

# THE PIEDMONT EPISTLE

*PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS BY WORD AND DEED*

October 2018

Dear people of Piedmont,

I write you from thousands of miles away, from the land of Israel. This is my second day of my pilgrimage and already I've seen so much-- the ruins of Caesarea where the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate lived, Capernaum, the town from which Jesus did so much of his ministry, and the ruins of Megiddo, which is an important town in central Israel that has seen over twenty distinct settlements going back thousands of years--to name just a few. I'll admit I'm starting to acquire a reputation for myself on the tour for being the last one on the bus after each stop-- because I just want to see everything!

It really is valuable to visit the Holy Land, if only to gain a better appreciation and perspective on the terrain and history of this part of the world. One of the insights I've already acquired is one that is immediately obvious once you come here--that is, just how tough it would have been to live in travel here 2000 years ago. There is almost no place that is flat, hills and mountains cover the land. There are not a lot of water sources or vegetation outside of the cultivated (irrigated) areas. The sun is surprisingly strong, blinding and hot, with days in the 80s and 90s even now in October. That doesn't mean the land is without beauty, of course. But being here has made me appreciate the effort and exertion as implied when the gospel says simply, "and Jesus travel from this town to that town." Even when the towns were neighboring, that would mean several hours of walking uphill and downhill in the hot midday sun without any shade. When you're doing something like that, there really isn't anything else to do except to get lost in your thoughts--and to pray.

That observation has led me to wonder if one of the challenges we face as Christians today is not how easy it is to get around, to travel. Sure, such ease of travel is a great blessing, allowing us to access certain markets, to visit distant friends and relatives, and even to travel to the other side of the world! But it comes at a cost, a loss of time to think, to be alone with our thoughts, to be alone with God. Without such automatic

compulsory time by ourselves, it is incumbent upon us modern-day travelers to make time in our day, to allow ourselves space and time for reflection, for questioning, for being quiet, for praying to God. That could be while working in the garden, while driving, while hiking, or while doing any number of other activities, but the point is the need to make space in our days for time with ourselves and with God.

That is just one in-site that I've had from the two days I've been here, and I'm sure I'll have plenty more before the trip is over. But I share that with you, that it may edify and benefit you now.

I would be horribly remiss too, if I didn't take a moment to express my immense gratitude for the generosity you have shown me and sending me on this journey. I was entirely surprised and filled with gratitude at the gift you sent me with. I'm searching for ways in which I may use it to bless our congregation, but I promise you it won't be a t-shirt!

I will look forward to seeing you all in 2 weeks and sharing more of what I've discovered on this journey!

Yours in Christ,  
Terry+

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Loose Plate Offering**

The Loose Plate Offering (cash) that is collected on the fourth Sunday of September (October 28) will be the purchase Thanksgiving meals for needy families next month. 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.

## 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 Study, parish house

## PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS

We offer prayers of healing for friends and family:

Melvin Amos	Cynthia Gerstner	Abigail Newman
Corey Barker	Carrie Gilles	Carol Nowak
Barbara Beach	The Gleason family	Amanda Paff
Emily Begovitch (Kathy Henken's niece)	Griff & Vera Griffin	Sara Parmenter
Fran Bowers	Stanley Griffin (Vera & Griff's son)	The Puryear family
Jean Brashears	Reggie Hall (Barbara Straightiff's brother-in-law)	Maria Rosenberg
Max Brown (Sue Burnett's friend, 4-y.o.)	Susan Hansen	Lorraine Sandifer
Jane Camerer	Luke Harbert	Myia MacKenzie Shifflett
Doris & Roland Chapman	Sue Lam	Jacqueline Smith
Sandra Clore (Waltine Robinson's niece)	Ted and René Hinds	Barbara Straightiff
The Cox family	The Hitt family	Stephanie & Keith Stricker
Harley Cronk	Serenity Grace Lemen	Abraham Thomas
David Cronk	Ren LeValley (Dink's son)	Bob Thomas
Janice Edwards	Richard Medeiros Jr.	Matt Tsun
The Filmore Family	Keira & Brendan Miller	Robert Ulrich
Patrick & Sean Fohner	Rosalie Mow (Doug's mother)	Bernie Valdez
James Gardiner	Susan Mowchan	Donna Whitman (friend of the Griffiths)
Lisa Gardner	Dorothy Mudd	Augusta Woodward
	Susan Muston	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 in Beirut, Baghdad, Kenya, Paris, and San Bernardino.

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, and Boy Scout Troop 116.

We pray for our youth in college: Nick Bader, 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

Our next Evening Prayer Service, at Graves Chapel, will be Sunday October 28, 2018--at 4:00pm. So please mark your calendars!

Graves Chapel is located at 104 Bluff Mountain Road  
Madison (Graves Mill), Virginia.

Everyone is welcome! Bring your neighbors, and any additional friends and/or guests...

Should you have special prayer requests or needs, please feel free to contact our Lay Preacher Susan Bagby.

Additionally, Susan can offer you spiritual direction. She is a counselor and is certified as a spiritual director. There are no fees associated with her professional services however she does request a tax deductible donation be made directly to Graves Chapel.

Please feel free to contact Susan at:

[Susanhbagby@gmail.com](mailto:Susanhbagby@gmail.com) or,

Telephone---434.978.1627

A good week to all--be safe!