



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

Headed EAST (not so) Young (Wo)Man!

This is the last chapter to this story because I am home. I had a very warm welcome home from my Church Family on Palm Sunday. Thanks! I read all your Christmas Cards with much interest. I felt like I had been on a time warp and am trying to get back in sync. Thank you for all your help to reorient me. I had not served as an Assisting Minister since I left last September. The church I attended in San Antonio utilized the Assisting Minister differently than we do. So I bravely signed up to be the Assisting Minister for Palm Sunday. . . actually I forgot it was Palm Sunday! Again, I'm still trying to reorient! Not sure if you noticed, but I almost forgot to set up the altar during the offering.

I was also glad to see that adult Sunday School was still meeting and discussing important issues in the Bible as they apply to our world today! Not sure if the two classes combined into one yet though? And Children's Church and youth Sunday School are still happening. Yay! We had a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday.

I attended a Mariachi Worship Service at St. José Mission in San Antonio the last Sunday I was there. Of course, it was a Catholic celebration and I was able to follow the liturgy easily. But the music was incredible! It was a very small space but filled to the gills with members and visitors. The family beside me were from Michigan but had arranged with the Father to bring up the "gifts" - the bread and wine for Communion.

I had a wonderful send off from St. John's Lutheran Church which I had attended while staying in San Antonio. I was welcomed immediately into their fold and had mixed feelings about leaving them. St. John's recently celebrated their 150th Anniversary and did a remembrance book to document the event. I received a copy of this book and many of the members signed it like a high school yearbook!

On my return I received many hugs from the Rotary faithful. And came back full steam ahead to ensure the weekly breakfasts are provided and abundant. The Rotary have been long term partners of Lord of Life and many of the activities that we support.

And finally the Relay for Life! We had our Barbecue fundraiser on Friday, April 21, featuring barbecue from Ole Time Barbecue and started serving at 11:00 am -- plates for \$8.00, sandwiches, \$5.00. Tea and dessert was available for those that ate in! We worked around the roof work. Thanks for all the donations of baked goods! Then, the main event started on Friday, April 28 at 4:00 pm. The Opening Ceremony began at 6:00 pm with the Survivor Lap and then Caregiver Lap. The Luminary Ceremony was at 9:00 pm. There was a DJ from 9:00 pm until midnight and then a movie on the blowup screen. On Saturday morning new activities included a Yoga class and Zumba. Hopefully everyone who participates will have great stories to share this year.

Finally, I brought some gifts from San Antonio. I found a beautiful wooden cross at the St. José Mission in San Antonio for the Wall of Crosses. I volunteered at the BSF (Bible Study

Fellowship) headquarters many times and was able to get a set of the pictures used for the infant class to give to Pastor Wayne. Also Fiesta, which is celebrated in April, is a BIG deal in downtown San Antonio. St. John's Lutheran Church holds a community Fiesta Service on Sunday, April 30. One of the many artists that attend this church creates a Fiesta coin each year. Many different businesses and groups develop a Fiesta coin each year and then swap them during First Friday, monthly outdoor celebration, during the following year. I brought a St. John Fiesta coin for Pastor Wayne. And finally, St. John did an Advent Devotional book. I said the first week that I would like to contribute. They only had one passage available for me, so I only contributed one devotion. I brought a copy for Pastor Wayne also.

If you have time to listen, I will spill out the multitude of blessings that I had while in San Antonio. So many surprises and unexpected joys. I loved the beauty of the San Antonio River and the many kind people that I met. I enjoyed stretching to care for very sick patients again but I am VERY glad to return to my healthy outpatients in a few weeks. I will be working mostly at the Raleigh Orthopedic Clinic on Edwards Mill Road. As always, if you need to have any surgery let me know so I can find a "friend" for you! I know a lot of people and now a whole bunch in Texas.

Blessings!

Alecia

Lord of Life Men's Group

The spring baseball outing is booked for May 7. We will have hotdogs in the fellowship hall after worship and then head to the ballpark. Tickets will be available for a suggested \$7 donation, and we will pay for any youth again this year. It is a fun event and I invite you to come out and enjoy peanuts, cracker jacks, and a day at the ballpark. See Dave Hash if you want tickets



The spring shredding event is scheduled for the morning of May 20 from 9 a.m. until Noon. Please come out and help if you are able. This is also the day of the church anniversary dinner, for which the Men's Group offered to help prepare a meal.

