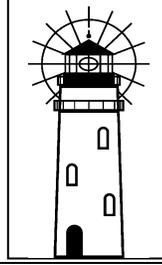


FRANKLIN BEACON

Franklin Presbyterian Church



MAY 2019



..... Pastor's Corner

Coming Together, Holding Together

Years ago, someone wrote a great article about Christ's church. The point was that a church of Christ is a body of believers. It is not a building or a sanctuary or a certain program.

It's a group of people who believe in one essential: Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior. Buildings come and go, but the church of Jesus Christ perseveres, generation after generation.

That opened my mind and has stayed with me for years and years. If a congregation sees the church as merely a building, or a committee, or a program, then ultimately, there will be division in its ranks.

One group will get mad at the other because of the new paint or carpet color. Someone will leave the church because it doesn't offer a program for their favorite cause. Others will leave because there are no huge TV screens, or a gym, or whatever. Arguments will arise because the songs are too traditional, too contemporary or too doggone long.

Stuff. Too much or not enough. Stuff... like the man said, it always ends up making us blue.

Happens over and over again across the world. And it's because we forget that our church is the body of Christ; it is made up

of its individual members- people- all of whom bring something unique to the body of Christ.

We rise and we fall together, in union worshipping Jesus Christ, or divided, worshipping stuff.

It is written in the book of Amos, "Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?"

That's pretty simple and to the point. Nobody takes a long walk with another unless they agree to do so. And none of us come into this church family unless we agree to do so.

And we agree to walk together in the Franklin Presbyterian Church family because we want to. Miraculously, we have been called from near and far by God Himself, to make our way here to do His work. It's God Himself that birthed that desire we have to be here worshipping Him.

What a joy it is! The worship services, the meals, the concerts, the cantatas, the Vacation Bible School, the breakfasts... have you ever seen such joy in being together?

And joy indeed... sharing tears, laughter, quips and jokes; sharing Christ stories, family stories and stories of youth. None would be as exciting but for the fact that it happens here with us; the body of Christ.

You are so important to the Lord. In His infinite knowledge, He selected you to be here on this earth and here in this

beautiful little church and the end of the lane...

You. To worship and be His church... His body. Our unity; our coming together in unity, loving and supporting one another in worship of Him, is so important to Christ, and indeed, to His world.

Remember that always. And Remember Jesus' prayer for you at the very end of His life on earth. I'll close with His words:

"I pray... for those who believe in me through their word, that they *may all be one*, even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be *in us*, so that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. The glory which thou hast given me I have given to them, that they may be *one even as we are one*, I in them and thou in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that thou hast sent me and hast loved them even as thou hast loved me. Father, I desire that they also ... may be with me where I am, to behold my glory which thou hast given me in thy love for me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world has not known thee, but I have known thee; and these know that thou hast sent me. I made known to them thy name, and I will make it known, that the love with which thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Indeed, my friends, we are one... in Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John

Elder for May ... Doug Foxworth

Greeter: Naomi Rice

Money Counter – Heath Hager

Announcers:

- 5 Frank Thomason
- 12 John Singleton
- 19 John Lowe
- 26 Doug Foxworth

Psalm Readers:

- 5 Andy Gardner
- 12 John Jarvis
- 19 John Singleton
- 26 Eden Hager

Lay Readers:

Alternate

- | | | |
|----|-------------|-----------------|
| 5 | Eden Hager | Frank Thomason |
| 12 | Cindy Grant | Jan Hollis |
| 19 | Jan Hollis | Cindy Grant |
| 26 | Rusty Smith | Bonnie Williams |

Women of the Church

The Women of the Church met Tuesday,
April 9th at 10 am.

We supplied flowers for the windows
and candle stands for Easter. We will
try to keep flowers in the windows.

This year we put red, white and pink
Geraniums in the Church for Easter.

Grace and I took donations to the
Battered Women's Shelter and Rowan
Helping Ministries. Any donations will
be taken to the proper places.

We are working with Sue Wilkey and the
Nurture Committee to supply food and
drinks for the covered dish meal after
the St. James Choir entertains on
Sunday, May 5th beginning at 5 pm.

We will meet this month on Tuesday,
May 14th at 10 am. All women are
invited to come.

Submitted by Bonnie Williams

Mission:

Has there not been a sweet spirit in the church?
I give our "praying for the church" everyday as
the reason for the lighter step in our
congregation. When we turn loose of our
problems and leave them with God, the load is
a little lighter. Pray without ceasing.

A big thank you goes out to Doris Mowery and
Buildings and Grounds for the face lift of our
choir room. It is looking good.

Many great comments were received on how
beautiful the Easter Cantata was and that
makes the heart more appreciative than you
will know. What a blessing to be used in God's
work this way. Our Janice Robbins kept us in
line and in tempo and the choir sang they
hearts out. Many thanks to our choir and their
dedication and hard work. What a blessing to
have our new choir members.

