



THE LAMPLIGHTER
Tazewell Presbyterian Church
Black's Chapel
October 2022

From the Pastor

Some Thoughts in Transition

Do not give your heart to that which does not satisfy your heart.

Abba Poemen

All life is . . . but a wandering to find home.

Samuel Beckett, *Murphy*

My life these days is in transition. As retirement draws near my thoughts have been tending to run in certain tracks. I have been thinking about things like simplicity, and worship and daily life, and places that have been sacred for me, and what and who I am grateful for. In this article and in the articles of the coming two months I mean to share some of these thoughts with you.

In this article I want to focus on *simplicity*. Simplicity is key, isn't it? Not just for times of transition like moving into retirement, but for any and all times. Much of what I have learned about simplicity is epitomized in the advice of the desert father: I will give my heart only to those things that satisfy the heart. For me, in retirement, this, I suspect, will require both a stripping away and a clinging to.

An ancient Irish monk, Colman mac Beognae, once asked, "What is best for the Christian life?" and answered, "Simplicity and single-mindedness." Many people today yearn for greater simplicity in their lives, but how many have any idea how to achieve it, much less truly tried. Most books on the subject seem to focus on the idea of *less*, certainly a good idea in a world of excess. But I wonder if I ---- if all of us ---- wouldn't do as well to focus on the idea of *more* ---- more truth, more wisdom, more reverence, more discipline, more grace.

I've heard many people say that their lives in retirement are busier than in their so-called "working years." Perhaps that will be true for me. Part of me hopes so; part of me does not. Busyness or simplicity? They are not necessarily opposites.

To be active and busy certainly has its appeal, so long as it is balanced with simplicity. What is really required is the recognition of what is important in life, coupled with the strength of will to structure one's daily existence around that recognition --- i.e., minimizing the unimportant things, which of course is easier said than done in our acquisitive and schedule-filling culture.

I don't want to claim too much, but I do believe that I am nudging a step closer to living simply. Over the past few months Lynn and I have been throwing things away, "purging" what we haven't used much, or are unlikely to use. We have won a series of small (and not-so-small) victories against that inner voice that says, "You sure you want to get rid of that? You never know when you might need it."

The clutter of things, however, is more easily dealt with than the clutter of the mind. The old saints knew this. I am trying to learn it too. Simplicity is not the default condition of modern life. It does not happen unless it is made to happen by conscious, life-structuring choices. I think for example of one of our members whom I see out walking regularly late in the afternoon nearly every weekday. I am sure he at times feels pressed to do other things, also important, but he walks nonetheless, at least whenever possible. His habit is inspiring to me, and from our conversations I know that he finds the walks beneficial. They are not just times of exercise for him, but times of prayer and of thinking things through. They help him *simplify*. I could be doing the same now I know; but I have rationalized that come retirement, I will be *actually doing it*, ---- in my case, in the mornings.

For the past thirty-two years my full-time occupation has been pastoring. (Before seminary I worked for seven years as an attorney.) I will continue to work in retirement, just part-time. Doing exactly what I don't know yet, but I have some inklings. I know however that adjusting to retirement will not be easy for me. Ministry has not just been my occupation for so long; it has been at the core of who I have been, a large part of my identity. Who will I be when I am no longer "Pastor Dave?"

Many of you can think back to your own time of retirement: a time which may have involved uncertainty, prayer and discernment, and trying new things. You can better see in hindsight what I can only now glimpse on the horizon. I give thanks for you now, and I will thank you always for your friendship. We leave part of ourselves behind in the places we have been, even as we take part of those places with us.

May God bless you and keep you,

Dave



Remaining Communion Dates in 2022

- October 2 (*World Communion Sunday*)
- November 20 (*Christ the King/ Reign of Christ*)
- December 24 (*Christmas Eve, 7 p.m.*)
- December 25 (*Christmas Day, 11 a.m.*)



Church Family

Bert, Ryan and Savannah Taylor and the Smith family upon the death of Louise Smith; Travis and Heather Mitchell; Dora Barnes; Eunice Jones; Connie Fletcher; Dorothy Wright; Julia Butler; Barbara Gillespie; Doris Branam. Heritage Hall: Betty Kelly

Others

Gary Casey (Gizele Bowen's brother); Family of SSG Justin Michael Wathen; Linda Riley; family of Robert (Bob) Altizer; Mitchell and Linda Cooper; Naomi Lamie; Jerry Vencill; Scott Jordan (Andrew Jordan's father); Kim McGraw's mother; Anita Tinsley; Dr. Brenda Lawson; Kathy Melton Jackson.

Active Military Personnel

Jon Wright

Abingdon Presbytery

The Commissioned Lay Pastors of our Presbytery

To pass along a prayer request, contact Eunice Lester at (276.988.4412) jnseun@aol.com; or by contacting the church office at (276.988.4724 or sectazpresb12@yahoo.com). Names will remain on the Prayer List for four weeks, unless otherwise requested.



