

THE BIRD'S NEST

What makes people most afraid or anxious? Some might suggest the phobias of rejection, flying, heights, obesity, or many others which are frequent topics on talk shows, in recent news, or addressed by volumes of self-help books. Of all of these, perhaps the one that is common to all, for all must face it, is death. The end of life, although inevitable, gives us pause and problems when confronting this ever present reality. Yet death, in Christ, is a part of life and a doorway to life eternal. It can give life meaning, purpose, and more significance. So it depends on us as to whether the valley of shadows enriches and enhances life through faith – or drains, complicates, and compromises it with dread.

Death can also mean something even more sinister. Being dead can refer to one who has lost liveliness while still walking upon the roads of this existence. We can become “dead” by apathy and/or fear. It is all too easy to lose a sense of wonder and enthusiasm among the routines, trials, and traumas that eventually touch everyone’s time on this planet.

Is there a solution for those who are “dead” before they even die? Is there a way out of the tombs of attitudes that repress and depress? Yes! There is the life-giving and exhilarating Holy Spirit of our Lord. When the soul is open to Christ, life can again become an adventure and exhilarating. We can become enthusiastically alive with love for HIM when we love and care for each other. The fears that fence our being into numbness fade when we become less self-absorbed and concerned and look to serve others finding God’s presence within when so doing.

This transition from being dead to coming alive is known in the scriptures as resurrection. It is an opportunity to rise from the ashes of the old into being and feeling on fire again. But such resurrections can only occur when we give up the secure bounds of the graves in which we have buried ourselves by holding onto things, prejudices and selfish needs. Beloved, the only true way to find new life comes from being humble, dependent on God, and open to others. In the New Year ahead, together let’s find lives that are lively and filled with excitement of what can be if we give our attention and time to helping others instead of worrying about ourselves. May we listen together to what the Spirit of Christ is saying to us.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will truly live.”
(John 5:25)

Tim

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

- January 1 – Patrick Buchanan
- January 1 – Clark Hutton
- January 3 – Rachel Haynes
- January 10 – Jay Henderson
- January 12 – Ramona Cline
- January 13 – Maggie Naylor
- January 13 – Neal Hutton
- January 14 – Claire Hardy
- January 18 - Bucky Hutton
- January 21 – Elizabeth DeBusk
- January 22 – John Williams
- January 23 – Nancy Hagen
- January 23 – Rachel Crabtree Cocke
- January 25 – Paul Tuell
- January 28 – Campbell Buchanan
- February 1 – Courtney Brannon Wheeler
- February 1 – Preston Ross Rogers Simpson
- February 1 – Eric Fleenor
- February 4 – Robert Baldwin
- February 5 – Grey Robinson
- February 9 – Sarah Bird
- February 10 – Reid Buchanan
- February 13 – Betty Wagner
- February 14 – Niz Barker
- February 15 – Kelly Thomas
- February 17 – Susan Henderson
- February 17 – Bob Hutton
- February 19 – Cathy Hutton
- February 20 – Sherrye Snapp Williams
- February 21 – Amanda Bird Blevins
- February 22 – Ina Corder Stephenson Marbury
- February 23 – Ron Tallman
- February 24 – Michael Colston
- February 25 – Susan Johnston
- February 29 – Debra Simpson

ANNIVERSARIES

- January 3 – Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Wallace
- January 18 – Mr. and Mrs. Jay Robinson
- February 10 – Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tuell
- February 18 – Mr. and Mrs. Wythe Hull

Please save Box Tops for Education and Campbell soup labels for Niz Barker.

Sunday School Update

- December 2, 2012, Attendance 32, Offering \$22.00**
- December 9, 2012, Attendance 22, Offering \$23.00**
- December 16, 2012, Attendance 18, Offering \$17.00**
- December 23, 2012, Attendance 31, Offering \$20.00**
- December 30, 2012, Attendance 14, Offering \$6.00**

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Choir Practice - Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00.

Youth – Sunday evenings from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Board of Deacons will meet on Sunday, January 13th, at 5:00 p.m.

Session will meet on Sunday, January 13th, at 6:00 p.m.

Circle Number 3 will meet at the fellowship hall on Tuesday, January 15th, at 2:00 p.m.

Circle Number 4 will meet on Monday, January 28th, at 6:00 in the fellowship hall.

