

“THE GOOD WORD”

(Pastor’s Note)

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 1:7)*

Every day, God’s grace is available to us through his word and through prayer. There is, of course, nothing “ordinary” about grace, which is the amazing reality of God’s life in us. There is nothing “ordinary” about the Scriptures, either. Through it we are able to hear, under the leading of the Holy Spirit, God’s word. Similarly, there is nothing “ordinary” about prayer. In fact, nothing could be less ordinary than prayer, which is both conversation and encounter with God.

We all know that we’re supposed to nourish ourselves with the Scriptures, and to steep our life in prayer. Indeed it is something we *want* to do. But we don’t always find the time, or perhaps we don’t know quite how to go about it. We may read Scripture on a kind of “hit-and-miss” basis, hoping for a sentence or two in the holy word to speak to us. However, more often than not such an approach leaves us disappointed. Similarly, our prayer life may not be as deep, as rich as we would like it to be. Something is missing, but we’re not quite sure what or why.

On our church website I have recently begun posting pages on my pastor’s blog that are based on *Lectio Divina* (holy reading), a way of “praying with Scripture.” If you would like a simple framework that allows Scripture to make room in your mind and heart as a natural doorway into prayer, you may find the blog posts helpful. If you don’t, I won’t be offended. We all have ways work that work better for us than others. The one offered on the church website does though provide a framework that has proven itself helpful to many Christians over the centuries. And so I invite you to give it a *look*, and even better, a *try*.

The framework, as I said, is based on the classic *Lectio Divina* (holy reading) model. It utilizes four steps to help us experience interiorly the kindling of a divine fire: *Lesson, Meditation, Prayer, and Contemplation*.

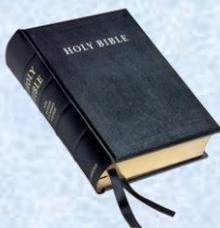
In the first step, *Lesson* (reading), I invite you to read with me a passage from one of the Gospels. The invitation is to read it a few times slowly, perhaps especially noticing a phrase or verse.

Next, the *Meditation*. Here I expand the meaning of a phrase that struck me in the passage. That is, I attempt to explore what it is saying to us today --- what God is asking of us, or challenging us to, or offering to us. After reading the meditation, take as much time as you wish to reflect on it.

The *Prayer* can help you talk to God about what has arisen in your heart, so that the time of prayer becomes a conversation, not just a time to think. God has spoken in the Scripture. We hear the invitation in our meditation, but now a response is called for. Our response is not just to say, "Yes, I want to do as you are asking me," but also to say, "Help me do it, Lord!"

The short line under *Contemplation* is a way of extending this time of prayer into life. You can silently repeat it throughout the day to help deepen the intimacy with the Lord that you experienced in prayer.

If you find these posts helpful, I'd like to know. If you do, you can request the church office to have posts from the blog sent directly to your email, or you can pick a weekly copy of the blogs up in the narthex on your way into worship on Sunday mornings. You might just find it a neat way in the morning to "get into the day with God," or at midday or at day's end to find "a little space with God."



Blessings!
Dave Gilbert

Prayer Concerns



New Concerns

CHARLIE ASBURY

Church Family

GIZELE BOWEN & FAMILY

MADELINE HURT

JUANITA BOLING

CHARLIE ASBURY

SUE KEENE

PEGGY ASBURY

DAWN & DAVID OLINGER

RICHARD WITTEN

SAM ADKINS

EDDIE NASH

MARTHA MASSIE

JEANETTE RAMEY

RENIA HALE PEERY

VICKY RINEHART

PRISCILLA DILLOW

BOB PARKS

BARBARA STANSBURY

CONNIE FLETCHER

BETTY KELLY

GEORGIA HALE

DOROTHY NUCKLES

Active Military Personnel: *John Patrick Flynn, and Jon Wright*

Missionaries: *The Wellers and The Ardnts*

Others

Bernard Brooks (Pam Irvin's father)

Barb Gillespie's cousin Heather & great-niece Aubree

Rae Farley

Jo Lynn Gacek

Pam Killen (knee surgery)

Sarah Kitts (granddaughter of Carolyn Kitts)

Trish Cox

Larry Stroup & Ed Smith (neighbors of Randall & Martha Cooper)

Shelley Keene-Walsh (daughter of Sue Keene)

Jeannie Putman (Connie Fletcher's niece)

Jimmy O'Neill (Dora's grand-nephew)

Charlotte Wilson (daughter of Martha Massie)

Gilliam Shelton (Debbie Crews' father)

Dustin Hicks

Blanche Carpenter (Ron Carpenter's mother)

January 2017 Session Action

Session Action

- † *The Session approved Rev. Dr. Gilbert's request to begin Sunday Night Live at 5 on February 22 with him leading a series on prayer. Dr. Hudson will present later as he is abroad now.*
- † *A letter to Jan Lutz, Civil Records Office Clerk, was signed verifying Pastor Gilbert's qualification to perform weddings. He will perform one on January 1.*
- † *The Session approved the use of Pastor Gilbert's budgeted "Professional Use Funds" to purchase an updated laptop.*
- † *The Session approved local use of the church bus for doctor's visits.*

