



"WALKING A LIFE OF PASSION AND PURPOSE FOR JESUS CHRIST"

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Friends and **F**amily of **C**ross**W**alk,

I have a friend from years ago who is a very talented musician and writer. His name is Steve Chapman. I was recently reading one of his books entitled "Quiet Moments for Your Soul: Reflections of God's Hope and Comfort," when I thought of the positive nature of the wind. With the gales of March beginning to roar it is easy to become fearful of their destructive power. However, his words were an encouragement to me and I thought they might be encouraging to some of you as well.

Steve writes: *"Like a hungry wolf, death howled in the night. My loved one was being pursued. I tried to repel the beast with the torch of my prayers, but the bitter winds of sorrow extinguished the flames. Sadly, by the time morning came I had bid a reluctant farewell to my precious one. The day arrived dreary and cloudy. I cried...with the wind."*

"I wondered, as the volume of sadness grew in my soul, would the gale force of sorrow ever go away...would my heart ever feel the quiet calm again? I had my doubts...until the Lord of the winds appeared."

"He came to me, not in bodily form, but in words. He who spoke to the rebellious sea winds, and they obeyed Him, this One found me in my distress and whispered a sonnet of hope to my soul."

"Your loved one is not lost...only sleeping inside

my care...out of the wind, far from the wolf. Rest your heart. And here is your hope,' He whispered. 'While the angry wind brought suffering to you, I gave strength to the wings of your precious one to sail on that current of sorrow into My presence. I prepared a place for them. I am here...they are here also. Let the cries of your soul subside...be still, My child...so you can listen for the wind. And whenever you hear it, let it remind you of the flight your loved one has taken to the shelter of My wings.'"

"The calm did finally return to my soul. I take great comfort in knowing that the one who is absent from me is present with the Lord. The thought of them waiting for me in heaven did indeed bring stillness to my crying heart. I believe I will see them again...when it comes my turn to take flight. Until then, I will be grateful for ...wind and wings."

Listen for the wind my brothers and sisters...trusting in our Father who is forever faithful.

Your brother and fellow sojourner,
Kirk



Messages for the Month

MARCH 5, 2017— **Romans 5:1 - 8** - “Peace, Joy & Perseverance” - **Communion**

MARCH 12, 2017— **Psalm 121:1 – 8** - “The LORD Watches Over You”— 2nd Sunday in Lent

MARCH 19, 2017— **Exodus 17:1** - “Passion & Purpose”— 3rd Sunday in Lent

MARCH 26, 2017— **Ephesians 5:8 - 14** — “Living for His Pleasure”— 4th Sunday in Lent

Our Staff

Pastor: Kirk Werner

Child Care Director: Linda Odle

Music Director: Joshua Jordan

Director of Children's Ministries:
Anna Baker

Class of 2017:

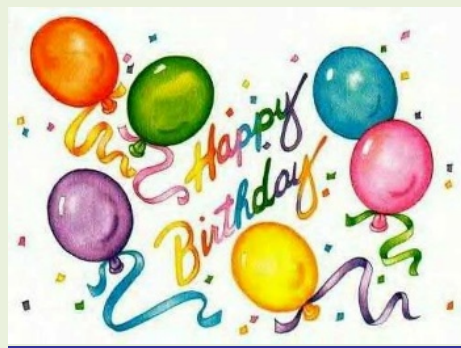
Maurice Briere, Greg Davis & Lindsay Rosa.

Class of 2018:

Donna Carter, Matt Peterson & Greg Waldrop

Class of 2019:

John Carson, Dale Lutton & Courtney Scollard



Helen Owens – 3rd

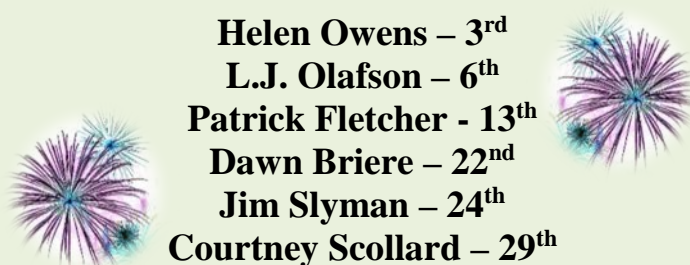
L.J. Olafson – 6th

Patrick Fletcher - 13th

Dawn Briere – 22nd

Jim Slyman – 24th

Courtney Scollard – 29th



Maurice & Dawn Briere – 10th

Mike & Karen Walkup – 15th



Welcome New Members

We welcome Don and Debbie Banta and Cathy Tolbert who united with the church by reaffirmation of faith January 29, 2017.



