

**Food for thought from J**

**February 7, 2021**

If you missed this past Sunday’s service and sermon, you also missed God’s providence on full display. After spending most of this new year in our sanctuary services discussing how we as Christians can and should respond to the apparent chaos that surrounds us, I believe God spoke through Pastor Greg to offer the primary challenge and first step we all must take if we would truly seek to make the world around us a better place and to be a part of building and living God’s kingdom right here and now. That challenge: Begin by looking inward and making sure we are living personal lives that seek, first, to build up, to love, to support, and to share the love of Christ with everyone we encounter. One of the first ways we do this is by exorcising those demons from our lives that keep us from moving forward toward the perfection in love of God and neighbor that Jesus taught as the greatest commandments.

As I listened to Greg’s message, I was reminded of that classic novel by Christian author Frank Peretti, *This Present Darkness*, in which he envisioned a parallel existence where a constant war is being waged for the lives and souls of humanity, with demons literally clinging to the backs of the book’s characters and forcing them inexorably into anger, frustration, violence, and despair. While I don’t necessarily vouch for the theology espoused in the book, the image of a demon of hatred or anger or frustration weighing me down and stealing my Christian joy as I watch the evening news or read about the latest political absurdities out of Washington is a poignant but powerful reminder of my need to do everything I can to cast off these kinds of demons – and to do it NOW!

Thankfully, we can win this battle for our souls if we will return our focus to those things that strengthen our spiritual health rather than those that feed the demons that would bring us down. When activities like reading, studying, and reflecting on God’s word, establishing a robust and regular prayer routine, worshipping together in community with other disciples, and looking for opportunities to serve those in need become the priorities in our lives they not only draw us closer to God, but also, they drown out the noise and distractions of the world around us that serve as the primary food for our “demons.”

May we all heed Greg’s timely advice and commit – right now – to taking that important first step toward reclaiming the peace, joy, hope, and love that is promised to us as followers of Christ.

*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. – Ephesians 6:12*

**IN MEMORIAM**

Ralph Hammond  
January 29, 2021

*“In my Father’s house are many mansions...”*

**IN MEMORIAM**

Pat McKenzie  
our recently retired preschool teacher  
February 1, 2021

*“In my Father’s house are many mansions...”*

**LOVE AND SYMPATHY**

To Nancy Abernathy’s on the death of her mother, Faye Beal, January 27, 2021.

A DISCIPLESHIP LEAF has been Given in Loving Memory of Jean Adams by The Joyful Noise Class

*The Chancel Flowers are given by  
Carolyn Holland in memory of my  
mother and paternal grandmother who  
celebrated the same birthday,  
February 5th.*

### MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Rev. Mike McAfee** by Lynda & Bennett Massey; Ramona & Andy Andresen  
In memory of **Jim Dryman** by Lynda & Bennett Massey; Jeanine Cotton  
In memory of **Art Bishop** by Lynda & Bennett Massey  
In memory of **Harold Moon** by Lynda & Bennett Massey  
In memory of **Charles Kromer, Jr.** by Lynda & Bennett Massey  
In memory of **Robert Taylor** by Lynda & Bennett Massey  
In memory of **Franklin Baxley** by Lynda & Bennett Massey  
In memory of **Jean Adams** by Melinda & Ron Ward; Joanne Cole; Margaret Whitaker; Donna & Kerry Hand; Kermitt Cox & family; Zane Draughon; Debbie Yates; Mary Mims; Bobby Porch; Carol & Doug Harvey; Beverly Schlitzkus; Lynda & Bennett Massey; Mr. & Mrs. Marty Roller; Kaye & Harold Hill; Teri & Dan Parker; Robert Guiliano; Lynn Boudolf; Pam & Steve Davis; Jeanine Cotton; Kecia & Eddie Cawthorne; Marguerite & Robert Murdock; Ramona & Andy Andresen  
In memory of **Ralph Hammond** by Carol Hammock; Lynn & Bill White; Lynda & Bennett Massey

### Our Known Prayer Concerns:

Sue Rogers	Lexie McRae
Jennefer Spell	Kathy Draughon
John and Saunders Richey	Norma Meadows
Brad Trim	Carolyn McCollum
Glenn Killough	Teagan Gregory
Matthew Allen	Eric Sears
Anne Turner	Dorothy Robinson
Calleen Gregory	Bart Wilson

### Christian Sympathy for loss of loved one:

Family of Julia Holland  
Alyssa & Dom Edwards & family  
Renee & Glen Summerlin & family  
Sandy Dryman & family  
Jerry Adams & family  
Nancy Hammond & family

### School Supplies Needed for Wynnton Arts Academy

As schools resume the opportunity for in-person instruction, our Partner-In-Education, Wynnton Arts Academy, needs our help. Over the past several years, we have held a school supply drive at this time and your response has been amazing! We're hoping that your generosity will continue despite the COVID-19 virus that has totally changed the way we do things.

