

WMPC WEEKLY

VOLUME LII

MARCH 7, 2018

No. 10

Sitting Still with Scripture

There is no more famous verse in the Bible than John 3:16. My guess is that you have seen it on posters, at sporting events, and have heard it quoted more than once: “For God so loved the world that God gave his only begotten son that whosoever should believe in him would never perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16 is a verse which lays promise upon promise: the kind of promises upon which a person can frame a life; the kind of promises upon which a person can build a faith; the kind of promises upon which a person can learn to trust.

One mistake we commonly make with familiar verses is that we think we know everything there is to know about them because they are familiar. Alongside John 3:16 think Psalm 23, Philippians 3 and 4, Revelation 21, Genesis 1 or Romans 8. The familiar is familiar for good reason: these texts and verses inspire in ways that few other verses have over the ages. But the old saying rings at least a partial caution: “familiarity breeds contempt.” Admittedly, that is a harsh application for the point I am trying to make. For our purposes, let’s change the age-worn saying to this: “familiarity breeds assumptions.”

Some of our assumptions about the Bible are wrong. Some of our assumptions are incomplete. And some of them, even when not incomplete, are less complete than we think they are.

The richness of the Bible is found in the depth of its wisdom and genius. The truths of scripture function on many levels. I sometimes think of the Bible as a skyscraper—dozens and dozens of floors from which to choose, with multiple elevators to lift us onto those floors. No matter how we get to the floors themselves, no matter how we move up and down within the text, each floor in this theoretical building which represents the Bible leads us to God. Each book of the Bible is like a floor in this building. From the longest book of the Bible, the Book of Psalms, to the shortest, Philemon, all pieces of scripture lead us closer to knowing God.

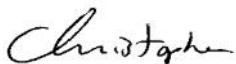
Often, though, we pass right through the familiar books or the familiar verses. We assume we know what John 3 or Psalm 23 is about, and like the floor of a building we have been on many times, we believe we can skip over them. Thereby we assume we know everything there is to discover while there. We don’t revisit them for many years. We value the new experience—or the new chapters and verses—over the familiar.

This is usually a mistake.

This Lent we have invited our church to “be still.” Now is a great time, here in the final weeks of Lent, to sit still with some scripture. To meditate upon it. To study it. To explore it afresh. I encourage our entire church family to look into scripture, to once again explore the familiar texts which have shaped our church and our faith.

So, once you finish reading this letter, go get your Bibles. Read the texts you remember from your past. Revisit some you have not visited for a while. Search on the internet for a list of “great Bible passages” and read those. Go deep, sit still and discover what God will reveal to you.

May stilling grace abound,



Christopher Edmonston

Worship on March 11, the Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.: Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.: OnPoint@1704 - Pickard

Sermon:

Sitting Still at the Center of Faith

Scripture:

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; John 3: 14-21

Hymns:

Out of the Depths
There is a Balm in Gilead
Goodness is Stronger than Evil

Baptism:

9:30: Jonah Rex Craven,
child of Mandy Hayes and Lee Craven;
11:00: Olivia Speight West,
child of Ivy and Mark West

Bulletins are available online.

Church Office Telephone Number:
919-834-3424

Pastor-On-Call Telephone Number:
919-605-4593



Ride the Shuttle!

Avoid the traffic around the church and ride the shuttle from Carolina Place, 2626 Glenwood Avenue, on Sundays. Shuttle service begins at 8:45 a.m. and continues until the 11:00 a.m. worship service concludes and everyone is back to their cars. Hayes Barton United Methodist operates a shuttle from the same location, so look for the WMPC sign in the shuttle bus window.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers and Christian Concerns to:

Dana Jones, Parker, Amy, Ella and Parks Jones, and Cameron Jones on the death of Dana's mother, Rebecca Dixon Councilman, February 22; **Beth and Andy Betts, Brad, Lauren and Julia Betts, and Tyler Betts** on the death of Beth's mother, Mary Hinson Lloyd, February 26.

Congratulations to:

Tricia and David Parker on the birth of grandchild Jack Parker Sivertson, February 5, to Lawson and Erik Sivertson.

