



APRIL 2018

Pastor's Article

Break your fasts and acts of penitence - Easter heralds a new day dawning - Alleluia!

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed! Henceforth, the first day of each week, Sundays, are seen as "little Easter" celebrations of the resurrection and life everlasting that Jesus Christ, by conquering death has given his followers. We worship and serve a risen savior who is in the world today sharing love and hope and life through the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God for the new life that is ours in Jesus Christ our living Lord! Friends, we are Easter People who know that death has lost its sting and has no lasting hold on us as Jesus disciples. Our message and mission for those living in doubt and despair in this world is one of Faith, Hope, Love and New Beginnings with GOD who is redeeming all things and helping us day to day to live and follow and serve Jesus Christ – who is Lord of heaven and earth!

For April, I want to introduce you to **Hymn Number 502 *We Who Once Were Lost*** in our GLORY TO GOD HYMNAL. This 20th – century Dutch hymn could well be understood as an expansion of the imagery of death and life in Romans 6:1-11, interpreted from a eucharistic perspective. Such short lines and exact rhymes are a challenge to maintain; the art of this text is a measure of its conviction. The text of this hymn was written by Muus Jacobse in 1961 and set to a tune composed by Rik Veelenturf in 1960. Please take some time to meditate upon each line of this powerful communion hymn. We will share this hymn on Easter prior to celebrating the Lord's Supper in worship.

1. We who once were dead now live, fully knowing Jesus as our head. Life is overflowing when he breaks the bread.
2. We were lost in night, but you sought and found us. Give us strength to fight; death is all around us. Jesus, be our light.
3. He became our bread; Jesus died to save us. On him we are fed, eating what he gave us, rising from the dead.
4. Let us share the pain you endured in dying; we shall then remain living; death defying, we shall rise again.
5. Jesus, you were dead, but you rose and, living, made yourself our bread, in your goodness giving life though we were dead.
6. This is your design; in this meal we meet you. Be our bread and wine, Jesus, we entreat you. This shall be our sign.



Pastor Tom Dendy

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Session Updates	2
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	2
Missions and Outreach	3
Youth/Belk Days	
GOD GAB	3
LadyBug Luncheon	3
Volunteers	4
The Shepherd's Table	4
5th Sunday Offering	4
Birthdays	5
Financial Update	5
Preschool	5
Book of Confessions	6
Hospitality	6
Calendar	7
Why I Love CPP	8





On Sunday, April 29, 2018, we will celebrate our first fifteen years of mission and ministry. We will highlight some of the happenings through the years with pictures, video and maybe even some testimony from founding members still active at Celebration. Please plan to stay following worship for an anniversary reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres being hosted by the Celebration Session. Also, we will create a GRATITUDE BULLETIN BOARD with your comments as to how God has blessed you at Celebration during your years of involvement in the mission and ministry here! Spread the word and invite friends to our 15th Anniversary!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received on April 1, Easter. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. In Isaiah 58, God issues a call and a challenge—to love one another more deeply by sharing what we have with those in need. One Great Hour of Sharing is our direct response to the ways in which God has called us to share. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, your dollars become something real: a seed, a fair and dignified wage, immediate help and counseling after a disaster, tools for self-help in addressing injustice and oppression. Consider making a donation at one of the levels listed here and note the impact your gift can make.

\$10 buys Farming tools

\$20 can provide up to 10 jerry cans to help families more easily transport clean water to their homes

\$25 buys a family of chickens

\$30 can buy a bag of seeds to start a small nursery of quickly-growing, drought-tolerant Moringa trees

\$50 can buy a piglet for an economic development and food security project

\$45 can buy a share of a cow—\$450 will buy the whole cow

\$50 can provide a refugee family with a food basket full of essential supplies or a share in a well—\$1,500 will buy a well

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

By Cecilia Evans

In conjunction with the Preschool we will be collecting personal hygiene items in the month of March through April 12. We will be creating hygiene kits to hand out to those less fortunate. We are collecting TRAVEL SIZE items such as shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, lotion, washcloths, deodorant, band aids, first aid cream, combs and brushes, razors etc. For men's articles, they need socks, underwear, t-shirts etc. There is a basket in the hallway for the your donations. Our goal is 1,000 items. These **hygiene items** will be packaged at our April 12 church supper and provided to Helping Hand and the Community Kitchen for their guests.