Don works with a communications firm Interserv and Debbie is retired. Don enjoys racing, Nascar and motorcycle riding as well as traveling, hiking and reading. It is rumored that he is an avid Ohio State fan (thank goodness it's not 'Bama or the Gators!). Debbie enjoys the same interests as her husband Don as well as gardening, crafts, quilting and baking.



Cathy is a Certified Nursing Assistant with U. T. Medical Center. She enjoys watching movies at home with her twins Josh and Sarah, music (particularly Motown and classics from the '70s), and cooking. She is also interested in history and loves in-depth Bible studies.

We look forward to serving our Lord alongside these new members of our church family as He grows us in our faith and ministry.



NURSERY SCHEDULE



Baby/Toddler Room with **Kassie Merrick or Courtney Scollard**

March 5: Debbie Lutton

March 12: Viv Hammond

March 19: Brenda Clabo

March 26: Susan Fletcher



Preschool Room with **Linda Odle:**

March 5: Stan Fletcher

March 12: Gwen Davis

March 19: Matt Peterson

March 26: Dawn Briere

If you **cannot** work your *scheduled time*, please swap with someone and if you *cannot find a substitute*, call Linda Odle at 690-9358 or 207-2623. **When you know, you can't work in the**

nursery, please e-mail the date(s) to ilodle@comcast.net or put them in writing and give them to Linda Odle in the nursery. Thanks!



Babies/Toddlers and Preschool Children

You probably did it when your children were small so why do it now? Wouldn't it have been nice for you to have a break when your children were small? How about giving our parents a break one week, every six weeks? You won't miss anything, because you can pick-up an **audio CD** of the complete service when you come enjoy loving our children. They are the next generation of our church. You will have no preparation or teaching. Just come help. You can choose helping with the babies/toddlers or preschoolers.

To help please contact Ms. Linda in the nursery or call 690-9358 or 207-2623 for more information.



***Your Prayers are needed for The Good
News Club at New Hopewell Elementary***



Will you pray for the Good News Club children? When you **sign up** on the sheet in the **back** by the kitchen, you will be emailed a copy of **the GNC children's prayer request**. These children need your prayers. Please print your email clearly.

Thank You



REQUESTS:

Bernie: That his Papa will get better – he is sick.

Alexander: Pray for my sister to get to stay with our family.

Michael: Pray for my family

Aaron: Pray that my brother will spend more time with me.

Maddy: Pray for my grand-daddy who was bitten by a poisonous spider

PRAISES:

Cydney: Thank you Lord for my Mom letting me play basketball.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:



BREAD + BUTTER

CrossWalk Café

Our next Cafe' will be **March 5, 2017**. Since St. Patrick's Day is the 17th, we will be celebrating with an **"Irish Potato Bar."** Baked potatoes will be provided by the church and we invite people to bring various toppings to dress up the BPs as well as salads, desserts and drinks. Come and enjoy some great food and conversation around the table!



THANK YOU...KUDOS...APPLAUSE!!!

The session would like to say **THANK YOU** to all families for your service on the **Refreshment Ministry Team**. When you join the church, you are assigned to this team, as we feel it is a ministry that all can participate in. You are paired with another family and given one month (every 1 1/2 – 2 years) to provide Sunday morning refreshments. Most teams take two weeks each; others share in the entire month. *It is up to*

you. Please remember that you are NOT responsible for providing breakfast for everyone. This is just a light refreshment to have with coffee or juice. (Coffee is provided by the church.) What the teams provide is their gift to the church in service to our Lord. Be sure and show your gratitude... We are certainly grateful to each of you!!!

**The teams are posted on the bulletin board for the year and printed 3 months ahead in the newsletter, so that you can plan ahead.*



Sunday Morning Refreshment Schedule

March 2017

Linda & Jim Odle 690-9358
Gwen & Greg Davis 577-0561

April 2017

Lisa & Pat McNabb 951-1866
Jim Slyman 250-1821

May 2017

To be announced



CrossWalk family, if you see a need to replenish coffee supplies such as coffee, hot/cold cups, paper towels, kitchen dish soap or men's/women's room supplies, **please let us know** by; (1) noting what is needed on the bulletin board in the kitchen for refreshment supplies and (2) noting on the rest room listing in the rest rooms so that supplies can be replenished **before they are completely out**. If you have questions, please contact *Judy Campbell* or *Sue Werner*. Thank you!



