

Coming to Believe

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” John 20:29b NRSV

I’ve told this story before, but when I was in high school, I auditioned and interviewed for the opportunity to be a part of the Governor’s Honors Program. The audition went pretty well, but something happened during the audition and one of the judges called me out on a mistake that made me feel that my chances of actually making it into the program were pretty bleak. I got a letter indicating that I was an alternate. I immediately accepted that I wouldn’t be going and gave it little more thought.

However, to my surprise, one day while I was having lunch in the cafeteria, one of the guidance counselors sought me out and asked if I still wanted to go to Governor’s Honors Program. At first I assumed it was some sort of mistake or joke. I had already dismissed that possibility. But enough people had dropped out of contention in the piano program that I indeed got the chance to go. That experience shaped my life in many ways. I met the Valdosta State University piano professor there and studying with him that summer successfully earned me the opportunity to join VSU as a piano major upon my graduation. It was also the longest time I had ever been away from home. That time away gave me confidence that I was more capable of making it in college than I had imagined before. Even recently, my own son has had the chance to experience playing along with some ensembles at schools he is thinking of attending, and he has walked away “coming to believe” that he is going to be OK in college after all.

The phrase “come to believe” is used a couple of times in the scripture passage today. I love this nuance on the word belief. Often we have a sense that belief is not something along a spectrum. We either believe or we don’t. But this isn’t an accurate way of describing the nature of how we respond to learning news that is difficult to comprehend. Belief is something that can come over time. Thomas was, like the other disciples, deeply devoted to Christ. He was afraid to believe Jesus was walking around because that would risk the investment he had already put into mourning his friend. He only had to be hurt again if he were to allow himself to believe and then be disappointed a second time. He wanted to put it behind him, just as I had put my “wait list” letter from the Governor’s Honors Program behind me and moved on. That made realizing a different future hard to come to grips with.

Join me Sunday as we give ourselves permission to be on the journey of “coming to believe”, even if we aren’t quite there yet.

In Christ,



The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and
 in honor of Lyn Pharris’ birthday by Steve Pharris.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Children’s Ministry DirectorLindsey Fossa
 Choir Director.....Lyn Pharris
 Church Administrator Susan Snider
 Contemporary Music Director Kayla Moss
 CustodiansMartha Conklin & Barbie Webb
 Interim Youth Minister.....Kristii Daniel
 Media & CommunicationsDawn Wilson
 Music DirectorBob Lee
 Nursery Worker..... Martha Conklin
 Pastor.....Tony G. Crosby

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THIS COMING WEEK & BEYOND

Monday, April 9

6:30 p.m. New Life UMW Meeting

Tuesday, April 10

6:30 p.m. AA Group Meeting

6:30 p.m. Youth Meeting

Wednesday, April 11

6:00 p.m. Wednesday Supper

6:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Joy Stealers Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 12

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study

12:00 noon Prayer Team Meeting

12:00 noon Vintage Meeting

Sunday, April 15

UMW Sunday

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Monday, April 16

6:30 p.m. Growing Christians UMW Meeting

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

The Children's Class
Kindergarten - 5th Grade: Margaret Gosden

The Youth Class
6th - 12th Grade: Kristii Daniel

The Friendship Class
Study: The Risen Lord Appears
Teacher: Class

The Genesis Class
Study: Have You Ever Seen a Hearse...
Teacher: Leslie Morris

The Joy Class
Study: I Love Growing Older, but...
Teacher: Class

The Nathan Patterson/Wesley Class
Study: Genesis 14
Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class
Study: 40 Days of Community
Teacher: Doug Franks

The Pathfinders Class
Study: Wired Word
Teacher: Suzy Revell

The Questors Class
Study: Journey Through the Bible
Teacher: Rev. Tim Paulk

The Seekers Class
Study: Wired Word
Teacher: Becky Britton

SPRING WEDNESDAY STUDY TO EXAMINE JOY STEALERS

We are studying Rob Renfroe's book, *Joy Stealers: Overcoming Obstacles to Hope and Happiness* on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Renfroe shares five transformational decisions that will help us live in the fullness of God's joy each day with the assurance of eternity with God. All participants in the study are encouraged to purchase the book from the welcome center for \$12 each or download an e-reader copy. The six-week study and our supper season will end on May 9.

THOSE WHO SERVE APRIL 8, 2018

9:00 a.m. Worship Service
Greeter: Mary Lee Crews
Usher: Randy Morris
Acolyte: Usher
Children's Church: Lindsey Fossa

11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Greeter: Lillian Wooldridge
Ushers: James Faircloth, Steve Whittington
Acolyte: Ema Cherai, Emma Knight
Children's Church: Janet Cherai
Nursery Volunteer: Vicky Griffin
Financial Secretary: Shawn Jandreau
Turn Key: John Daniel

OUR STEWARDSHIP

April 1, 2018

Tithes & Offerings:	\$4,675.00
Received To Date:	\$66,369.75
Needed To Date:	\$82,496.44
Building Fund:	\$0

ATTENDANCE:	
Sunday School	55
Worship: 9 a.m.	70
Worship: 11 a.m.	93
	163

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Youth Meeting - Tuesday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m., as we discuss the *Helmet of Salvation*. Join us and bring a friend!