Other items of interest

- † *The Worship Committee highly recommends the new hymnal for our church.*
- † *Property Chair Debby Crews announced that the new copier has arrived.*
- † *Matthew Irvin has repaired the nursery speaker.*
- † *There is a need for more nursery volunteers.*
- † *Each fifth Sunday will include gathering music.*
- † *Dorothy Wright, Fellowship and Missions Chair, conveyed thanks from the Ardnts for our support of their mission effort in Kenya. She thanked Eunice Lester for the breakfast buffet prepared for their visit. She asked for prayers for the Hudsons, visiting in the Middle East. Mission literature is located in the narthex.*
- † *Pastor Gilbert and Gary Sergent, webmaster, met to discuss operation of the website. Perhaps church youth would be interested with adult input. Watch for the "Pastor's Blog".*

FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE

Preschool Happenings

Wow! Those girls and boys in our Preschool were so busy in December I could hardly run fast enough to see everything that was going on.

On Friday, December 2, they all loaded up and went to the Barter Theatre. Wow!! The Barter Theatre. I thought you had to be great big to go there so I sneaked in someone's bag and went too. We got to see "All I Want for Christmas" and it was so good I almost missed my ride home I was having so much fun.

December 6 and 7 we went on a field trip to see Santa. I say "we" because, you guessed it, I hitched a ride and went along. Everyone had so much fun and the girls and boys were so good I just know Santa brought them everything they wanted.

December 15 the little 3 year old class had their Christmas play and party during school hours. They are little but they sure did a good job in the play. All of them were great especially our own Addy Gledhill and Daniel Brown.

That evening the 4 year old class had their play. Great job everyone including our own Lindsey Clifton and Karson Stump. Great job kids, teachers and parents!!!

Your friend, CM (church mouse)



NEEDED

SPECIAL FOLKS FOR A SPECIAL JOB

We are blessed to have an excellent person, Ms. Darrah Young, taking care of our nursery each Sunday. However, we do need volunteers to help her.

This is not something you would have to do every Sunday, just once or twice a quarter.

Please consider helping out with our little ones. Call the church office, see Trang Gledhill in church or let me know.



*Thanks,
Pam*

The worship committee would like to thank all of those who participated in making our Christmas celebration so special this year. There are always a lot of “behind the scene activities” that we would like to share for which we are very grateful.

How does that tree suddenly appear? Josh Thompson secured the tree for us this year with Jimmy’s help while Gizele and Joe Bowen and David Pruitt saw to the decorations. Gizele has always stored the Christmas decorations for us and this year Julia Butler used her sewing skills and repaired, recreated and restored our aging ones. Ann Carpenter contributed the gold bows that were new on the tree with her artful talents. Dr. and Mrs. Wright have contributed the greenery for many years now and we greatly appreciate their generosity. Carol Weaver always takes care of the advent wreath and being sure that it is in place with the proper oil and tending.

Thanks to all of those who showed up on the “decoration day” to do the climbing required in hanging the greenery. Gary and Anne Sargent, Corran and Kettera used their young legs to tackle the ladders and climbing this year. Dora Barnes, Pam Irvin, Bob and Joan Brown, Debby Crews, Phil Kennedy, David Pruitt, Lanie Francisco, Gizele and Joe also worked hard on the hanging of the wreaths and clean up and placement of our greenery and candles. Eunice Lester saw to the poinsettia ordering and delivery.

Then there is always the “clean up” for which we offer special praise to Freddie Blair. (You should see the mess once we get through, and the continual clean up needed during the advent season.) Once the festive season is complete there is the “taking down” of the greenery, storing of all items, packing the bows, and more cleaning. Thanks to Cindi Lowe, Pam Irvin, David Pruitt, Lanie Francisco, Gizele Bowen, and Freddie Blair for all of their work.

For anyone we may have left out, we apologize and say “thank you”. We are thankful for our whole staff (Kris, Pat, Pam, and Freddie) for all that they do, and are grateful that Rev. Gilbert is with us this year. We are looking forward to a hopeful, new worship-filled year together.



An added of thanks . . .

It almost goes without saying that the Advent and Christmas season at TPC would not be the same without the music that resounds within our walls.

Members of the Chancel Choir are owed huge appreciation for their dedication throughout the year, and their exceptional devotion to extra time and rehearsal for the Christmas Cantata.

The Fellowship and Missions Committee, and particularly the leadership of Randall Cooper, once again organized and hosted a wonderful time of food and fellowship for the entire church following the Cantata.

Our youth members of Adventure Time/TAG also put in extra hours to prepare a Christmas pageant musical that was a delight and inspiration. Parents of these young people are to be commended for keeping up with our practice times and schedules. Pam Irvin did her always-exceptional job of preparing props and scenery, and Gary Sergent recorded the performance for posterity!

Each of you who raised a voice, loud or soft, in the singing of numerous carols throughout the Sundays of the season, brought joy to us all.

Many thanks to all who participated in the music of TPC during a wondrous season!

Dear Friends I Christ,

Many thanks for your generous support of Holly. The last years have shown that Tazewell Presbyterian Church actions are so genuine. the old saying that actions speak louder than words is so true.

I truly miss and love my Tazewell Presbyterian Church family, I pray that God will guide each of you this year and wish only the best for you and your families.

Many thanks from
the bottom of my heart
Danise



www.llduckduck.com

*Our prayers and sympathy go
out to Gizele Bowen and family
for the death of her mother,
Faye Casey*



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