New Presbyterians:

Evans Rachel Brewer, born February 16, child of Allison and Jim Brewer, grandchild of Sara and Clark Brewer.

Hospitals (*designates discharged):

Rex: *Bill Farley; **UNC-Chapel Hill:** *Embree Duffy;
Hillcrest Rehab: *Louise Hartung.

Birth Announcements

Sometimes, due to short hospital stays and weekend births, we miss finding out about our "new Presbyterians." Call Rebecca Turner at 919-834-3425, ext. 222, if you have a new baby.

In the Church Triumphant

Glenn Franklin Bitler, Sr. – March 3, 2018
WMPC family members: son and daughter-in-law - Geff and Dorothea Bitler; grandchildren and their families - Brooke, Tyler and Andrew Poole; Amanda and Ken Smith; Glenn Bitler III; and Mary Morgan and Robert Keyser

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE



Stephen Ministry

Are you experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation or separation?

Would you welcome someone to walk along side you to speak with about this journey? Stephen Ministers are Christian

men and women trained to provide confidential one-to-one care.

They have a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. If you or someone you know would like to receive support from a Stephen Minister, please contact Robert Galloway, Pastoral Resident, at rgalloway@whitememorial.org or 919-834-3425, ext. 251.

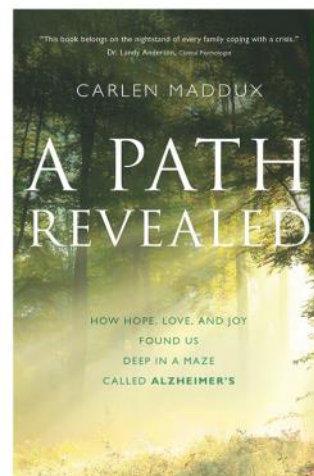
Batter Up!

The WMPC Softball team is actively recruiting new team members as we seek to recapture our City of Raleigh Church League Championship. The season starts in early April and our games are Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you are interested in playing competitive softball and building strong relationships with fellow WMPC members, please contact Nick Salvatore at nick.salvatore@jmp.com.

Don't forget to spring forward !

Daylight Saving Time starts this Sunday at 2:00 a.m. Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

A Spiritual Odyssey Through Alzheimer's and Care Giving



Sunday, March 18
3:30 - 4:30 p.m. | C200
Reception to Follow

All are invited to attend.

Author, Carlen Maddux, will share his family's story of how they were sustained through a crisis with Alzheimer's disease.

A Path Revealed "belongs on the nightstand of every family coping with a crisis." - Dr. Landy Anderton, Clinical Psychologist

March 28 newsletter & April 1 bulletin deadline:
Tuesday noon, March 13

lent & holy week

lent & holy week schedule

March 8, 15, 22 (Thursdays)
Lenten Mid-Week Worship*, 12:10 p.m., Chapel
Lunch to follow at 12:35 p.m., Geneva Hall
(no reservations required)

March 25 - Palm Sunday
Regular Worship Schedule

March 26-28 - Holy Week Worship*
6:30 p.m., Chapel

March 28 - Wednesday Together Dinner
Geneva Hall, 5:00-6:45 p.m., Reservations required

March 29 - Maundy Thursday Worship*
7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

March 30 - Good Friday*
7:00 p.m., Sanctuary; Blues, Ballads, Spirituals

March 31 - Easter Vigil, 7:30 p.m.
The congregation is invited to attend the
Easter Vigil at St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Members of WMPC staff will participate

April 1 - Easter Sunrise Service; 6:30 a.m.
Oberlin Baptist Church

Easter Sunday
(Please note 8:15 a.m. worship will
begin at 8:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday)
8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary;
11:00 a.m., OnPoint@1704, Pickard

* Childcare available with reservations at whitememorial.org/register.

EASTER MEMORIALS

Contributions in memory of or in honor of a loved one, family member, friend, or member of the church family are welcomed. Contributions may be for any amount, but a gift of \$20 or more is suggested. To request a memorial or honorarium, fill out and return the form below. Those honored or memorialized will be listed in the Order of Worship for Easter, April 1. All requests must be in the church office by **noon on Monday, March 26**, in order to meet the publication deadline. Call Rebecca Turner at 919-834-3425, ext. 222, with questions.

