

Life-Lines

919/772-9044
JULY 2017

WONDERMENTS FROM PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

I had the privilege of attending the 2017 International Rotary Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, from June 10-14. It began on an upbeat note and never wavered throughout the five days. It began with a 3K run to "End Polio Now" in which I joined hundreds of runners and walkers circling Centennial Olympic Park almost twice. I became immediately aware that two of Atlanta's major businesses, Coca Cola and Delta airlines, would be very visible as they were the major sponsors of this race. Later in the evening a large group of Delta employees joined the candlelight vigil to end human trafficking, and the CEO of Coca Cola, James Quincey, was a featured speaker on Tuesday.

The theme of the convention was "Give Back, Pay it Forward." Bill Gates gave the best example of how this is done. Despite already millions of dollars that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation had given to eradicate polio, he pledged to "not just match but double match" dollars raised by Rotary up to \$50 million for the next three years. Thus, if Rotary raises \$150 million in three years, the Gates Foundation will give \$300 million for a total of \$450 million to end polio. After this a parade of organizations and governments pledged millions more until the total amount pledged for the next three years was \$1.5 billion dollars to end polio. Such pledges were made by high-ranking officials from Europe, Asia, Africa, and our neighbor to the north, Canada, on behalf of their organizations or countries. I had never before been in a room with that had such leaders of power and humility who knew what it meant to "Give Back, Pay it Forward."

The day before Georgia's governor, Nathan Deal, welcomed us by unknowingly speaking to North Carolinians when he said Georgia was the second largest film producer outside of California. Prior to Gates presentation, Kasim Reed, mayor of Atlanta, told how his daughter had a good word to describe what we need to be as people of the world. She said we need to be "Glocal", global reaching out to the world with roots in the local communities.

In the afternoons were sessions describing how local Rotaries throughout the world take on a societal problem or medical problem and Give finances, time and efforts to Pay it Forward. I could not attend "Behavior Change: the Key to Ending Open Defecation".

1 billion of the world's people openly defecate. Attendees were told the solution is not just building latrines or toilets, but behavior change is needed. Others of interest because of the huge numbers of people still dealing with these diseases were malaria, clubfoot, and hepatitis and Rotarians help get nets to mosquito-infested areas, help get the word out about a non-surgical way to correct clubfoot, and make it be known that some forms of hepatitis can be treated with medication. Giving Back, Paying it Forward. Locals throughout the world, not just the United States, turning Global. Global this convention was. I met people from all continents except for Antarctica. In fact, when my phone stopped working and the people at the information booth could not help, I went to the first booth in what was called the House of Friendship which had a young person in it, and she directed me to an "IT" guy who asked if I tried turning it off and turning it back on. Sure enough it worked. Those two people were representing a Rotary Club in Mongolia which established a hospice in their city.

I am telling you about all this because we, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, support local youth through the Garner Breakfast Rotary who provide scholarships, and they support our ministry by their funding to Social Concerns who hosts them each Wednesday morning. We also support the Midday Rotary Backpack Buddies program. Appropriately the master of ceremonies for the event was none other than Bob Hope, not THE Bob Hope, but Bob Hope, a Rotarian from Atlanta. Heading this program, he could not help but inspire us with Hope for the Future.

Minda Dentler has experienced that hope. She is a thirty something polio survivor who needs braces and crutches to help her walk. She told us when she was born she did not receive the polio vaccine. Despite that she has completed a grueling Iron Man competition, the only person with polio ever to do so. Now she told us, as a wife and mother, she rejoiced in seeing her child receive the polio vaccine which to Minda meant her child and the world has the Hope of never having to face the debilitating disease of polio.