Relay for Life will be held on May 5, at Grand Park in Market Common, 11:00am to 11:00pm. Please support our team by donating to American Cancer Society. More information can be found online at www.relayforlife.org.

Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on June 6, noon to 5pm. Soup and refreshments provided. This is a much needed service for our area, especially during the summer.

Save the date— Chili's Restaurant is having a Celebration Presbyterian Church Give Back Event on May 10, 2018 from 5pm-9pm. Chili's will donate 10% from the night's sales to Celebration. More information will follow.

YOUTH

By Cecilia Evans



The youth will be selling tickets on Sunday, April 22 and 29 for the Spring Belk Charity Day. Tickets are \$5 and all proceeds go to fund Celebration Youth programs. With the ticket you receive \$5 off your purchase on May 5 from 6-10am. There are special sales as well and if you can not make it that day there are pre-sales. Thank you for your support of Celebration Youth.

GOD GAB

By Cecilia Evans

We had a great time of fellowship and learning at our first God Gab. The group participated in a discussion of a Psalm and looked at how we could apply this to everyday life. It was a great way to get to know each other and learn more about applying scripture to our everyday lives. Join us for our next God Gab on April 16 and The Grumpy Monk.



LADYBUG LUNCHEON

By Carol Butler



Our March lunch brought us to Maggie D's Italian Restaurant, where we have dined before.

There were 16 Ladybugs in attendance. We were so happy to see our snowbird, Mary Biellak. Hopefully we'll get to see her for one more luncheon before they return home. Also, Marjorie Jones brought her granddaughter, Tara.

We collected \$100.00 for charity. Thank you ladies, as always, for your generosity.

Lunch orders ran from pastas to sandwiches and soup. The service was excellent, and the owner treated everyone to a cannoli after their lunch. As always, the friendship, camaraderie and laughter made for a fun outing.

Our next lunch will be Thursday, April 5, at noon, at LongHorn Steakhouse, near the Coastal Grand Mall. If you plan to attend, the sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Let me know if you need a ride. All Ladybugs, their friends and family (female of course) are invited....hope to see you there. Come join a bunch of fun Ladybugs!

VOLUNTEERS SERVING THIS MONTH

Elder of the Week:

Apr 1—Priscilla Mulligan
Apr 8—Terry Pettijohn
Apr 15—Nancy Resnick
Apr 22—Rick Thornburgh
Apr 29—Nancy Torcivia

Liturgist

Apr 1—Priscilla Mulligan
Apr 8—Kathy Wechter
Apr 15—Nancy Torcivia
Apr 22—Elizabeth Wills
Apr 29—Peg Speidel

Visitors Table/Greeter

Apr 1—Carol Lagassee
Apr 8—Margaret Reeder
Apr 15—Betsy Hughes
Apr 22—Heidi Cherry
Apr 29—Linda Miller

Pre K –Kindergarten Children's Church— Tonja Paolini

Children's Church Grades 1-5

Trudy Miller

Nursery

Apr 1—Donna Woodard
Apr 8—Betsy Hughes
Apr 15—Nanette Kelly
Apr 22—Donna Woodard
Apr 29—Vicki Jacobs

Media Shout

Apr 1—Katrena White
Apr 8—Katrena White
Apr 15—Bernadine Lamar
Apr 22—Bernadine Lamar
Apr 29—Katrena White

Sound Booth

Apr 1—Nicklaus McIlrath
Apr 8—Carol Butler
Apr 15—Carol Butler
Apr 22—Carol Butler
Apr 29—Nicklaus McIlrath

Ushers for the month of April

Bob and Linda Miller, Gloria Flowers,

Communion for April

Terry Baker, Rick Thornburgh, Joe Alexander, Bernie Pettijohn, Cecilia Evans

Shepherd's Table Teams for 2018

Team A: Nancy Torcivia, Dom Torcivia, Margaret Reeder, Beth Bruton

Team B: Roy Andrews, Laurie Andrews, Dot Crissey, Nancy Thornburgh, Rick Thornburgh

Team C: Kathy Wechter, Bob Stepanek, Carol Butler, Ken Krenzer, Lois Storms, Pat Himes

Team D: Anne Brallier, Sara Bamrick, Donna Woodard, Gerri Byrne

Team E: Jerry Rashid, Rosie Rashid, Leslie Eckert, Tom Dendy, Paul Youngblood, Patty Youngblood



THANK YOU FOR SERVING THIS YEAR. Your dates will be listed on the calendar each month.