Easter flowers will stay at the church for morning worship and whenever possible, delivered to homebound members or members in nursing homes. Contributions will go into a fund used for all of the decorations in the sanctuary and chapel for Easter and at other times throughout the year. To sign up to help deliver, contact Amy Claprod at 919-834-3425, ext. 210, or aclaprod@whitememorial.org.

Easter Flower Form

Please Print.

Deadline: noon on Monday, March 26

Name of Donor: _____ Telephone _____

Donation Amount: Given: _____ in honor of, or _____ in memory of

[Please refrain from using titles. List names with first (or goes by name) and last name. Example: Joe Green, or Peggy and John Jones. Due to space constraints, we are unable to note family relationship.]

(Name) _____

(Name) _____

Put form in the offering plate on Sunday or drop it off in the church office to the attention of Rebecca Turner.

The deadline is noon on Monday, March 26.

April 13-14

MEN'S RETREAT 2018



WHAT'S NEXT

THE CHALLENGE OF BEING CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

First WMPC Men's Retreat

Register Now: \$85

March 19 - April 2: \$95

Don't miss this opportunity to grow in community with other men from White Memorial while we enjoy the outdoor setting of Camp New Life. Steve Lindsley, who grew up at WMPC and is the senior pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, will speak on the topic "What's Next: The Challenge of Being Church In the 21st Century." The retreat will open eyes to see how God is "doing a new thing in our midst" and will include deep discussion, live music and great fellowship.

The event will take place April 13-14.

Register at whitememorial.org/register.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY AND MISSIONS

A Taste of Russia

The WMPC Russia Committee invites you to a taste of Russia on Wednesday, March 14, during the Wednesdays Together Dinner from 5:00-6:45 p.m. Macy Aguirre will feature a Russian dish, and we will write nametags using the Cyrillic alphabet and a few other culturally-focused opportunities. No registration is needed other than your regular Wednesday dinner reservations.

Volunteers Needed for Easter Lily Delivery

White Memorial delivers Easter lilies to our homebound members. Our members appreciate the lovely flowers, the personal visit and that they are remembered by White Memorial. If you can help make these special visits on Easter Sunday, April 1, or the week after, call Amy Clapgood at 919-834-3425, ext. 210, to sign up. Even one visit will make a great impact.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery Day Trips

There is still much to do in the eastern part of our state in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. They could use work crews for a variety of tasks. If you have interest in joining in some day trips to the Rocky Mount/Tarboro area, contact Gloria Johnson at gjohnson@whitememorial.org or 919-834-3425, ext. 207.

Seniors Helping Seniors With Technology

It's back! Another great opportunity to enjoy lunch while learning more about your iPhone, iPad or laptop. Senior high school students will be on-hand to help senior adults. Join us Sunday, March 25 from noon to 1:15 p.m. in C200. Register by March 21 with Tonya Higgins at thiggins@whitememorial.org or 919-834-3425, ext. 216.

Food Needed

Remember that food is needed in our local pantries. When shopping, pick up a couple of extra cans to place in the crate in The Connector. Canned pasta, canned meat and canned fruit are always needed.



Oak City Outreach Collection

Help the WMPC Young Adults collect donations for Oak City Outreach. Items needed are: bars of soap, wash cloths (dark colors), lotion, shaving cream, deodorant (men and women), toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, cough drops, tissue (individual packs), lip balm, disposable razors, over the counter pain relievers. Items need to be travel size and unopened/unused. Drop off items in marked bins located in The Connector.



Poland Dinner


March 15 | 5:30 p.m.
Geneva Hall

Join us for dinner with the Evangelical School of Theology Education Center Board of directors. Visit with Wojciech and Marek, and meet members of the board. All are welcome. Dinner is \$6.

Register at whitememorial.org/register by Friday, March 9.

