

# Tidings of Peace

# February

Newsletter of Peace Memorial EPC

## *From the Pastor...*

Dear Friends,

“Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in princes,  
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.  
When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;  
on that very day his plans perish.

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.  
The Lord watches over the sojourners;  
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, to all generations.  
Praise the Lord!”  
-Psalm 146

Greetings to you all! My prayer to God and my hope for you is that you are all doing well and growing in faith, hope and joy in the Love of Christ.

This past month, I’ve heard a strange mingling of voices expressing grief or relief over what is happening in our culture. Over the same set of circumstances, some people are ecstatic- relieved that finally, things may be getting better. At the same time, other voices cry out in anguish and frustration, convinced that our world has finally toppled over the edge of reason to plummet into disaster with no hope of recovery. These disparate voices seem to unite in a common expression though- a lament that their voice is, or has not been heard.

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## *From the Pastor... Continued*

As I've prayed over our congregation, and over our nation, and over our world, Psalm 146 keeps coming to mind. It is both a glorious encouragement, and a dire warning to the mind that thinks too highly of worldly things.

First, the dire warning.

"Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man (a mortal), in whom there is no salvation..." This warning speaks to all of us. It is amazing how easy it is for us to put our trust in worldly things. We rely on everything from a political party, to how much money we have (or how much money we WISH we had, "If I only had more"), to even entertainment. This warning challenges those who hope in any such thing- who currently delight in the ability of government, or finances, or the next circumstantial event, to make it all well again. It also challenges those who are pulling their hair in fear, frustration and anger because the world is not going the direction they know it needs to go in order for things to go well.

News flash- There is no salvation in such things. To put your trust in worldly powers is to invest in a state room on the Titanic. Certainly, it is opulent, beautiful, lacking no comfort. But that investment will end up on the bottom of the sea. It is a mathematical certainty.

Now, for the good news:

In the face of all of our worldly circumstances, "Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob."

God is sovereign over all the universe. As David says, "He is the one who made [the created order]" He is our provider!

- He keeps faith forever,
- He executes justice for the oppressed,
- He gives food to the hungry,
  - He sets the prisoner free (from sin – not from jail- sometimes those in jail need to be there)
- He lifts up those who are bowed down (grieving, despairing, overwhelmed)
- He loves the righteous (those who have faith in Jesus)
- He watches over the sojourners (as they are without home)
  - He upholds the widow and the fatherless, (those who have no one else to watch out for them)
- He ensures that those who commit to wickedness end in ruin.

This God, who is all sovereign – who is our hope, He will reign forever.

So...

"Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord as long as you live; sing praises to our God while you have your being."

May the Peace of God guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

-Pastor Aaron

# *Thank You!*

From the Dickson family to our second Church family,  
thank you for the  
Lovely Christmas card and the cash gift.  
What a generous and thoughtful surprise.

Blessings to you,  
*Scott and Betty Dickson*

Pacific Northwest Women's Link on zoom  
January 21, 2021

What a privilege to be on the committee for the women's link. We joined with the Ladies of the Southwest for a wonderful time of prayer and fellowship.

Connie Badgley opened with prayer and welcomed everyone, she turned the meeting over to the guest speaker Anne Rose from Saddlerock, WA.

Anne Rose's topic for the evening was "Freedom over Judgement". As 2020 brought many challenges and differences, one needs to remember to love God and neighbors. Anne said we need to grow in this area. 1. The spirit of God makes a difference. 2. The Spirit of God has a vision for us. We tend to clump together with like people. She recommended a book "a Fellowship of differences". The church is God's world, what unifies us is our faith in God. Anne quoted Romans 14 as a scripture that would help us unify people together. Paul talking to the Jews and Gentiles. Anne asks, 1. What is Paul's message to the strong? 2. What is Paul's message to the weak? Don't judge each other or despise each other. V. 19 "So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding". You are to accept you brother and sister. Paul has his own opinion: He expects them to welcome one another. V. 18 "Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by man". V. 4 "Who are you to pass judgement on a servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand'. With the church we should discipline one another to honor God, by love and upbuilding one another. Unify the fellowship of the spirit. We broke into groups with the questions, 1. What are some of the differences dividing the churches. A book Anne recommends "Life together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Anne closed in prayer.

Connie Badgley plans on having other Zoom meetings with the Southwest, hopefully in February. It is awesome to meet together as one.