Pastor Wayne



July

- July 1 Jerry Hart
- July 1 Laura Roscoe
- July 9 Alice Austin
- July 9 Helen Holderman
- July 13 Gavin Hans
- July 14 Wade Jensen
- July 15 Christine Brennecke
- July 20 David Hash
- July 20 Joyce Havenstein
- July 20 Caleb Macurdy
- July 21 Kieran King
- July 30 Kathi Tichansky

August

- August 1 Aidan Johnson
- August 5 Stacie Johnson
- August 7 Sarah Weisenburn
- August 12 Edie Craig
- August 13 Dylan Rebbeor
- August 14 Sarah Watkins
- August 20 Alisa Hart
- August 24 Linda Hash
- August 28 Sage Weatherwax
- August 30 Don Craig
- August 30 Kathy Hart
- August 30 Chip Kyles
- August 30 Joe Ann Wilder

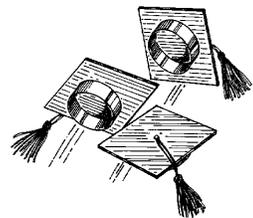
Our 2017 College Graduate

Keara Grayson graduated from NCSU with a degree in Chemical Engineering. Five years ago Keara entered UNC-Wilmington and only dreamed of going to North Carolina State University. A lab instructor from UNCW told her that she should be pursuing an engineering degree from NCSU in order to reach her full potential.

After two years at UNCW, Keara transferred to NCSU. Keara graduated from the most challenging program at NCSU and received a Jimmy V award from her advisor as a reminder to never give up and to keep pushing yourself.

We are very proud of our daughter for all of her accomplishments.

---Bob and Lisa Grayson



Thank you if you have baked bread, donated wine or grape juice or have assisted in any way with the many responsibilities of the Altar Guild. Thank you to Barbara Kyles for setting the altar for June, and to my husband Don for changing banners and doing whatever else is required of him.

A special "thank you" to Brad for making the beautiful banner for the 40th anniversary of Lord of Life. I have received many compliments on it, "It is Beautiful"!!

Thank you everyone for everything.

"Actions speak louder than words: Liturgy is action. Such action involves more than just standing and sitting. Liturgical actions enable each one to offer his or her body in the worship of God. One of the most important and powerful actions is the tracing of the sign of the cross upon oneself. This is the baptismal mark of identity, the holy sign of our faith that constantly reminds us to whom we belong. It is the sign of dying and rising, reminding us that we have died and risen with Christ in baptism. The sign of the cross is made at the invocation of the triune God, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit'. These words occur at the beginning of the Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness and during the announcement of forgiveness and the conclusion of the Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness. The sign of the cross may be made before and after receiving the body and blood of Christ in the liturgy, and it is made as the presiding minister pronounce God's blessing. Tracing the sign of the cross upon oneself is an action that comes naturally to the baptized.

"In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther counseled that the sign of the cross is the first thing we do when we wake in the morning and the last thing we do before we retire in the evening."¹

We wish God's blessing on Josh Kestner as continues on his journey of spreading the Gospel. God's Blessings on his ordination and on his call to be Pastor in Davenport, Iowa.

---Carol Wallace

¹Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook. S. Anita Stauffer

A special thank you . . .

to whoever so thoughtfully placed an American flag on both Ray Fortmeyer's and John Swanson's graves on Memorial Day.



MEMORIAL DAY

*Connie Fortmeyer
Rebecca Swanson*

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus

There was a man who climbed up to a
mountain top and reached up to God.
He stretched his arms to heaven and cried,
"Fill me full of light! I'm ready, I'm waiting!"

The voice of God answered him and said,
"I'm always filling you with light, but you keep leaking!"

~ Author Unknown ~

Okay, soooo this is the title of a book that my second-grade-expert just happened to mention the other day. Needless to say, I found the title a bit intriguing. He summarized the book in about ten sentences that all led back to the same theme . . . no one would give the pigeon a chance to drive the bus. He didn't consider that the pigeon can't drive because it's a PIGEON! He speculated that if the pigeon was allowed to drive the bus he would drive it very well. Ahhh, the innocence of second graders! I, on the other hand (fully knowledgeable that birds can't drive), immediately formed a post-second-grade metaphor of the here and the now.

I actually bought the book so I could get the gist of the content (I'll give it to the second grader later). After my metaphoric read, I concluded that the pigeon was so blinded by false assumptions fueled by self-importance that it couldn't imagine why in the world the bus driver told the passengers 'Don't let the pigeon drive this bus' or that its carrying-on was dismissed. This overconfident pigeon whines, pleads, and tells the tale of how other (lesser) pigeons were allowed, by nicer bus drivers, to drive buses; remembering the bus driver's words, the passengers remain strong. When the

driver returns from his break, he is happy to find that the passengers heeded his directive and stood strong . . . pigeons CAN'T drive and now everyone knows it! The rational passengers did not succumb to such an unimaginable idea; the time has not yet come for pigeon driving. The prideful pigeon, on the other hand, became so impressed by its own flying expertise and the flattery of other pigeons, that it actually thought the quest to drive was doable.