Everyone Can Help...

5th Sunday Offering

April 29 is the 5th Sunday of the month. We will be receiving our 5th Sunday Offering that helps us provide upkeep and improvement of our property. Envelopes will be available in the bulletins for your use. Thank you for your generous support.

BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

Take a moment to wish those who have a birthday this month birthday wishes or send them a card.

If your birthday is not listed, please let Linda Berry in the office know.

April 5—Beth Bruton
 April 5—Hailey Ross
 April 6—Sharon Mook
 April 7—Lynn Bastian
 April 8—Jim Coulter
 April 9—Kathy Wechter
 April 12—Donna Clontz

April 18—Wayne Mook
 April 25—Char Marie Wenzel
 April 26—Carla Baker



FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Joe Alexander



Total Church Income for March to date is \$16,710.07

Total Church Expenses for March to date is \$15,358.39

Total Church Net Income for March to date is \$1,351.68

Thank you for your prayers and generous support for Celebration.

PRESCHOOL

By Susan Spraker

It is so hard to believe that we are in the last couple of months of preschool for this school year. Time sure flies when you are having fun. We are all looking forward to a much needed break when preschool closes March 30 – April 8 for Spring Break. Don't worry, the year is far from over and we have many more fun and exciting activities planned.

We ended last month with a visit from our Licensing Specialist from DSS. She was here to do our inspection to renew our operating license for the next two years. I am happy to report that we passed with flying colors. I am so proud of the preschool teachers for always going above and beyond for each and every student in our program.

For all of you having children or grandchildren, Kindergarten registration for Horry County Schools 2018-2019 school year is the week of April 9. Contact your neighborhood school for the times they will have their registrations.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable spring and Easter!



BOOK OF CONFESSIONS

By Terry Pettijohn

This month's confession is on the Confession of Belhar. This is the introduction to the Confession of Belhar from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions, page 300.

How should the church respond when sin disrupts the church's unity, creates division among the children of God, and constructs unjust systems that steal life from God's creation? Members and leaders of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa faced these questions under apartheid, a system of laws that separated people by race from 1948-1994.

Apartheid formed a racially stratified society. Those with the lightest skin tones were offered the greatest protection and opportunity. Non "white" persons were separated into three categories; each skin tone step away from the "white" category represented a decrease in governmental protections and opportunities. Racial separation was established by law and enforced through violence. Non white citizens lived with constant and intrusive police presence and interference in the daily functions of life. Those who protested risked punishment, imprisonment and even death.

The roots of apartheid go back in the South African culture and church for several centuries. The Dutch Reformed Church embodied racial separation when it formed three "mission" churches in the late nineteenth century, each categorized by its racial identity. The Dutch Reformed Mission Church was formed for people designated as "coloured" (bi-racial). The church's complicity with racial separation kept Christians from worshipping and coming to the Lord's Table together. The white Dutch Reformed Church (DRC) created an elaborate biblical interpretation and ideology that supported racial separation and then the formal apartheid policies.

The Dutch Reformed Church's active participation and theological defense of apartheid moved the global church to name apartheid a *status confessionis*-a conviction that the Gospel was at stake and thus the faith needed to be proclaimed. Leaders of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church wrestled with this situation theologically and practically. One outcome of their struggles was the emergence of the Confession of Belhar in the early 1980s.

The Uniting Reformed Church of Southern Africa (URCSA), the church that succeeded the Dutch Reformed Mission Church after apartheid, has offered the Confession of Belhar to the global Reformed family as a gift, believing that the themes of unity, reconciliation, and justice issue a call from God to the whole church toward holy action, transformation, and life.

The Special Committee on the Confession of Belhar recommended that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) add Belhar as part of its Constitution because it believed the clarity of Belhar's witness to unity, reconciliation, and justice might help the PC (USA) speak and act with similar clarity at a time when it faces division, racism, and injustice.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved the Confession of Belhar as part of the *Book of Confessions* at the 222nd General Assembly (2016).

HOSPITALITY WITH A MISSION

By Nancy Resnick



Our next potluck fellowship meal will be on Thursday, April 12, 6pm. Please bring a dish to share and come enjoy the fellowship with everyone.