Session action from the September 20 meeting:

- *The session voted to have a called meeting for the purpose of interviewing the Reverend Dr. Jennifer Jones Powell for the position of Interim Pastor.*



Deaths of Church Members since April 2022

Harriet Beavers	July 11, 2022
Sam Adkins	July 12, 2022
Madeline Hurt	August 18, 2022
Von Reina Hale Peery	August 21, 2022
Ella Louise Smith	September 19, 2022

Note: If anyone would like to read these obituaries, please go to www.peerystclairfuneralhome.com/obits & type in their name.



- Boxed Dessert Mixes for October 2022
- Potatoes (boxed or canned) for November 2022



- *October 15* *Cindy Gillespie*
- *October 19* *Barbara Kincer*
- *October 20* *Roger Weaver*
- *October 24* *Gary Sergent*
- *October 27* *Corran Sergent*
- *October 23* *Peggy Riley*
- *October 30* *Pam Irwin*

- *November 4* *Davina Larimer Perkins*
- *November 6* *Les Mitchell*
- *November 8* *Stanley Stephenson*
- *November 14* *Huntley Thompson*
- *November 22* *Irna Mitchell*
- *November 24* *David Larimer*
- *November 26* *Draper Thompson*
- *November 27* *Vivian Cromer*
- *November 28* *David Belanger*



- *October 10* *Dr. David & Lynn Gilbert*
- *October 18* *Randall & Martha Cooper*

- *November 18* *Tom & Ellen King*



Messages from the Mountaintop

Save the Date: Mountaintop, October 15

The Education and Leadership Development committee are excited for this year's new and redesigned Mountaintop. Everyone is invited to come to Royal Oak in Marion on Saturday, October 15, for music, fellowship, and learning.

This year's theme is "Seeing Mission through a Different Lens" with guest speaker Robert Gamble, the executive director of This Child Here, a ministry to street children in Ukraine. We'll also hear about mission and outreach being done by churches within our presbytery, so that we can learn and grow together.

Registration begins at 8:30, and Valley Grass will begin playing at 9:20. After the event, you're invited to experience the area around Marion. Eat downtown, go hiking at Hungry Mother, enjoy the shops. Make a day of it, and come gather with us!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



World Communion Sunday

Every year on the first Sunday in October, Christians around the globe celebrate World Communion Sunday to remember that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and that every Christian Church and any denomination that promotes Christian unity are one. We give thanks for this day and draw faith and inspiration from knowing that we are part of the worldwide body of Christ.

Home Communion

Prepared communion cups are available from the church for use at home if you are worshipping with us via the internet. Joan Flynn, Lanie Francisco and Reverend Dave Gilbert are happy to make “at-home communion visits.” If you would like such a visit, please call the church office @ 276-988-4724.

TIME TO PACK SHOEBOXES

NOVEMBER 14-20

It is time to pack shoeboxes for “Operation Christmas Child.” There will be shoeboxes and envelopes in the Chapel beginning November 6 for you to pick up and fill.

Shoe boxes must be returned to the church by November 20, so we can take them to a drop-off place on November 21.

Thanks,
Pam





Come celebrate a cowboy Halloween on Wednesday, October 12 at Tazewell Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall.

- **We will have a program presented by the four Seasons YMCA, highlighting senior benefits at 11 AM.**
- **Lunch will be your choice of soups, tossed salad, warm bread and dessert**
- **Wear your bandanas, cowboy/cowgirl hats, and boots to be a kid again.**



How Do You Know?

Pontius Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth?” It’s an important question, but there is another question to answer first. How do you know what is really true? How do you distinguish truth from falsehood? Fact from fiction? Over the next several Sundays we will consider not simply what it means to talk about the content of truth, but how we know the truth to be true.

October 2
World Communion

When Suffering Comes

John 9:1-12

October 9

The Truth We Ultimately Trust

John 3:1-15
1 Cor. 13.4-13

October 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday						
						1
2 World Communion Sunday Black's Chapel 9 Bible Study 10:10 TPC Worship 11	3 Boy Scouts 7 pm	4 Christian Ed. Comm. 7 pm	5 Worship Committee 1 pm Adventure Time 3:30 pm	6	7	8
9 Black's Chapel 9 Bible Study 10:10 TPC Worship 11	10 Boy Scouts 7 pm	11	12 Adventure Time 3:30 pm	13 Circle meeting 10 am	14	15 Girls Scouts 1-3 pm
16 Black's Chapel 9 Bible Study 10:10 TPC Worship 11	17 Admin. Comm. 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm	18 Session mtg. 7 pm	19 Adventure Time 3:30 pm	20	21	22
23 Black's Chapel 9 Bible Study 10:10 TPC Worship 11	24 Boy Scouts 7 pm	25	26 Adventure Time 3:30 pm	27	28 Leader/Lead Usher- Greg Thomas	29 Food Pantry needs for October "Boxed Dessert Mixes"
30 Black's Chapel 9 Bible Study 10:10 TPC Worship 11	31 Boy Scouts 7 pm					

Communion Leader/Lead Usher

Joe Bowen