

THE PIEDMONT EPISTLE

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS BY WORD AND DEED

July/August 2018

Summer's Temptations

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Summer presents us Christians with a particular challenge, a certain temptation. For in summer the challenge is to stay engaged, to maintain connection, to keep up the habit of “church.” There are so many other, very good things that vie for our attention in this season—family trips, hosting guests, working in the garden, pool time, beach trips. It’s easy to forget about worship and about God.

Yet, we are called in the midst of these pleasures to remember the source of our many blessings and to give thanks for them. Indeed, summer gives us even more reason to give thanks, with all the joys it provides—like extra long days to play and work in the yard!

This is why, despite comparably low attendance, churches all across the country still have services in the summer. Believe me, it would be nice if we followed the school schedule, having services only nine months out of the year. But the reason we don’t is because our need for direction, comfort, forgiveness, assurance and renewal—our need for God—doesn’t take a vacation. Our need for relationship, for connection with God, and with each other, knows no season or calendar. It’s part of our fundamental make-up—God made us for relationship with Him. Worship, then, allows us to fully be who we are, who God made us to be, by providing for us a time to stop our work—and our play—and to give thanks for the blessings they bring us. Pausing to acknowledge the One who has blessed us will not take away from the joys we share but will in fact enrich them, deepen them as we recognize them for the gifts that they are.

So the next time you consider “playing hooky,” in favor of some other enjoyable activity, remember that we participate in worship not for God’s sake—God doesn’t *need* our worship. Rather, the reason we worship is because *we* need it. We need to worship, to spend time with God and each other, to enjoy that fellowship and support, and to support one another. Worship is God’s gift to us, not our gift to God. And it’s a gift He gives throughout every season of the year, thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,

W Terry Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Loose Plate Offering

The Loose Plate Offering (cash) that is collected on the fourth Sunday of July and the fourth Sunday of August will be used to purchase backpacks and school supplies for the underprivileged students of Madison county. Please remember these children in your giving.

MESA Food Donations

Please bring a can, bag, bottle, or box of non-perishable food item to give to the MESA food pantry.

Taste of the Mountains—September 1--Continuing long-standing tradition, our congregation will host a children's game booth at the annual food fair here in Madison. Please contact Bev Young if you could help with its set-up, operation, or taking-down.

Rally Day-- September 9

Mark your calendars! Rally Day 2018 will be September 9. Rally Day is the day we “rally” our members for the start of Sunday School and the program year. The celebration will include special activities.

Vacation Bible School—July 1, 8, 15, & 22

This summer's VBS will take place on the first four Sundays of July, 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. and will be outside with plenty of activities, games, crafts and stories. The topic this year is David and promises lots of drama and inspiration. Please contact the church or Bev Young if interested.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
 11:30 a.m. Refreshments in the parish house
Wednesday 10:00 a.m. Community Book Discussion
Thursday 7:00 p.m. Bible Fellowship – parish house

If you know of someone who is unable to get to church, but would like to receive communion, please let Father Terry or Deacon Kathryn know and they will arrange for a visitation.

From the Junior Warden

Garden helpers would be greatly appreciated...Just a simple stop by the church to water one of the gardens or pull some weeds would be a great boon...the dry weather is a bit worrying! Please call Hardie if you are willing!

PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS

We offer prayers of healing for friends and family:

Melvin Amos	Lisa Gardner	Susan Mowchan
Corey Barker	Cynthia Gerstner	Dorothy Mudd
Emily Begovitch (Kathy Henken's niece)	Carrie Gilles	Susan Muston
Fran Bowers	The Gleason family	Amanda Paff
Jean Brashears	Griff & Vera Griffin	Sara Parmenter
Max Brown (Sue Burnett's friend, 4-y.o.)	Stanley Griffin (Vera & Griff's son)	Beau Puryear
Jane Camerer	Reggie Hall (Barbara Straightiff's brother-in- law)	Maria Rosenberg
Doris & Roland Chapman	Luke Harbert	Myia MacKenzie Shifflett
Sandra Clore (Waltine Robinson's niece)	Sue Lam	Lorraine Sandifer
The Cox family	Ted and Rene Hinds	Jacqueline Smith
Harley Cronk	The Hitt family	Matt Tsun
David Cronk	Ren LeVally (Dink's son)	Robert Ulrich
Janice Edwards	Keira & Brendan Miller	Bernie Valdez
The Filmore Family	Rosalie Mow (Doug's mother)	Donna Whitman (friend of the Griffiths)
Patrick & Sean Fohner		Augusta Woodward
James Gardiner		Jeff Yowel

We pray for peace and the restoration of people's safety and dignity in Philippines, Pakistan, Syria, Iraq, Israel, Palestine, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Iran, Sudan, West Africa, and the Congo. We pray for the victims of violence and natural disasters throughout the world.

We pray for the men and women in the armed services, especially Mike Butterworth, Patrick DaSilva, Graham Davidson, Sean Hegg, R.E. Hutton, Nathan Kinkey, Alex Gochenour, Jeffery Mainwaring, Todd Mainwaring, Anthony Mark, and Clay Puryear, and for our first responders. We pray for our presiding bishop, Michael Curry; our bishops, Shannon Johnston, Susan Goff, Bob Ihloff, the churches of the Diocese of Virginia, and for our 70 million brothers and sisters in the Anglican Communion.

We pray for the families in Barbara's House; for the work of Madison Emergency Services Association, Madison Free Clinic, Literacy Council of Madison County, Boy's and Girl's Club of Madison, Senior Nutrition Site, Madison County Education Foundation, Boy Scout Troop 116, and Madison Strong.

We pray for our youth in college: Nick Bader, Austin & Victoria Detchon, Josh Good, Izzie Hansen, Ben Landolt, Sam Landolt, Paul Jackson, Peter Thawngzauk, Jacob Young, & Nathan Young.

We give thanks to God for all the families in this blessed Piedmont Church, and especially for the work God has done in the life of Peter Bank, in his recovery from surgery. Gracious Lord, guide, preserve and protect your servants as they create for your glory a holy family of love. May their love for each other be a sign of your tender care.

Graves Chapel News

Movie Night is back at Graves Chapel on Saturday July 21, 2018. The movie chosen for the evening is: *Grapes of Wrath*

Grapes of Wrath is a 1940 American drama film directed by John Ford. It was based on John Steinbeck's 1939 Pulitzer Prize winning novel of the same name.

The film tells the story of the Joads, an Oklahoma family, who, after losing their farm during the Great Depression in the 1930s, become migrant workers and end up in California. The motion picture details their arduous journey across the United States as they travel to California in search of work and opportunities for the family members.

The film is widely considered as one of the *greatest American films of all time.*"

The evening begins promptly at 5:00 p.m. with pizza and refreshments being offered. And promptly at 5:30 p.m., the movie will begin.

It is a *very* interesting movie....one we know you won't want to miss!!!!

So please join us. Bring your neighbors, family, and friends....have a great week....