Respectfully in Christ  
Noreen Rhoades

## Thoughts from an Elder: by Joe Riker

### Knowledge and Authority

Read Mark 1:21-28

Knowledge. Authority. Who has them? From whom do they come? These are familiar questions, not only in biblical times, but in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as well. Who should we listen to? How will we know who is speaking the truth and acting from good intentions? Scripture's answer is clear: Knowledge and authority come from the one true God, and the mark and manner of that God is love. When people act in love, considering others before themselves, and keep God's covenant, they are worth listening to and following, for they will lead us in the way of God and the footsteps of Jesus.

Every Friday evening at sunset the Sabbath began, and there could be no more work until sunset on the following day. Saturday morning all the Jewish people went to attend the service in the synagogue. The people would come in and take their places, with the most important people up in front. At the beginning of the service, everyone stood and faced in the direction of Jerusalem, and recited some verses from the Scriptures. These were always the same. They began: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." (The Shema) After this there was prayer. Then the minister would open a cabinet and bring out the Scriptures, rolled leather or paper. Then someone would read the Scripture lessons then the lessons would be explained.

Like all the other Jews, Jesus went to the synagogue on Saturday mornings. One Saturday when he and his disciples were in the town of Capernaum they went to the services as usual. When the time came to explain the lesson, Jesus went up front. He surprised people as he always did; but something else happened that surprised them even more.

There was suddenly a commotion at the back of the synagogue. A man cried out. There seemed to be some evil thing inside him, which made him hate the sight of Jesus. The people said that he has "an unclean spirit."

Strange wild words came pouring out of his mouth. "Let me alone!" he cried. "What have I to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy me? I know who you are. You are the Holy One of God!" Jesus stood his ground, and spoke to the evil thing in the man. "Be quiet," Jesus said, "and come out of that man." There was another wild shriek and then silence. The man looked around him as though he wondered where he was. He was in his right mind again.

The people were amazed by what they had seen and heard. On the way home from the synagogue they asked each other, "What kind of preaching is this, which makes a madman well again." Jesus' words had amazed the people in the synagogue, his deeds left them thunder-struck. Before the day was over, word of what Jesus had done was all over town.

At the very outset of his mission Jesus manifests an authority that is distinct, an authority that contrasts sharply with that of the elite jurists, the scribes. Precisely how it is expressed Mark does not indicate. Neither is it necessary, for it is the demonstration of authority that matters and not the manner in which it is displayed. It is an outward sign of Jesus' entry into a reordering of power shown in his baptism. As the New Human Being, Jesus has acted on God's behalf and begun to actualize God's rule. Both word and deed convey the authority he bears as a result of his entry into a reordering of power.

### **Thoughts from an Elder: Continued**

The exorcism of the man with the unclean spirit is Jesus' first public act in the gospel of Mark. A companion of the inaugural events of Jesus' ministry in each of the four Gospels indicates what's at stake for the evangelist's portrait of Jesus. For Mark, Jesus is the boundary crosser, made clear by his immediate confrontation with the demonic. From the beginning of Mark's gospel, we have a God who regularly transgresses boundaries and is not where any God should be. Framed by the tearing of the heavens at Jesus' baptism and the tearing of the temple curtain at Jesus' crucifixion, Mark's story insists that because of Jesus, we cannot keep God behind walls of our making. God will not be kept at bay; nor will God be located in the safe and clean spaces we think God should be. Yet, that is our propensity as humans isn't it? We keep God at a distance, place God inside our boxes of secure theological expectations of how God should be and act. But in Jesus, God bursts through any borders we erect, and permanently. There is no going back for God. When something is torn apart, you can't put it back together like it was before. You can mend the tear, but you will always know that everything has changed. And in Jesus, everything has.

### **BUCKET BRIGADE BACK ON THE MARCH**

Well, we hope you enjoyed the time away from the mundane task of housekeeping to celebrate the Christmas season and relax with family and friends. But as Chaucer stated in "The Clerk's Tale, "Dust and dirt wait for no man" (or something like that). That being the case, the Bucket Brigade will form once again to tackle an area of our church often neglected during workdays.

Let's be honest- we all have that "one place" in our homes we use as the "not sure what to do about this thing, so we'll stick it here for now and deal with it later" place. Maybe it's a closet. Maybe it's a drawer. In the Coker household, it's called "The Back Room." Well, Peace Memorial has her own version of "The Back Room," but we call it "The Back Hallway." Some of you may not know where this is, and don't want to know. But it exists, and is a repository of things "for now." Months have past, and "for now" has come.

On Monday, February 22, the Bucket Brigade will meet at 10:00 am to clear away the chaos - put things in proper places, discard what needs to be tossed, organize what is left, vacuum the stairwell, and mop the floor. We're starting a little later than previously as we want to make sure the roads are good, just in case it snows. As always, we'd love to have you join us, and as always, showing up doesn't mean you're now committed 'til the end of time. Hope to see you there!