Check out our website!

Have you checked out our website lately? It's a great way to introduce people to our church. Navigate through the site and see pictures of various activities. There are photos of **JAM** (Jesus and Me children's ministry), church events, a calendar of events, and the weekly messages are catalogued in the media section. This is a helpful tool in keeping informed and a good resource to refer to your friends. The web address is www.crosswalkepc.org.



Church Cleaning Committee

March 1 – 4 - Beth Ferguson w John Carson

March 8 – 11 – Stan & Susan Fletcher

March 15 – 18 – Stan & Susan Fletcher

March 22 – 25 – Brad & Lisa Brummett

March 29 – Apr 1 – Brad & Lisa Brummett

PLEASE!

If you use the church during the week, please, be sure to take your trash with you when you leave – especially food waste.



Commentary on Romans 5:1 – 8

"Access" has become a key phrase in our technological age.

At the door of the seminary where I work we try to remember the "access" code. At the computer, we turn the noun into a verb: "I need to access that file." When I am at home trying to retrieve messages from my workplace e-mail account and my finger or my memory slips as I try to type in my password, the screen goes blank except for the sad judgment: "Access denied." Many of us have different passwords for our e-mail accounts, our banking, our travel service and the on-line vendors from whom we order books, CDs and fresh fruit. I write

a carefully coded list in the back of my date book of all the passwords I am apt to need and only hope that I do not lose the date book.

Paul wrote for a world in which people were desperately trying to find the passwords that would give them access to God. Some thought that careful obedience to the law of Moses was the key. Others thought that civic virtue was the key. Still others tried to placate God by the breadth of their philosophical knowledge.

Paul's astonishing claim is that there is only one password we need to remember: Jesus Christ and that in Jesus Christ everyone has access to grace. And suddenly the entire picture is reversed. ***It is not that we are striving to reach God, it is that God is striving to reach us--grace.*** It is not that we use Jesus to attain God's mercy, it is that God sends Jesus to enact the mercy that God has intended from the beginning of time.

Grace, however, is not only the activity of God in Jesus Christ that reaches out to include everyone (in Paul's case, especially both Jews and Gentiles.) Grace is also our dwelling place "This grace in which we stand." God's goodness to us surrounds us and upholds us and defines who we are. Our lives are shaped by the gift we can never achieve but can only receive.

And Paul tells us what the life looks like that is grounded in grace. It is not usually marked by earthly success and most certainly not blessed by earthly prosperity. Far more often it is marked by suffering. It is, after all, a Christ-shaped life that lives in grace. But the suffering bears its own fruits, or better, grace bears fruit through the suffering. The litany of the gifts of grace is a kind of sketch of moral and spiritual development for the person grounded in the grace of God. Start with suffering and move to endurance; from endurance comes character, and character produces hope. Ethicists are much committed to helping us think about "character" ethics these days. Paul would say that we can be pretty sure someone has character right if she lives in hope. Then note what the source and the instrument of this hope is.

Love produces hope. We all know that that is true existentially. The child who lives in hope is a child who has been surrounded by love. I heard William Sloane Coffin, Jr. say that the opposite of love is

hate, it is fear. The consequence of that is clear: the product of love is hope. Paul will say in 1 Corinthians 13 that the three great gifts of God's spirit are faith, hope, and love. In Romans 4-5 the three gifts are inseparable from one another and from God's spirit.

The love to which Paul points--as he has already made clear--is not simply human love. It is God's love shown in Jesus Christ. The verse about the distinction between dying for a righteous person and dying for a good person in vs. 7 has puzzled many scholars with good reason. But all that is the preface to the main point: that Christ has died--not for the righteous and not for the good, but for the ungodly. That is good news because most of us know perfectly well that the category of the ungodly includes us.

Now it is even clearer than when we began. What counts is not so much our access to God as God's access to us. It is not that we reach longingly toward heaven but that heaven reaches out longingly to us. It is not that we are good enough or wise enough or obedient enough to gain God; it is that God has gained us for Himself.

John Buchanan, the former congressman from Alabama, told of how he first began to understand the Christian story. He was serving on the front in the Second World War. He and a group of his fellow soldiers were advancing when the enemy lobbed a grenade into their midst. Instantly one of Buchanan's fellow soldiers fell on the grenade, absorbed the explosion and gave up his life for his friends.