After dinner we will be assembling hygiene kits with travel-size shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotion, washcloths, deodorant, band aids, first aid cream, combs, brushes, razors collected over the last month with help from the preschool families. We are also collecting men's articles, they need socks, underwear, t-shirts etc. There is a basket in the hallway for the your donations. Our goal is 1,000 items and as of March 27 we had received approximately items.

Hope to see you there!

APRIL 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 Worship 11am Holy Communion Children's Church	2	3 Quilters 10:00 am	4 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	5 LadyBug Luncheon at LongHorn Steakhouse 12 noon	6	7
Celebration Preschool closed will reopen on April 9						
8 Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 Worship 11am Children's Church He~Brews Café for Youth	9	10 Quilters 10:00 am	11 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	12 Potluck Dinner 6pm Mission: packing hygiene kits Team D cooks at The Shepherd's Table 2pm	13	14
15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 Worship 11am Children's Church He~Brews Café for Youth STATED SESSION MEETING	16 GOD GAB The Grumpy Monk 6pm	17 Quilters 10:00 am	18 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	19 Team A cooks at The Shepherd's Table 2pm	20 Breakfast Buddies at The Early Riser 9am	21
22 Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 Worship 11am	23	24 Quilters 10:00 am	25 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	26	27	28
29 15 Year Anniversary Celebration Adult SS 9:15am Choir 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 Worship 11am Reception 12pm 5th Sunday Offering	30					



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Dr Tom Dendy—Pastor

Sarah Abushakra—Music Director

Linda Berry—Office Administrator



CELEBRATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR IDENTITY STATEMENT

We are Christ followers who are open, accepting, loving and welcoming to all!

Why I love Celebration Presbyterian Preschool

My name is Nancy Resnick and I am a member of Celebration and an Elder and the mom of a five-year-old. A lot of you know me, some do not. I was asked to write a letter for our newsletter on my experience as a preschool mom so our congregation has an idea of what this program provides. I have two grown children in addition to Riley. I have had many experiences with daycares and preschools—three in this area alone, then Riley attended Celebration Presbyterian Preschool. In all my years I have never seen a more involved and caring program. You see the reason I have had experience with three is that I could not find one that was consistent with Riley's needs. I do not expect special treatment but as a mom I do expect to get great care when someone has my child. I do not like her to be treated like she is just a fee for a business. I wanted her to grow, interact, learn, share: all the things children need to be productive little individuals. Riley received all that here. I was diagnosed with breast cancer when Riley was just two. She was in a daycare/preschool setting. I could not go beyond the front doors because of my illness. They would take Riley from me with no regard. The look on her face was heartbreaking. I pulled her out of that program because I could not work any more and they did not seem to care either way. Then, I enrolled her in Celebration Preschool and she loved it from the moment she started. The teachers could not be more understanding. And when I could not drop her off or pick her up anymore because of my illness, they found parents who would help me. Our preschool goes beyond learning; it recognizes individuals. It works with each parent and rallies around each child. They understand that they may only have the child for just a few hours a week but that the time is important. They know each and every child's need's and that is not an easy feat. I have seen how they handle special needs and the death of a parent with such kindness and grace. Susan, the director, runs a tight ship in a very excellent way. She makes sure all teacher gets what they need so each child has his or her needs met. She also makes sure we are in compliance with safety. We all know that is not easy in today's world. You always see Susan in the hall interacting with the children. Our children know her and love her and that says a lot. The teachers are always smiling when you walk in. In three years I have never seen anything other than smiles. I am sure they have bad days, but they do not bring it with them or show it to the children. They give hugs to all the kids. In a world where we are always concerned if our actions are appropriate, they recognize the importance and appropriateness of hugging our children. It is healthy to interact because the children feel safe. While these are my opinions, our program is also highly regarded in our community. Go on any message board where parents are asking for guidance about preschool choices in our community and CPP is named three-to-one every time. If I was asked if I could come up with something negative about our program, I honestly could not. If you know me, you would know if I have an opinion good or bad, I give it. Out of all the preschools my children have been a part of, Celebration Presbyterian Preschool far exceeds them all. Riley is more than ready for kindergarten, not just in learning but in how to be a good student and friend also. Celebration Presbyterian Preschool provides so much more than education and outreach. It is molding children for their future in the most productive and positive ways. When they go out into the world they will know God loves them and will have learned about goodness and respect, all because our little preschool took the time to care.