Choir practice will continue to be right after
church on the 3rd and 4th Sunday of each
month. If there is a 5th Sunday practice
required, we will try to give as much notice as
possible.

"The Porch" kicked off its first debut on a
Thursday prior to the week of Good Friday.
What a blessing to get reactions from the
community and to share our faith in words. It
was hopeful that we could do these on Friday
afternoons. The weather pattern has not
cooperated, and I will try to make a Sunday
announcement for the date whether on
Thursday or Friday afternoon at 4:30 based on
weather forecast. But come and join us for
some good fellowship.

Remember the Neighbor Outreach is coming
probably in June. Brochures on the church and
tracs will be handed out to our neighbors on
West Ridge.

Plans are underway with having a car show
here at the church for our community this
summer or fall. Updates will be following.

Doug Foxworth

Stewardship Committee:

The information below was in a recent bulletin but is presented here for those who missed seeing the announcement. With the recommendation from Stewardship and the church Treasurer, our Session approved renaming Two Cents a Meal to Pennies for God's Children. The reason being is to better identify where our monthly giving event money will go and who will benefit. Therefore, our new monthly collection will be called Pennies for God's Children.

Our Session feels that our money given to Pennies for God's Children should benefit children in our county rather than going outside our local area. So, here forward our special monthly collection will go to Children's Hope Alliance [a combination of the old Grandfather Home for Children and Barium Springs] and to Nazareth Child and Family Connection [formally known as Nazareth Children's Home].

Children's Hope Alliance history comes from a Presbyterian background. Barium Springs was founded by two Presbyterian women in 1883 and later the Presbyterian Synod purchased acreage in Barium Springs for the orphanage. Later In 1914 a Presbyterian minister working with a local church in Banner Elk established an orphanage named Grandfather Home for Children.

Our Session also recently approved a change in the annual giving event called the Joy Offering that takes place in December. We will continue to call this giving event Joy Offering but the proceeds now will go to The West Rowan Bible Teaching Association. Most of you know about this association and its purpose. You might ask "how is it allowed to teach Bible and Christianity in our public schools". Well, the answer is it is allowed as a History class focused on the

Bible and the history of God's chosen people the Israelites. This class is offered in West Rowan Elementary, Middle and High Schools!

We are very pleased with these changes in where our contributions will go and who will benefit. It seems right that our local needy children to receive services that we at Franklin Presbyterian Church help support.

Let's all show our love for God's children by supporting these organizations.

Submitted by Toby



Nurture Committee:

May has arrived with its beautiful and many special events. On May 5, the St. James Men's Choir will be with us, singing their joyful songs which will be followed by a covered dish meal. May 12, we will be honoring our Mothers and Grandmother with our special presentation and gift. At the end of the month we honor our fallen heroes who gave their lives for our freedom, just as Jesus gave his life for our sins. Always remember that a selfless act can help a wounded soul.

God Bless you all,
Sue Wilkey

Is Easter over?

Well is it? Most churches are filled Easter morning. Choirs sing special music and Sunrise Services celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Kids have found all the hidden eggs, (we hope) and the candy in the stores are now half off, thanks be to God! But Easter is not really over. If the resurrection is something we celebrate only one Sunday a year, then everything we did was a waste of time. Our lives are changed because we have encountered the risen Lord and our actions should reveal that. When people see us, do they see the resurrected Christ living through us?

In the coming weeks we have opportunities to draw closer to God. In James 4:8 we are told when we do God draws near to us. Mark your calendar for the exciting things happening at Franklin in May. On the 5th we will have St. James Male Chorus. On the 11th, the children will have a special cook out just as Jesus and the disciples had before He ascended. On the 12th is Mother's Day.

On the 19th we will have a very special guest preacher, Doug Foxworth. That's right, our own Doug will deliver the message. Although he has been a fine Sunday School teacher for years, this will be his first time in the pulpit. No pressure Doug, but you know we are all counting on you.

Please plan to attend all the activities you can.

God Bless,
James

Personnel Committee:

The Chair of the Personnel Committee has been looking for some thought provoking quotes from well know people to help stimulate a little thought about how we as members of a small can make a difference. Let me share a few of these quotes with you.

"The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. The fears are paper tigers. You can do anything you decide to do. You can act to change and control your life; and the procedure, the process is its own reward"
by Amelia Earhart

"If you cannot do Great Things, Do Small Things in a Great Way"
by Napoleon Hill

"God has a purpose for your pain, a reason for your struggles and a reward for your faithfulness. Trust in him and don't give up"
Unknown author

Quotes and sayings can have many different meanings to the individual reader, hopefully everyone will find a little something special in one of these.

If anyone has any comments or questions concerning the staff, Please feel free to contact me directly. If you happen to miss me at church, Please share any positive comments or learning opportunities for our group at jlo582@aol.com or leave me a message in the personnel box in the church office.

Thank you all, John Lowe