We struggle to come up with a doctrine of the atonement, and all the classical solutions seem fall short. Paul was blessed by a richly unsystematic mind. His language about what Jesus does shifts from verb to verb: Christ saves; Christ justifies; Christ reconciles. His description of what Christ does shifts from metaphor to metaphor: an obedient second Adam undoes the disobedience of the first. A sinless man is made to be sin. A godly Messiah dies for ungodly people. The claim outreaches all our metaphors. The name embraces all our weaknesses: **Jesus Christ, access to God's grace; where we stand.**



What is Ash Wednesday?

Lent is intended to be a time of self-denial, moderation, fasting, and the forsaking of sinful activities and habits. Ash Wednesday commences this period of spiritual discipline. Ash Wednesday and Lent are observed by most Catholics and some Protestant denominations. The Eastern Orthodox Church does not observe Ash Wednesday; instead, they start Lent on "Clean Monday."

While the Bible does not mention Ash Wednesday, it does record accounts of people in the Old Testament using dust and ashes as symbols of repentance and/or mourning (2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Daniel 9:3). The modern tradition of rubbing a cross on a person's forehead supposedly identifies that person with Jesus Christ.

If a Christian decides to observe Ash Wednesday and/or Lent, it is important to have a biblical perspective. Jesus warned us against making a show of our fasting: **"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen"** (Matthew 6:16-18). We must not allow spiritual discipline to become spiritual pride.

It is a good thing to repent of sinful activities, but that's something Christians should do every day, not just during Lent. It's a good thing to clearly identify oneself as a Christian, but, again, this should be an everyday identification. And it is good to remember that no ritual can make one's heart right with God.





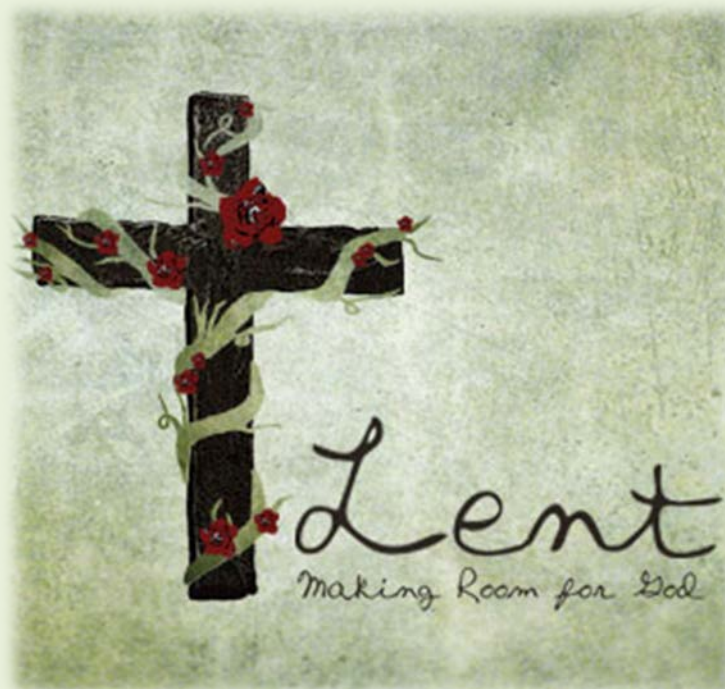
Saint Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people. In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in

the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well-known legend is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.



**Be sure to Spring Forward Saturday evening,
as Daylight Savings is Sunday March 12th!**





EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

Dear friends,

At long last, it appears that the signature counter on the White House petition to free Andrew Brunson is working. We checked the petition page Tuesday afternoon, and for the first time since we launched it on February 6 it indicated more than one signature. From 196 to 208, 396 to 458, and now this morning it shows more than 3,800. It a slow climb to be sure, but hopefully it will soon accurately reflect how many people have requested President Trump to intervene.

If you have not yet signed, please take a moment now to do so at <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/forgotten-american-turkey>.

If your church has an email newsletter, would you consider using it to make your congregation aware of Andrew's situation and this action they can take on his behalf? A quick way to bring your people up to speed is to share our EPConnection articles (which are in one place at www.epconnection.org/?s=brunson) and our Facebook page at www.facebook/EPChurch). To date, more than 40,000 people have been reached by our social media channels, but the petition needs 100,000 signatures by March 8 if we are to get a response from the White House.

Let them know also to include the hashtag #ForgottenAmericanInTurkey and the Twitter handles @WhiteHouse and @realDonaldTrump as they share these links.

Thank you again for your efforts in bringing Andrew's situation to the attention of the White House. Please continue to pray for his release, and for Norine's peace and safety.

God bless you and remember, He is risen!

Jeff