### **DEACONS DOINGS**

Every time you turn around, you hear about new regulations and restrictions regarding COVID-19. Trying to keep up with the ever-changing what you can and cannot do is quite a headache. This has been especially true of our fellowship. Just when you think it's safe to bring a box of Ritz crackers, the rules change. This can become so frustrating for you all, so the Deacons have made a decision to ease the situation. For the next few months, all coffee-hour supplies, including snacks, will be provided by the Deacons. We have stocked up on a variety of individually and commercially-packaged food items. When you or your group sign up for the week's coffee hour, you will be signing up to serve, not provide, and then handle the clean up. Those serving must wear masks while in the kitchen, and use disposable gloves. We know you understand and can bear with us for the time being. Hopefully we'll soon be able to return to the joy that is home-made lemon bars.

The Deacons also want to remind you that we are here to help meet the needs of our congregation. Sometimes that need is of a financial nature. During these cold, some of you may be facing a pinch due to high heat or electric bills, and we don't want you in a position of debating, "Do I pay the bill or get my prescription filled?" Contact a deacon, or the pastor, and let us know. It's all confidential. You are not being a burden. Being able to help is a blessing for us.

## Thoughts from Presbytery

Our recent Presbytery meeting was held on Friday, January 22, 2021 via ZOOM rather than in person. This brought to memory that it has been a year since we have been able to hold and attend our meetings together. While it is not the same as being able to see and talk to our friends in person, it still is a great time of fellowship and getting needed work accomplished.

The focus of our learning portion was: Building Bridges to the Gospel with Unchurched Peoples in our Communities. Presentations were made by Megan Hackman and Mike Kuhn.

Megan is the energizer bunny of the Teaching Elders in our Presbytery. Really, she has so much vigor and is so organized, while being one of those people that you can just sit and have a conversation with. She is also the church planter at Chapel Hill that our Missions Committee supports through quarterly donations. She talked about ways to reach the people that you may not really know, but that you see on a regular basis and how to break into a conversation to make new friends, and possibly introduce them to the Word of God. Friendship is a bridge to the Gospel. These are three easy steps to break the ice, while praying to God for guidance:

- 1) Have a heart to know people. An opener to start a conversation could be: "I'm not sure I know" \_\_\_\_\_ (your name, your dog's name, etc.)
- 2) Give me eyes to see. "Hey, I noticed" \_\_\_\_\_ (you need help, you helped me, etc.)
- 3) Need. How can we or the community help a certain situation?

This can happen very simply by just taking a walk. This brought to my mind a gentleman locally who is in a wheelchair and has a beautiful German Shepard dog. Well, I know the dog's name, but not his. I will make a point to learn his name. Maybe he knows Jesus, maybe not, but this is a starting point of conversations for the future.

She introduced us to what she calls "her nerdy planner". It's just a lined planner with times of day that you can use to plot out your day, and also keep lists of the names of people that you want to actively pray for. For some, I'm sure this will be a useful tool.

Megan also gave an update on the Chapel Hill church plant. God has been answering their prayers as this project is getting off the ground very well. They have a location for worship now, and it is in a church building that currently had to close, so they are renting the space. They have been very active in the community even under Covid shut downs, by having events outdoors. They also are able to worship inside as the sanctuary that they are renting is very large and allows distancing for the group meeting there.

Mike Kuhn has spent much of his life in bringing the Word of God to Muslim countries. Many of you may have met him when he visited Peace and introduced his book about Hagar. The ladies are studying it now. He is a wonderful and gifted speaker. He reminds us that we are a "kingdom of priests", and that is what the Bible teaches us; to go and share the Word. He asked some hard questions that sometimes we may just let blow over and not address. Such as: How are we seen by society, as evangelicals. We know that society may have a not so appealing idea of what evangelical means, so we need to be able to provide that answer. That we are only trying to teach the great commission, not to damn people to hell. (My words, not Mike's.) That may sound strange, but that is the impression that some have about evangelicals. Are we a fortress? Or, are we an embassy? Are we closed, or open? How is our church perceived by the community? Currently, a lot of the world view of Christianity is bad. We need to show the love that Jesus made known to us by his example. Mike also had a set of questions that we can use to get to know others. Where have you come from? Not necessarily a location, but maybe a state of mind or being. What is your journey? Not only a destination of place, but a desire of your spirituality. Hopes for life. He provided several book sources and websites for resources if one wanted to further their knowledge of outreach topics.

