

Food for thought from J

March 21, 2021

March 15 marked the one-year anniversary of our first Sunday of shutdown for the COVID19 pandemic. Now, as we very naturally reflect on our experiences of the past year and our hopes for the future, I want to share some thoughts on the year that has been and give you some important updates for the future.

I am so blessed to be a part of a church with the lay leadership, courage, and wisdom to chart a course, over this last year, that was committed to balancing a continued offering of worship and Christian education activities with the need to offer the safest possible environment for these activities. By implementing and embracing digital and streaming technology, as well as, reasonable and safe practices for in-person worship and missional activities, we were able to maintain the connection within our Wynnton family and continue to provide opportunities for our members and constituents to be nourished spiritually and grow as disciples of Christ. Perhaps most importantly, we were able to do this without causing any incidents of community spread of COVID or associated loss of life within our church.

So, what's next for Wynnton? As more of our church family receives vaccinations and the rate of infection and complication from COVID in our community declines, I understand that we are all anxious to "get back to normal." I assure each of you that the leadership group charged with making decisions about the implementation of our "Reopening Plan" is committed to beginning the process of safely reintroducing those church activities that are so important to all. Already, you may notice more members of our choir singing each week as that group is vaccinated and we utilize strategic positioning of those musicians to minimize risk for those who have not yet received the vaccine. Additionally, last week, we began discussing possible intermediate steps to allow the vaccinated members of Sunday school classes and Bible study groups to begin meeting in-person again in the church. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be reaching out to the leaders of these groups to discuss options and timing for this.

Of course, mask wearing remains a major question for most of us. I share your fatigue with this practice, and I look forward to a time, hopefully soon, when we can discard them once and for all. However, a foundational principle of our initial reopening procedures included a commitment to following CDC guidelines regarding best practices around such things as mask wearing, social distancing, temperature checks, etc. Currently, the CDC continues to recommend the wearing of a mask in large groups and in public or enclosed spaces – even for those who have been fully vaccinated. Consequently, for now, our mask wearing procedures will remain unchanged, even for those who have been vaccinated. Again though, I assure you we are looking at the research, the "science," and considering what is best for our church, and we are committed to a return to "normal" as soon as possible.

I truly believe we are nearing the end of this dark chapter in the life of our country and our church, and I thank God for bringing us through this last year safely and with our fellowship intact. I am also thankful to all of you who have been unwavering in your prayers for me, our church, and its leaders during these difficult times. While we are all anxious to take those next big steps toward relaxing the restrictions we have lived under for the past year, I pray that we might have the strength and faith to stay the course during this final stretch, as we continue to pursue the Christlike goal of loving, protecting, and respecting the safety of the most vulnerable among us.

God bless you. God bless your commitment to our church. God bless our work in living God's kingdom every day.



GIFTS OF LOVE

In honor of **My Mother Doris Hicks** by Danette Copeland

In honor of **Jean Mullins** by Alice & Steve Smith

In honor of **John & Saunders Richey** by Alice & Steve Smith

The Chancel Flowers are given in honor of Art and Susan Chriss's 53rd Wedding Anniversary by their children and grandchildren

Wynnton UMC College Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for the 2021 College Scholarship. The scholarship is for members of Wynnton pursuing any field of study at an accredited school of higher learning. Applications along with guidelines for the scholarship are now available in the church office. All applications must be received in the church office no later than May 2, 2021. For further information, please call the church office at 706-324-2424.



EASTER LILIES

The cost of Easter Lilies will be \$15.00 each this year. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 21st. See the attached form.

BASEMENT NEWS



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

Chancel Flowers

Thank you to everyone who has beautified our sanctuary with flowers this year! If anyone is interested in putting flowers in, there are openings starting April 18 through May. Please call the church office at 706-324-2424 or email brendawilson@wynntonumc.org if you are interested.

Giving Thanks for our Endowment Fund

Last Sunday, the committee that manages our endowment fund provided our Trustees with a check for the annual earnings from this account in the amount of \$169,381.97. Our endowment fund, and the earnings it provides to our church every year, is one of the great blessings enjoyed by Wynnton. The annual earnings from this fund allow us to provide important financing for missions, as well as, to tackle major building maintenance and improvement projects without having to rely solely on our operating budget. Over the last few years, these projects have included purchasing and installing the necessary equipment to offer a high-quality live streaming worship experience, repainting the exterior of our church, refurbishing our beautiful pipe organ, and upgrading our heating and air conditioning equipment, to name just a few.

As we celebrate the blessing this fund represents for Wynnton, let us also give thanks and remember those who have contributed to it over the years, as well as, the work of both our Endowment Committee, which provides wise oversight of the fund, and our Trustees who prudently management the use of the proceeds from the fund for the betterment of our church.

JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR! 🎵

The cross is a metonym; a word used as a substitute for something else closely related. It calls to mind something profound, a larger reality. The Cross of Christ is widely regarded as the center of our faith as Christians. It changes everything! The Cross of Christ centers around salvation.