Realistically, if we are enormously good at a task-set, the results of our work may lead to the incomprehensible belief that somewhere there's a life-scoreboard keeping tally of points that measure our worth, and as those points add up, our statures increase; the more points rack up, the more fully our chests expand . . . it's called pride (hubris in Latin), and we all know people-pigeons of this ilk. It's been my experience that prideful people are also pompous. If I was a gaming pro, I'd wager (and win) that when people-pigeons start believing God accepts them as they are, they then actually begin believing they deserve His acceptance. Let's be mindful that what we say about ourselves means nothing . . . it's what God says about us that matters. "For it is not those who commend themselves that are approved, but those whom the Lord commends" (2 Corinthians 10:18). Pride is giving ourselves something that God has accomplished, not us. For this reason alone, we give God the glory --- After all, it is He who deserves the glory, not the people-pigeons.

Be blessed.

---Gale Isaacs



July 3
1776
Independence Day

Plan to take part in the Garner Annual Celebration of the 4th on July 3 at Lake Benson Park. Lord of Life volunteers are needed to help parking cars. Proceeds benefit Camp Agapé!

Following in His footsteps . . .

Our bins runneth over. Less than two weeks after the plea went out from Social Concerns asking for "Kid" food for the summer, Terry Barnes had to make a trip to Garner Area Ministries' food pantry because items were being stacked up outside of the containers, spilling out on to the floor of the Narthex.

Incidentally, Terry is recovering from hip replacement, so we will be asking others to help deliver the next load.

We repeatedly offer the option of having members of Social Concerns do your shopping for you. Bob Baxter has taken us up on that offer and has graciously and generously contributed to the cause. If you are interested in that please speak to any member of the committee.

In the meantime we ask you to continue to support this project in any way you are able.

" . . . Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to eat . . . " Matthew 25:34-35

---Connie Fortmeyer
Social Concerns Ministry



Prayer Requests

We pray for our world and those in it with hope for our future.

Grief . . . family and friends of Grace Barnes' brother, Joe Rodriguez, who died May 20, 2017; and

Health Concerns . . . Terry Barnes, recovering from hip replacement surgery; Dan Stamm, Mona Stamm, Perry Proper, Betty and John Nalepa, Dennis King, Betty Zapata, Bob Baxter; and

Family and friends . . . Clyde Cook's brother, thyroid cancer; Jack and Alice Austin's friends, Bob Anderson and Sam Mansour; Lisa Grayson's mother, Betty Hooker, and uncle, Bill Winterbottom; Gerry Havenstein's sister, Jan O'Briant; Dan and Roxie Hayes' friends, Jacob and Cynthia Sterling; Susie, Benjamin and Bryce

Lowe; Camille Morris' mother, Ola Morris-Jones; Carol Wallace's sister, Claudia Bossen, Don Wallace's nephew, Chuck Wallace and sisters, Irene P. and Marge L.; Vince Wright's stepfather, Ronald Pierce; Shirley Poole's niece, Pamela Chrissinger; Barbara Kyles' niece, Sandy Blackburn; Shannon Thomsen's niece, Kylie Garner, and nephew, Nickolas; Kate Beck's friend, Lisa Gauger; Mary Cook's niece Sarah, nephew Will, son Daniel; Paul and Kerri Blanchard's son, Jason; Linda Hash's mother, Gerry Barlow; Dave Hash's mother, Lucille Hash Stewart; Esther Bredell's sister-in-law, Marti Swanson, family of Michael Horvath; Mary Ann de Leon; Beth Owen.

Please note: prayer requests that have been listed for several months have been removed. If you have current requests or updates of those listed, please e-mail them to: paulampic@aol.com

Jump'n July

There's nothing quite like our July 3rd celebration of the 4th of July . . . Independence Day! As a matter of fact, Social Concerns Ministry took it to a new level. We provided our customary bottles of water and threw in a couple new additions for the passersby and paying parkers; we added flying Frisbees and fancy fans. Pair that with the fellowship and dazzling fireworks, and you get a delightful scenario fit for all God's children of varying ages, races, genders, and religious connections. God Bless America!