We also accomplished a lot of business such as Teaching Elder examinations, session minutes reviews and reminders, treasurer report and budget approval, language updates for the Book of Order, committee reports, and the creation of a Church Reconciliation Team with members that have had specific training for mediation. We also were electronically sorted into prayer groups for our worship time where we prayed through Proverbs 3:1-12.

All in all, a very good meeting. Even though we are on a computer screen, we can see our brothers & sisters and have a good time of fellowship. Pastor Aaron is our Moderator for these meetings and Ed Cummings is our Stated Clerk, with Mike McCandless sitting as Chair of the Ministerial Committee. I miss meeting in person, but still find the Presbytery Meetings to be a positive experience.

Kathy Todd

# Stewardship & Finance Committee

## Financial Report

### December 2020

#### At a glance

Operating Inc.:	\$15,144.20
Operating Exp.:	\$10,412.48
<b>Monthly Net:</b>	<b>\$4731.72</b>
<b>Ckg Acct Bal 12/31</b>	<b>\$33,541.71</b>
<b>MMkt Bal 12/31</b>	<b>\$50,025.77</b>

December 2020

Here is our monthly update on finance:

December Operating Income:.....	\$15,144.20
Expenses:.....	\$10,412.48
<b>Monthly Net:.....</b>	<b>\$4731.72</b>
<b>YTD Net:.....</b>	<b>\$3,445.14</b>
Checking 12/31/20:.....	\$33,541.71
Money Market 12/31/20:.....	\$50,025.77

Hi Friends,

We made it to the end of 2020 financially stable here at Peace. Some expenses in December beyond regular operations were: our website domain renewal for two years, the QuickBooks annual subscription fee, local missions activities for December outreach, and worship supplies. A total wrap up of the year's income and expenses, and the new budget for 2021 will be included in the annual reports. As always, if you have any questions about our finance procedures, please let us know.

Blessings All,  
Kathy Todd

## FROM JACOB TO THE WILDERNESS

### A study of Genesis, Exodus and Numbers

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00-10:00 AM Fireside Room

We have resumed our Sunday Bible classes before the worship services on Sunday.  
See you then!



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>ST</sup> LAURA BRASSER  
5<sup>TH</sup> JOAN HILL  
13<sup>TH</sup> FRANK HARVEY

14<sup>TH</sup> BARBARA MASSEY  
23<sup>RD</sup> HALLEY BEATY  
27<sup>TH</sup> ROGER VERCRUYSSSE



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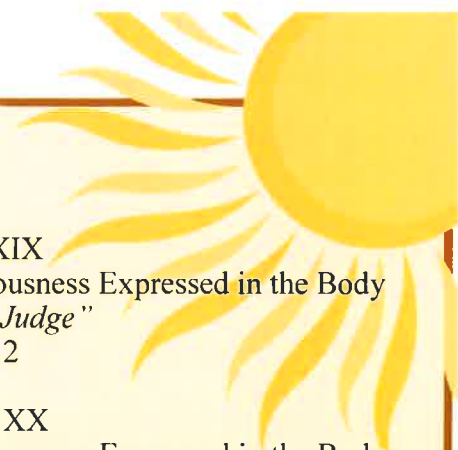
Pastor: [pastoraaron@peacepres.org](mailto:pastoraaron@peacepres.org)

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*"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight"*  
-Prov. 3:6



Romans

2/7 - Romans XIX  
"God's Righteousness Expressed in the Body  
Part 5, *Do Not Judge*"  
Romans 14:1-12

2/14 - Romans XX  
"God's Righteousness Expressed in the Body  
part 6, *Mutual Forbearance*"  
Romans 14:13-23

2/21 - Romans XXI  
"Christ Our Example"  
Romans 15:1-7

2/28 - Romans XXII  
"Christ Our Hope"  
Romans 15:8-13

**Your SESSION**

Elders

- Pastor Aaron Beaty- Session Moderator
- Noreen Rhoades- Clerk of Session
- Kathy Todd- Finance & Stewardship
- Don Perryman- Christian Education
- Linda Dart- Mission and Outreach
- Jim Zeller- Building and Grounds
- Sally Heaton- Worship

**Your DEACONS**

Geri Coker- Chair

- Bev Moulton
- Susan Orton
- Jocelyn Shellito
- Vicki Zeller

*The Deacons meet the third Sunday of each month following worship.*

**Your**

**TRUSTEES**

- Harold Heaton
- Stephen Goode
- Sharron Goode
- Sharon Haddock

*Session meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 6-8PM.*