Below is a list of items the school can use. If you are so inclined, please pick up one or more of these items when you are out and about. There will be a collection bin inside the south entrance to the church (where your temperature is taken) beginning this Sunday, Jan. 24; it will remain there through Sunday, Feb. 14. You may also bring your items during the week when the church office is open (Tuesday-Thursday, 9-12). Thank you for your wonderful support of Wynnton Arts Academy.

Glue Sticks  
Crayons (preferably, boxes of 24)  
Colored Pencils  
Markers (preferably the fat Crayola type)  
Children's size scissors  
#2 pencils  
Teachers always need bottles of hand sanitizer and kleenex.

### PLEASE NOTE:

They do not need notebook paper, 3 prong folders, or composition notebooks, at this time.

### BASEMENT NEWS



Youth will meet from 5:30-7:30 p.m.! Please wear masks. Temperatures will be taken at the door.

## JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR! 🎵

Charles Wesley had a profound conversion to Christ moment on May 21, 1738. His conversion had a clear impact on the doctrine of his hymns and poetry which were rich in literary allusion. *Jesus Lover of My Soul*, was one of the many writings that were penned after Wesley's conversion. Originally a poem, *Jesus Lover of My Soul*, was not paired with a hymn tune or included in a hymnal until 1797, nine years after Charles Wesley's death. American Congregational Clergyman, Henry Ward Beecher, said of this hymn, "I would rather have written that hymn of Wesley's than to have the fame of all the kings that ever sat on earth. It is more glorious. It has more power in it. But that hymn will go on singing until the last trump brings forth the angel band; and then, I think, it will mount up on some lip to the very presence of God".

This Sunday, our choir will share the rich text of Wesley's poetry as we sing *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*, arranged by Joseph Martin.

"Jesus, lover of my soul, draw me to Thy wounded side, while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high. Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past, safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none; hangs my helpless soul on Thee. Leave, O leave me not alone, still support and comfort me. All my trust on Thee is stayed, all my help from Thee I bring. Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of Thy wing. Plenteous grace with Thee is found, grace to cover all my sin. Let the healing streams abound, make and keep me pure within. Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of Thee. Spring Thou up within my heart, rise to all eternity! Jesus, lover of my soul, draw me to Thy wounded side.

*"For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you." So we may boldly say:  
"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"* Hebrews 13:5-6

God's Great Peace to You!  
Diana B.

## READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

- February 7:** Hebrew 3:1-4:13, Genesis 48, Psalm 38  
**February 8:** Hebrew 4:14-6:12, Genesis 49-50, Psalm 39  
**February 9:** Hebrew 6:13-20, Exodus 1-2, Psalm 40  
**February 10:** Hebrews 7, Exodus 3-4, Psalm 41  
**February 11:** Hebrews 8, Exodus 5:1-6:27, Proverbs 1  
**February 12:** Hebrews 9:1-22, Exodus 6:28-8:32, Proverbs 2  
**February 13:** Hebrews 9:23-10:18, Exodus 9-10, Proverbs 3

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 7 Kason Crosby, Jill Yates  
8 Dan Booth, Margaret Goodroe  
9 Win Cawthorne  
11 Kim Carroll, Ben Edwards, Carson Jones, Lynn White  
12 Larry Spell  
13 Denise Hill

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

### 1-31-21

General Fund.....	6,376.00
Endowment Fund.....	337.50
Other Income.....	1,372.50

## SUNDAY'S SERMON

*Staying the Course - Part 1*  
John 14:30-31  
Rev. J Grantham

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**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**Sunday, February 7**

9:30 a.m. Virtual Sunday School - Facebook Live  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship - Sanctuary  
Rev. J Grantham - Streams Live on  
Facebook  
11:00 a.m. The Link - Fellowship Hall  
Rev. Greg Harrison  
5:30 p.m. Basement - Youth

**Tuesday, February 9**

9:45- 12:15p.m. Open Door Circles - Fellowship Hall  
6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting - Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, February 10**

10:00 a.m. Women's Zoom Bible Study  
6:00 p.m. Community Prayer - Fellowship Hall  
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, February 11**

6:30 a.m. Men's Zoom Bible Study  
10:00 a.m. Backpacks of Grace

**PASTOR ON-CALL**

For emergencies Feb. 5-7,  
Rev. Greg Harrison 478-955-1577

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