To paraphrase Sarah's statement of last month, we have ongoing outreach opportunities that are exempt from summer break, namely Rotary Breakfasts and Garner Area Ministries (GAM). Our Back-to-School collection table will be setup later this month so please, Stop-Look-and-Take-a-Tag-or-Two! Your continued congregational support makes the impact of this program one of the biggest and best contributions toward equality in the classroom; all children should have the necessary classroom tools -- especially paper and pencils. As is our mission, we lend a hand wherever we can.

We are also eagerly looking forward to reading and sharing the

Thank-you Letters from our Camp Scholarship recipients (Avery, Charlie, Ella, Aida, Gavin, "Sam", and Tony) as they return from their respective experiences throughout the summer . . . what a tremendous opportunity they are afforded through the combined assistance of Social Concerns and the Men's Group.

Lastly, for the immediate future, monthly newsletter updates from Social Concerns will be submitted by Alecia Harrison and Gale Isaacs . . . Sarah Watkins has taken an indefinite hiatus as our chairman and we have repositioned our committee by putting co-chairs in place. Social Concerns is a small (but strong and dedicated) workforce that manages the Outreach Ministry for Lord of Life; we are always encouraging and welcoming additional membership from the congregation. So, on behalf of Connie Fortmeyer, Helen Holderman, Paula Pickler, Carolyn Watkins, Rita Clark, Sarah Watkins, Pastor Wayne and us . . . try it; you might like it!

Yours in Christ,
Gale Isaacs and Alecia Harrison
Co-chairmen, Social Concerns Ministry



Everyone has busy lives. People raising families, while working for a demanding boss in order to make enough to feed, clothe, shelter, and educate our children. Despite what you may think, when we retire, we are just as busy it seems. With all our running around, doing various things, all with the best of intentions, it is important to remember the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 2, verses 8-10: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship,

created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

Our God is the one to whom we owe allegiance, and it to His ends that we should be directing our efforts. If each of us is doing his or her part, there should also be no disharmony as a result.

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

TIME • TALENT • TREASURE

How might YOU share?

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

Yes, we all have unique gifts, interests, and life circumstances which lead us to serve in different ways. Can you see yourself committing to one of these opportunities for service during Sunday morning worship?

READER -- Reads the two scripture lessons of the lectionary for the day. Passages are provided a week ahead of time.

COMMUNION ASSISTANT -- Assists the Pastor and Worship Assistant (Assisting Minister) administer communion by pouring the wine.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT (Assisting Minister) -- Assists Pastor with the worship service. (Training provided!)

USHER -- Greets worshipers as they arrive, provides them with bulletins, and assists with seating as needed; collects offering, then presents offering plates and communion elements at the altar; ushers communicants to the altar for communion. (Training provided!)

If you see yourself trying something new, stepping out of your comfort zone, or maybe you'd just like to help out, please use the sign up sheets on the bulletin board in the hallway OR speak to a member of the Worship and Music Committee: Brad Hunnicutt, Carol Wallace, Paula Pickler, Mary Cook, Patrick Niemann, Wade Jensen, or Pastor Wayne. **TRAINING WILL (HAPPILY) BE PROVIDED** upon request!!

Meanwhile, a big THANK YOU to the growing number of people who are serving in this way already!

--Mary Cook



As we still are not receiving monthly articles from the church council we are once again giving instructions so you can do some research and find their activities.

(And, again, special thanks to Don Craig for making this a much less complicated process for those of us who are less computer savvy than others!)

Go to www.lordoflifechurchgarnernc.org and this will come up: lordoflifechurchgarnernc.org -- Just another WordPress site. That's what you want.

That accessed, click MEMBERS. The user code is lordoflife and the password is ch0sen1! (The password has zero 0 in the middle and 1 and ! at the end.)

Select Church Council Members and scroll down past the list of council members and a list of the minutes on record will appear and you can make your selections.

If you don't have access to a computer, I guess you're out of luck, but you can ask one of our council members for any information you might need.

---editor

Optimism!

As he was driving home from work one day, Joe stopped to watch a local Little League baseball game that was being played in a park near his home. As he sat down behind the bench on the first-base line, he asked one of the boys what the score was. "We're behind 14 to nothing," he answered with a smile.