Our next business meeting will be May 12. 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.

Thanks.

Gray Anthony, president
Lord of Life Men's Group



Prayer Requests

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

Grief . . . family and friends of Carol and Don Wallace's friend, Raymond St. Pierre, who died April 15, 2017;

Health Concerns . . . Dan Stamm, Mona Stamm, Perry Proper, Betty and John Nalepa, Dennis King, Betty Zapata, Bob Baxter; and

Family and friends . . . 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



40th Anniversary Celebration

I have sent invitations to all the pastors who have served Lord of Life during its 40 year history: Pastor Thomas Ford, the mission developer; Pastor Ron Grunke, who served in the early 80's; Pastor Joseph Tallent, our longest serving pastor who served 17 years; Pastor David Brooks, who served in the first decade of the 21st century; and Pastor Michael Deal who served in the second decade of the 21st century. I have also invited Pastor Tim Poston, a son of the congregation; Pastor Ted Edwards and Pastor Ken Schmidt, interim pastors. I have asked all pastors attending the Celebration Dinner to reflect on their time here.

Unfortunately, I recently received word that Pastor Grunke will be unable to join us for our celebration as expected. I take responsibility for my own misunderstanding of what I heard as his willingness to preach for the occasion when we initially spoke about it the end of February. Any of the former pastors who respond positively to my invitation I will incorporate into our celebration and worship if possible. I would like feedback from all of you regarding each decade of ministry here. For example for me personally 1980 I was ordained into ministry of Word and Sacrament, what were highlights of that decade for our ministry here? Any other items of "historic significance" please provide Rebecca Swanson.

Sarah Weisenburn has agreed to take on the task of decorating the fellowship hall. Gracie Heppert has agreed to provide child care for the Celebration Dinner, Saturday, May 20. I already have three youth committed to "waiting tables" and I am looking to increase that number. As mentioned previously, the Men's Group has graciously agreed to provide the meal. As I peruse the various families who will receive invitations, we should have close to 140 invitations going out. Talk it up, text it up, face book it up.

---Pastor Wayne



Blessing of the Wheels

MAY 20

10:00 a.m.

Bicycles, tricycles, skate boards, skates, scooters, wheelchairs, walkers (with wheels), those funny tennis shoes with built in wheels . . .

anything with wheels!

Come one, come all!

(And bring your shreddables around 9:00 am to take advantage of the shredding truck!)



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.

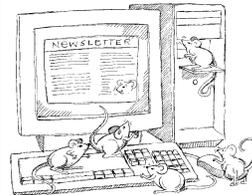
Or the same parents want the church to provide youth programs to nourish their children in the faith, yet they won't help plan or run those events, or encourage their kids to attend.

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.

MAY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
COMING SEPTEMBER 30 	1	2	3 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast 7:30 pm Choir Practice	4	5	6
7 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Council MUDCATS BASEBALL GAME!!	8	9 9:30 am Mothers' Day Brunch for Able to Serve sponsored by Social Concerns	10 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast 7:30 pm Choir Practice	11	12 7:00 pm Men's Group Dinner Meeting 7:00 pm Women's Meet 'n' Eat	13
14 Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Recognition of Graduates MOTHER'S DAY	15 ARTICLES DUE 	16 7:00 pm Inspirational Book Club	17 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast 7:30 pm Choir Practice	18 6:30 pm Social Concerns	19	20 9:00 am Shredding Event 10:00 am Blessing of Wheels 7:00 pm 40th Anniversary Dinner
21 Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Anniversary Celebration Worship 11:30 am Stewardship	22	23	24 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast 7:30 pm Choir Practice	25 11:30 a.m. LUNCH BUNCH (site tba) Ascension Day Service 7:00 pm Outdoor Chapel	26	27
28 Seventh Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Property	29	30	31 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast 7:30 pm Choir Practice	June 24 1:00 p.m. JOSH KESTNER'S ORDINATION Reception follows		