SCHOLA CANTORUM OF WESTMINSTER CHOIR COLLEGE/ RIDER UNIVERSITY IN CONCERT

WMPC | March 11 | 7:00 p.m.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Westminster Schola Cantorum, directed by James Jordan, is one of three curricular choirs at Westminster Choir College. Composed of all students in their second year of study at the college, this ensemble forms a vital link between the technique and artistry gained by students in their first-year experience at the college in the Westminster Chapel Choir and Westminster Symphonic Choir, which performs with many of the world's finest orchestras and is a cornerstone of the Westminster experience.

Questions? Contact Brian White at brian_white@yahoo.com



IBC@WMPC



Don't forget to join us, if you have registered, for a special skype class with Mar Elias*, a school in Israel, on **March 17 from 8:00-9:30 a.m. in Calvin 301**. They will share what it is like to live in Israel today as a youth.



FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN (Infants to 5th graders)



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR EASTER CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 24 | 9:00 a.m. | Pickard Hall

Join us for a morning of fun and fellowship as we prepare for Easter together

9:00 a.m. - Fellowship | 9:15 a.m. - Music and Easter story

9:30 a.m. - Children's egg hunt with special outdoor games for our older elementary children

Please register online at: whitememorial.org/register

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS: PRESENTED SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

New member information is not available online.

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New members are received four times a year.

The next Beginnings class will be April 22, 2018.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Viohl at 919-834-3425, ext. 206, or eviohl@whitememorial.org.



CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Youth Retreats

- Middle and High School Spring Retreat at Camp Don Lee: March 9-11 (check-in begins at 3:30 p.m. in K100).
- Confirmation Retreat at Camp Willow Run: March 10-11 (check in at 7:30 a.m. in Pickard Hall).

Impact Groups

March 11, 5:00-6:30 p.m. See Youth News for locations.

Haiti Youth Mission Trip Orientation

March 15, 6:30- 8:00 p.m. in C200

IBC@WMPC

March 17, 8:00-9:30 a.m. in C200

PYC

March 18, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Bring \$5 for dinner.

Sabbath Sunday

March 25: Family devotional is available in the youth news.

Looking Ahead

- April 1: No PYC - Easter
- Massanetta Youth and Parent Meeting: April 8, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. in C200
- Impact Group Finale: April 8, 5:00-6:30 p.m. See locations in youth news.

Weekly Youth Email Newsletter

Do you want to receive the weekly youth email newsletter that's full of great information? Contact Deb Smith at dsmith@whitememorial.org to be added to the contact list.

Sunday, March 11 (*Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; John 3: 14-21*)

- Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Worship (8:15, 9:30, 11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary; 11:00 a.m. - OnPoint@1704, Pickard)
- 9:30 a.m. - OnPoint House Band (Pickard); Worship Workshop (L309A, L310, S300)
- 12:30 p.m. - Lenten Pysanky Worship for Adults (Geneva)
- 4:30 p.m. - Cancer Companions (C203)
- 5:00 p.m. - 5th Connection (C200); Youth Impact Groups (Off Site)
- 5:30 p.m. - Session Meeting (K200)
- 6:00 p.m. - Youth Choir Rehearsals (Chapel)
- 7:00 p.m. - Schola Cantorum Choir Concert (Sanctuary)

Monday, March 12 (*Ps. 145; Gen. 49:1-28; 1 Cor. 10:14-11:1; Mark 7:24-37*)

- Presbyterian Women Circles: See feature in Feb. 28 newsletter.
- noon - Women's Fellowship Luncheon (Pickard)
- 5:30 p.m. - T'ai Chi for Exercise (Pickard)
- 6:00 p.m. - Men's Bible Study (Chapel)
- 6:30 p.m. - Lenten Study: Final Words from the Cross (C304)
- 6:45 p.m. - Ross Bible Study (C203)
- 7:00 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous (C100); Handbell Choir (S300); Stephen Ministry Training (K302)
- 7:10 p.m. - Jim Gale Bible Study (K100)
- 8:00 p.m. - Adult Basketball (Pickard)

Tuesday, March 13 (*Ps. 146; Gen. 49:29-50:14; 1 Cor. 11:2-34; Mark 8:1-10*)