"Really," he said. I have to say you don't look very discouraged."

"Discouraged?" the boy asked with a puzzled look on his face. "Why should we be discouraged? We haven't been up to bat yet."

Queen of Katwe: a review

A little over a month ago I was looking forward to seeing *Wonder Woman* at the theater. So I went to Netflix where the *Queen of Katwe* was available. Watching it made me forget about *Wonder Woman* for a time.



It is the true story about a young girl, Phiona, who lives in the slums of Kampala in Uganda called Katwe. Phiona rises from the most humble beginnings to become a chess grand master.

Phiona is not the only amazing character in this story. Her widowed mother Harriet struggles to keep her family fed and sheltered while keeping her dignity. The man called Coach, Robert Katende is constantly trying to get funding for his chess team and opportunities for them to compete while feeling obligated to provide for his family. Using a Rotary Tenet, Coach puts service to his team and family before himself all the time. Harriet is played by Oscar-winning actress for *12 Years a Slave*, Lupita Nyong'o, and Coach is played by David Olowoyo who played Martin Luther King Jr. in *Selma*. The "newbie" actors who play Phiona, her sister, Night, and her brother are very good.

It is a movie about chess, but there is a great deal more to it. The slums of Kampala are depicted in the most degrading way. When Phiona first stumbles into the chess club, the other children do not want to be near her because she smells. It is about seeing the potential in an illiterate 13-year-old girl and not being overwhelmed by the environment she comes from. It is about struggles along the way to success. It is about the chess team as a whole and its members who succeed along with Phiona. It is about life and conditions that we know very little about.

This movie is so good, I will not say anything more about it, because I do not want to give anything away. However, I will replace *Manchester by the Sea* with *Queen of Katwe* during our summer cinema series.

---Pastor Wayne



Christian Education

Children's Sunday School, pull out after Communion, will resume Sunday, September 10.

---Linda Hash

Greetings from the Men's Group!

Our next big event will be Garner's July 3rd celebration. We will be selling parking. We will have hotdogs and chips. We invite everyone to come out and relax and enjoy the fireworks from the best seat in the house!

As part of an ongoing conversation about the Men's Group and to answer some criticism that we have received, we want to share with everyone of all that we do. The Men's Group provides Christian fellowship and Christian service. We share in a meal and fellowship at our business meetings and at other events. We do Christian service both inside Lord of Life and in the greater community.

At Lord of Life we:

- Prepare a monthly fellowship meal
- Assist the property committee with grounds maintenance
- Sponsor the baseball outing
- Help provide the Christmas party
- Sponsor the Valentine's Day party
- Help set up the outdoor chapel
- Sponsor the Rally Day picnic

In the community we:

- Provide free paper shredding
- With Social Concerns, provide scholarships to Camp Agapé
- Support Angie's Restaurant in providing a free Thanksgiving meal
- Donate to Heifer International to support their mission of ending hunger
- Donate to and support Able to Serve in their mission
- Provide time, labor, and funds to Camp Agapé
- Support the Walk to end Breast Cancer
- Donate time, money and labor to support our refugee family

This list is far from comprehensive, but hopefully, it gets the message across that we are not just about a single project or cause.

If you have any ideas for a cause you would like us to support, a fundraising project, or a group outing, please jot it down and place it in Gray Anthony's mailbox. We would like to get feedback from the congregation about ways we can better serve you!

Our next business meeting will be August 11. All men are invited to attend, and bring a beverage of your choice. If it is your first time joining us, your meal is on the house.

---Gray Anthony, president
Lord of Life Men's Group



JULY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 4th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00 am Sunday Cinema 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Council	3 PARKING CARS FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY CELBRATION	4	5 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast	6	7	8
9 5th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00 am Sunday Cinema 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Christian Ed	10	11	12 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast	13	14	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
16 6th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00 am Sunday Cinema 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Stewardship	17	18 7:00 pm Inspirational Book Club	19 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast	20 6:30 pm Social Concerns	21	22
23 7th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00am Sunday Cinema 10:00 am Worship	24 7:00 pm Worship & Music	25	26 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast	27 LUNCH BUNCH 11:30 am site tba	28	29
30 8th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00am Sunday Cinema 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Property	31					