Volunteers Needed in the Children's Ministry
Children's Sunday School - 4th Sundays
Children's Church 9 a.m. - 2nd Sundays
Children's Church 11 a.m. - 3rd Sundays
Nursery 11 a.m. - 4th Sundays

Youth & Children Sunday School Classes - For a great lesson, wonderful fellowship in a Safe Sanctuaries approved environment, classes are by age/grade beginning at 10 a.m.

MISSIONS

April Mission Focus - is 300 food items for Wynnton Neighborhood Network. Items needed: canned soup, fruit, vegetables, meat, tomato products and mac & cheese. Place items on the mission cart in the hallway near the youth room. A printed list is available on the information rack or on the mission cart and a digital list is in the most recent bulletin on our website.

Health Kits for Rose Hill Ministry - The HIS UMW group is collecting items during April: gallon-size zip-closure bags, men's and women's socks, combs and brushes, washcloths. Full-size: lip balm, hand sanitizer, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, razor, shaving cream. Travel-size: lotions, shampoos, body wash. The congregation is welcome to participate. Place your items in the marked container on the stage in the fellowship hall.

Open Door Needs Your Help - The Kiwanis Club is selling jumbo Vidalia onions. Kiwanis is offering an extra \$250 to the organization that sells the highest dollar amount. Open Door would like your help to win the \$250. For more info and to order, see the form on the information board.

Wynnton Neighborhood Network March 2018 Report - We served 881 bags of food to 231 families which included 207 children. We helped 42 families with utilities and spent \$3,001.58. Thanks so much for all the support you give us with your donations of time, food and money! Your generosity is a blessing to all!

Can Recycling - Leave aluminum cans outside the back kitchen door. They will be picked up and recycled by the HIS Group. Money collected will go toward various missions.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

New Life UMW Meeting - Monday, April 9, 6:30 p.m., at the church. Martha Conklin and Vicky Griffin will host.

Wednesday Night Supper - April 11, at 6:00 p.m. Sign up to make supper reservations on the information board. Menu: Salisbury steak, potatoes O'Brien, Italian cut green beans, southern corn bread, salad bar and dessert. Study begins at 6:30 p.m. For more info on the study, see ad on preceding page.

Vintage Meeting - Thursday, April 12, at noon, in the fellowship hall. We are ordering BBQ sandwiches, \$5 each. To place your lunch order, sign up on the information board and indicate the side dish you will bring to share. Anyone 55+ is invited to attend.

Quarterly Giving Statements Available - Please pick up your first quarter statement from the welcome center.

UMW Sunday - April 15, at both the 9:00 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. Our speaker is Lynn Harper, UMW Conference Education & Interpretation Coordinator.

Growing Christians UMW Meeting - Monday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall.

Country Comfort Food Luncheon - Sunday, April 22, at noon. Please sign up today to make your lunch reservations. Sponsored by the UMW. All proceeds will go toward the new HVAC for the fellowship hall.

Church Council Meeting - Monday, April 23, at 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall.

Reachers UMW Meeting - Tuesday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m., in the Questors classroom.

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Fred & Emilie Carswell	Blount King	Gladys Plant	Trudy Harris
Vanessa Desoto	Ron & Betty Sawyer	Thrower Family	Kitty Crockett
Sibyl Wells	Keri McElvey	Shackelford Family	Kernodle Family
Judy Scanling	Barbara Watson	Joe Flynn	Lillian Wooldridge
Elsie & Jim Spanogians	Andrea Carbaugh	Glenn Griffin	Daniel Family
Anne Wilson	Jane Grandon	Jimmy Bridges	Henry Family
The Rabon Family			

Extended Church Family

Steve & Carol Guilbeault	Michael Taff	David Olson	Doyle Adams
Dotty Baker	Ricky Clark	Robbins Family	Andrew Wade
Miranda "Randy" Jones	Laurie Osteen	Preston Silvernail	Dora Spires
Willie Ryles	Judy Patterson	Cassie Prochaska	Billy Hill
Kim Jordan	Kristy Stier	Dorothy Ogg	Bruce Chapman
Amanda Hay	Marilyn Buck	Danny Chidester	Beth Goodwin
Luby Family	Henry Dunn	Adams Family	Ellen Pilgreen
Ralph & Sandy McGough	Diane Wiggins	Stephanie Bryan	Robin Grantham
McDaniel Family	Al Fohan		

Assisted Living/Nursing Homes/Homebound

Calvary Community - Lou Williams	River Towne Center - Jerry Williams
Magnolia Manor - Doris Halouska, Cammie Van Over	Savannah Grand - Linda Coleman
Phenix City Health Care - Anne Whitehurst	The Lodge - Lorene Carlisle
River Place - Betty Cummings, Elizabeth Harbert	Wesley Glen (Byron, GA) - Nancy Hiller

(Please continue to pray for our homebound people. They would love a visit!)

*If the prayer list needs to be updated, please call, email the church office
or leave a note with updates. Help us minister effectively by
calling the church office about yourself or a family member. Thank you for your help.*

April Mission Focus

Wynnton Neighborhood Network Needs:

- Canned soup
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Canned meat
- Canned tomato products
- Mac & cheese
- Spaghetti sauce
- Noodles
- Rice
- Jelly
- Peanut butter
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent (powder or pods)
- Bar soap
- Monetary donations

Place items on the Mission Cart