1 Peter 2:24-25

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

George Bennard began his ministry with the Salvation Army. He was later ordained by the Methodist Episcopal Church as a traveling Evangelist. During one troubling meeting in Michigan, Bennard was unsettled by the congregants' disregard for the Gospel. He turned to scripture to reflect on the work of Christ on the cross. He later recalled, "I seemed to have a vision, I saw Christ and the cross as inseparable." At a series of meetings in Albion, Michigan, George Bennard began and completed the first verse to his well-known hymn, "The Old Rugged Cross". He later wrote, "The inspiration came to me one day in 1913, when I was staying in Albion, Michigan. I began to write "The Old Rugged Cross". I composed the melody first. The words of the finished hymn were put in to my heart to answer my own need."

This Sunday, the Chancel Choir will sing Joseph Martin's lyrical, reflective, arrangement of Bennard's, "The Old Rugged Cross". Martin's music will take the singer and the listener on a journey to the cross, where we will cherish not only the old rugged cross, but also the crucified Christ, the Son of God who used the cross to seek and save all believers.

"On a Hill Far Away" words by George Bennard, music by Joseph Martin
On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners
was slain. So, I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay
down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, rugged cross, and exchange it
someday for a crown. Oh, that old rugged cross so despised by the world has
a wondrous attraction for me; for the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. So, I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my
trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, rugged cross,
and exchange it someday for a crown. To the old rugged cross I will ever be
true, its shame and reproach gladly bear; then He'll call me someday to my
home far away, where His glory forever I'll share. So, I'll cherish the old
rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged
cross, rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown, and exchange it
some day for a crown.

In prayer, let us praise and thank God for the glorious victory Christ gained through His death on the cross, through His resurrection and through His ascension, and to thank God, that by His grace, He has given us the same amazing, wonderful, victory through His Son, Jesus Christ!

Yours in Christ,
Diana B.

WYNNTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

In a recent sermon, Pastor J talked about the tradition of "giving up something" for Lent. March is Wynnton's month to donate food to fill the pantry at the Network, and a great opportunity to act on Pastor J's challenge. Grocery bags with a suggested list of items needed have been placed in the church. Among the suggested items are canned meat, vegetable, beans, tomato products, fruit, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti noodles and sauce, peanut butter, jelly, rice, and soup. Please take one and fill it with your donations and then return it to the church. Your generosity will fulfill the ministry of the Network to help those in our community who are in need.

If you would also like to make a financial contribution, Wynnton Neighborhood Network now has a website at wynntonneighborhoodnetwork.org and there is a link to accept online donations. Thank you for your support.

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies March 19-21,
Rev. Greg Harrison 478-955-1577

Our Known Prayer Concerns:

Sue Rogers	Lexie McRae
Jennefer Spell	Kathy Draughon
John and Saunders Richey	Norma Meadows
Glenn Killough	Carolyn McCollum
Matthew Allen	Teagan Gregory
Anne Turner	Dorothy Robinson
Calleen Gregory	Nancy Abernathy
Bobby Porch	Will Rucker
	Wanda Jones

Christian Sympathy for loss of loved one:

Renee & Glenn Summerlin & family
 Sandy Dryman & family
 Jerry Adams & family
 Nancy Hammond & family
 Nancy Abernathy & family
 Mike Johnson & family
 Chris Alexander & family
 Ernest Hale & family

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, March 21

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, March 23

9:45- 12:15p.m. Open Door Circles - Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 24

10:00 a.m. Women’s Zoom Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. Community Prayer Service
 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 25

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

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

March 21: Matthew 19:16-30, Numbers 11-12, Ecclesiastes 8
March 22: Matthew 20:1-16, Numbers 13-14, Ecclesiastes 9:1-12
March 23: Matthew 20:17-34, Numbers 15-16, Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:20
March 24: Matthew 21:1-27, Numbers 17-18, Ecclesiastes 11:1-8
March 25: Matthew 21:28-46, Numbers 19-20, Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:14
March 26: Matthew 22:1-22, Numbers 21, Song of Solomon 1:1-2:7
March 27: Matthew 22:23-46, Numbers 22:1-40, Song of Solomon 2:8-3:5

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

21 Linda Jones, Leslie Weierick, Betty Woodruff
 22 Jo Byrd, Justin Mead
 23 Pam Gilstrap
 24 Linell Pringle, Sharon White
 26 Johnny Daffin, Elizabeth Harbison
 27 Kylie Powell

OUR STEWARDSHIP

3-14-21
 General Fund.....13,768.00
 Endowment Fund.....60.00
 Backpacks of Grace.....20.00
 Other Donations.....15.00
 Wynnton Neighborhood Network.....25.00

SUNDAY’S SERMON

That was Radical!
 Mark 10:35-45
 Rev. J Grantham

WYNNTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Easter Lilies



NAME OF DONOR: _____

Lilies given:

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

You may pick up your lily after the 11:00 a.m. service on April 4.

Please fill out this form and return to the church office along with your payment of \$15.00 each.

Return No Later Than
Sunday, March 21, 2021
Thank you.

