Faith" section has that. Gavin Hans gave me a special creation of his Palm Sunday. He gave me a poppy linked to the palm he received, and he formed the palm in the shape of a cross. Gavin got it, the blood symbolized by the poppy together with the blood from the cross.

It has been a long time since there were still any living soldiers from that war; however, through this exhibit, in a sense, they live on.

Pastor Wayne

A habit of devotion? Your choice . . .

While trying to keep up with daily readings so I could "Read the Bible In One Year," I noticed a very strange phenomenon. Maybe you will identify with my plight.

While I occasionally found myself "too busy" to spare the 15 minutes it takes to read the assigned Scripture passages, I almost always find time every day to do several of the following: Read through the "Opinion" section of the *News & Observer* or *The New York Times* online; watch some old TV shows; play computer solitaire; fiddle with facebook; Google old friends — you get the idea.

What happened? I found myself making the same habitual choices I had always made, rather than choosing to keep on top of my daily Bible reading -- and, when we think about it -- church attendance.

"Finding" the time to read the Bible and going to church would mean simply making that a priority over all these other enjoyable but less important habits that I enjoy.

Let's face it, reading the Bible (and sometimes going to church) is less fun than watching *The Big Bang Theory*. As funny as it is, it will not lead me deeper into the paths of discipleship. Besides, reading the Bible and going to church is work. TV watching is easy.

All this boils down, then, to important questions: What do I really want in life? How much do I really want it? And what am I willing to do to make sure it happens? Am I willing to form a healthy habit?

Our habits will trump our desires every time. If I have a desire to become physically fit, but my habit is to spend my free time on the sofa with a bag of chips, I'm never going to get in shape. In effect, my desire for physical fitness is trumped by my desire for

leisure time, TV and junk food — although I would probably not admit it.

All of us want to walk more closely with God and to grow as a faithful disciple of Christ. But our habits get in the way. We choose to let other desires take priority over our desire for spiritual health.

Most Christians say they desire to live a Godly life, rich in spirituality and healthy relationships. But how many of them fail to make regular church attendance a habit? Instead, church becomes something to do when nothing else is going on at the golf course, the all field or civic organization. Or when they just can't resist a morning in bed with a cup of coffee and the Sunday paper.

Most Christian parents and grandparents desire their children to grow up to be Godly young men and women, solid members of society and active members of the church. But too many parents let their children sleep in on Sundays week after week, or allow them to get involved in sports activities that tie them up most Sundays of the year.

Or the same parents want the church to provide youth programs to nourish their children in the faith, yet they won't help plan or run those events, or encourage their kids to attend.

How many Christians really desire to read the Bible through and regularly attend church, but instead let other habits and choices interfere? In other words, they are just like me: Habitual time wasters.

The bad news is that a bad habit is easy to acquire but hard to break. The good news is that while a good habit is hard to acquire, it is easy to maintain.

Let's all strive to develop new habits, healthy habits, that will lead us and our families into deeper discipleship.