We warmly welcome our visitors
Anthony Moslanka
Andy and Stephanie Wing
Bill and Karen Wing
Fred, Page, Dale Hebard
Chris Whyte
Haley Chance
Glenna Widner
Arbutus Echols
Catherine, Eric, Robin, Gavin Grossman
Anne, Megan, Hunter Cullip
Chris, Judy, Callie, Kelly Puckett
Ro'Dah Brown
Meagan Lester

If you, a friend or loved one is shut in and would like communion to be served, please contact the church office or Rev. Bird.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DREW WILLIAMS who was recognized on December 9th in a ceremony honoring him upon his achievement of Eagle Scout. We are very proud of you, Drew!

GLADE SPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PRAYER LIST –

Charles Holliday
Jason Waters (nephew of Alice Porterfield)
Hannah Bolton
Mary Kathleen Stephenson Orr
Verna Elizabeth Stephenson Schmidt
Margaret Orr
Donna Hutton
Shirley Overbay
Molly Haynes
Denny Snodgrass (father in law of William Moore)
Raymond DeFriece (uncle of Wayne Moore)
Rachel Crabtree Cocke
Kevin Perrigan
John Robinson
Ruth Sheffield
Jacob Ritchie
Michele Wagner (daughter of Betty and Willis Wagner)
April Breeding
Juanita Baggett
Carolyn Gentry
Eleanor Hutton
Cindy Halsey (sister of Pam Hill)
Kathy Dohman
Gary Wallace
J. G. Lester
Linda Parsons
Anna Marie Smith (granddaughter of Delores Wagner)
Rusty Cline
Dr. Robert Lominack
Daryl Phillips
Ruby Clark
John Williams
Ryan Conklin
Mike Blevins
Ronnie Blevins
Bea Mason
Brion Ferratt
Craig Taylor (in Afghanistan)
Don Haynes (brother of Harry Haynes)
Norma Arnold (friend of Carolyn Gentry)
Scott Rasnake (brother-in-law of Bonnie Ballinger)
Madeline Wagner
Eleanor Mahaun (mother of Steve Johnston)

WE EXTEND our Christian love and sympathy to:

Lois Buchanan and her family upon the death of her sister-in-law (Shrimp's sister), Mrs. Nancy Buchanan Durham on January 2nd

Alice and Isaac Freeman upon the death of Isaac's brother-in-law, Floyd Donahue, on January 5th

Kathryn Beattie upon the death of her son, Spencer Beattie, on December 26th

Christine Wallace upon the death of her sister, Roberta Hickey Owens, on December 20th.

Jack and Barbara Henderson and Peggy Wright upon the death of James Barclay Wright (Barbara's uncle and Peggy's brother in law) on December 30th.

Charlotte Callahan Counts and Kay Williams upon the death of Fred Surber (Charlotte's brother in law and Kay's uncle) on January 1st.

Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2013 are available on table in narthex. If you do not see your name and would like envelopes, please speak with Ann.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE is challenging the congregation to donate 2013 cans of soup during the year 2013. The soup will be split between Glade Spring Food Bank and Faith in Action. Place your donation in basket in narthex.

FOOD BANK – Our week to work is January 14-18. Monday 10:00-1:00; Tuesday 5:00-7:00; Friday 10:00-1:00. Although these are official pick up times for clients, they usually start earlier if there is a crowd. For more information, check with Stan Williams.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICE for officers was held on Sunday, January 6th, during morning worship. Those ordained/installed were to the Board of Deacons: Class of 2014-Daniel Cline; Class of 2015-Damon Lester, Anita Robinson and Bob Stanberry. Session: Class of 2015-Michael Colston, Clark Hutton and Bobbi Ryburn; Trustees – Class of 2015 – Rebecca DeBusk and Jim Hutton.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to those who have served as officers and now rotate off – Session: Michael Colston, Rebecca DeBusk, Steve Johnston, O.M. Porterfield, Jr.; Board of Deacons: Ruth Ann Arington, Susan Henderson, Mary Kay Stanberry, Betty Jo Tuell; Trustees: Clark Hutton, O.M. Porterfield, Jr.

Thank you for your generosity – Our Joy Gift Offering collected on December 23, 2013 was \$370.00.

A special thank you to Michael, Andy and the choir for enriching our Advent season with wonderful music. Also a special thank you to those who led Advent Candlelighting Services.

New Address: Rob and Julie Pruitt, 610 South 4th St., Mebane, NC 27302.

Those who would like to serve the church in ways in which their gifts can be used in service to our Lord are asked to review the various committees and their work. An insert in the upcoming bulletins will list committees and their work in order that you may sign up.

Those interested in confirmation classes to learn about our faith and join the church are invited to call the church office or talk with Rev. Bird