- 7:00 a.m. - Men's/Women's Breakfast Bible Study (Geneva/K100)
- 8:30 a.m. - Yoga for Exercise (C100)
- 9:30 a.m. - Fit after Fifty (Pickard); God Talk (W400)
- 10:30 a.m. - Lenten Study: Final Words from the Cross (C304); Tues. Morning Bible Study (C301)
- noon - Senior Adult Ministry Committee (W400)
- 3:00 p.m. - Labyrinth Open for Walking (Chapel)
- 4:30 p.m. - StepUp Board Meeting (C200)
- 5:30 p.m. - Property Care Committee (C204); Service Committee (W400)
- 6:00 p.m. - StepUp Life Skills Program/Dinner (Geneva)
- 7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir (L304/S300)
- 7:30 p.m. - Boy Scout Troop 395 (Pickard)

Wednesday, March 14 (*Ps. 147:1-11; Gen. 50:15-26; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; Mark 8:11-26*)

- 9:15 a.m. - FYC Ministry Team (W400)
- 9:30 a.m. - Bible Belles (Off Site)
- 10:00 a.m. - Chair Yoga (C200)
- 4:30 p.m. - Carol Choir (L304); Joyful Noise Choir (S300); Cherub Choir (L311)
- 5:00 p.m. - Wednesdays Together Dinner: A Taste of Russia (Pickard)
- 6:15 p.m. - Youth Band (K100)
- 6:30 p.m. - Disciple 1 (K307)
- 6:45 p.m. - OnPoint House Band (K100)
- 8:00 p.m. - AI-Anon (C100)

Thursday, March 15 (*Ps. 147:12-20; Ex. 1:6-22; 1 Cor. 12:12-26; Mark 8:27-9:1*)

- 8:30 a.m. - Cancer Companion Leaders (K200)
- 9:30 a.m. - Thurs. A.M. Bible Study (W400); T'ai Chi (C200); Lilies of the Field (C301)
- 10:30 a.m. - Keenagers Trip to Ruby Theater (Off Site)
- 11:55 a.m. - Nursery for Worship (L102)
- 12:10 p.m. - Lenten Midweek Worship (Chapel)
- 12:30 p.m. - Lenten Lunch (Geneva)
- 4:00 p.m. - Labyrinth Open for Walking (Chapel)
- 5:30 p.m. - EWST Board Dinner (Geneva)
- 6:00 p.m. - NAMI Peer to Peer (C301); Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (W400)
- 6:30 p.m. - 2018 Haiti Mission Trip Orientation #1 (C200)
- 7:30 p.m. - Webelo Scouts (K304-307); Sanctuary Choir (L304/S300)

Friday, March 16 (*Ps. 148; Ex. 2:1-22; 1 Cor. 12:27-13:3; Mark 9:2-13*)

- 9:30 a.m. - Fit After Fifty (Pickard)
- 8:00 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous (C100)

Saturday, March 17 (*Ps. 149; Ex. 2:23-3:15; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Mark 9:14-29*)

- 8:00 a.m. - International Book Club (C200)
- 8:30 a.m. - Sunday School Setup (Classrooms)
- 9:00 a.m. - NAMI Family to Family (C301)

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MIDSUMMER CELEBRATIONS

WHO: Current 2nd – 5th graders (2017-2018)

WHAT: Supper, drum circle, faith stories, worship, crafts, music, recreation, and drama with children and leaders from our multi-faith, multi-cultural community

WHEN: August 6-9, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: White Memorial Presbyterian Church

COST: \$20.00 (Deadline May 31st)

QUESTIONS?
Harriet Worley (Director): 919-782-9637 or hfworley@nc.rr.com
Lynn Springfield (Staff): 919-834-3425 ext. 232 or lspringfield@whitememorial.org

TO REGISTER for this interfaith program go to:
www.whitememorial.org/children/summer-programs

WE WELCOME CHRISTIAN, MUSLIM,
AND JEWISH CHILDREN TO JOIN US
FOR THIS INTERFAITH PROGRAM!