



“WALKING A LIFE OF PASSION AND PURPOSE FOR JESUS CHRIST”

Pastor Kirk Werner

2131 East Governor John Sevier Highway

Knoxville, TN 37920

(865) 573-8684

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

I recently attended the funeral of a good friend and brother in Christ, Ed Langham, at Christ Church in Dalton Georgia.

Ed was a church planter and interim pastor in the Southeast for 59 years. He started many churches in the 9 1/2 years he served as missionary, pilot, and pastor in Brazil. Ed was also a prayer warrior who prayed for pastors, churches and presbyters on a daily basis. He emailed me numerous times asking for specifics of how he might pray for me. A wonderful brother who will be missed by many as well as myself.

Bill Dudley, Stated Clerk of our presbytery, shared that Ed had called him recently to see if he had any further news regarding Andrew Brunson. He was deeply concerned for Andrew and his family and was praying for them daily. Bill said he had hope that perhaps Andrew would be released and reunited with his family on Ed's "Easter Day" which was July 18th. All of us were disappointed to learn that afternoon that that did not happen. Andrew was returned to his cell with a future court date of October 12, 2018.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, let's not flag in our responsibility to continue to pray for Andrew and his family. There were some encouraging things shared by encrypted text by Andrew's

pastor, Bill Campbell who was present at the July 18th trial. I'm not at Liberty to share those things in this format but will share with you some encouraging things Pastor Campbell brought to light when we gather for worship.

For now, let's take to heart these words from Colossians 4:2-6 — ***“Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God. At the same time pray also for us, so that God will give us a good opportunity to preach the message about the secret of Christ. For that is why I am now in prison. Pray then, that I may speak, as I should, in such a way as to make it clear. Be wise in the way you act toward those who are not believers, making good use of every opportunity you have. Your speech should always be pleasant and interesting, and you should know how to give the right answer to everyone.”*** (GNT)

Thank you for your prayers and keep up the good work as a soldier of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Your brother and comrade in arms,

Kirk



Messages for the Month

AUGUST 5, 2018— **Exodus 16:2 – 4 & 9 - 15**
“Grateful or Grumbler” 11th Sunday after Pentecost - **Communion**

AUGUST 12, 2018 - **1 Kings 19:3 - 8** - “A Second Touch” – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

AUGUST 19, 2018 - **Ephesians 5:15 - 20** - “Living Wise in Evil Times” – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

AUGUST 26, 2018— **Joshua 24:1 – 2a & 14 – 18** – “Who You Gonna Serve” – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Our Staff

Pastor: Kirk Werner

Child Care Director: Linda Odle

Music Director: Trey Lister

Director of Children's Ministries:
Anna Baker

Class of 2018:

Donna Carter, Matt Peterson &
Greg Waldrop

Class of 2019:

John Carson &
Courtney Scollard

Class of 2020:

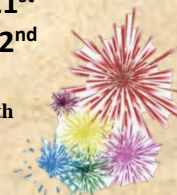
Carol Jordan, Jim Slyman &
Maurice Briere



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



Ava Cecil – 1st
Martin Clabo – 2nd
Cathy Tolber – 2nd
Taryn Olafson – 4th
Katie Esch – 9th
Regina Miller – 9th
Rhett Carter 11th
Emma Kyser – 11th
Nellie Couch – 12th
Billy Draper – 12th
Jordan Werner – 16th
Frances Mckenna – 21st
Ransom Wayman – 22nd
Anna Baker – 22nd
Alex Ridenour – 28th



John & Karin Morton – 2nd
Kirk & Sue Werner – 5th
Rusty & Laura Spargo – 7th
Travis & Anna Baker – 10th
Marshall & Frances Mckenna - 24th
Frank & Betty Clepper – 24th
Jeramie & Jeanne Cecil – 26th
John & Carolyn Carson – 27th
Jim & Linda Odle – 27th



NURSERY SCHEDULE



Preschool Room with **Linda Odle**
Dawn Briere, Laine Donnell or Carol Jordan
& Extra Helper!

(Tentative!)

Aug 5: Lindsay Rosa & Laine Donnell
Aug 12: Jeremy Cecil & Chelsea Peterson
Aug 19: Karin Morton & Brenda Clabo
Aug 26: Irving Rosa & Mike Walkup



Kids Crossing with **Jim Odle**
John Carson or Courtney Scollard

Aug 5: Matt Peterson
Aug 12: Jeanne Cecil
Aug 19: Stan Fletcher
Aug 26: Travis Baker

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 jlodle@comcast.net** or put them in writing and give them to Linda Odle, if in the nursery. Thanks!



Babies/Toddlers/Preschool **& Kids Crossing Children**

Come love on the youngest members of our church family. You will have no preparation or teaching. You can choose to help with the babies/toddlers/preschool or Kids Crossing children. A **FREE CD** of the complete service before you leave church is waiting for you.

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

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



If you can, please remember to bring school supplies purchased for the children attending New Hopewell School or supplies used by the teachers to feed and care for the children in serious need. Children have much difficulty learning when hungry in the morning. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated. *Items can be placed in the back of the church.*

GOD BLESS & Thank You



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:



CrossWalk Café

Our next CrossWalk Cafe will be **August 5, 2018**. As we find ourselves in the midst of the dog days of summer, we thought it would be good to cool things off a bit with a “**Cold-cuts Cafe!**” No need to heat up the kitchen as we share sandwiches, salads and various cold-cuts. Come join us for a relaxed time around the table sharing good food and conversation.



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

August 2018

Karin & John Morton 231-878-9883

Becky & Ben Baker 425-466-3995

September 2018

Lisa & Pat McNabb 951-1866

Janice & Jim Slyman 250-1821

October 2018

L.J. & Davin Olafson 609-6061

Sandy & Fred May 579-5182



CrossWalk family, if you see a need to replenish coffee supplies such as coffee, hot/cold cups, paper towels, kitchen dish soap or the 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 for rest room supplies 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.crosswalkkepc.org.



Church Cleaning Committee

(This schedule is tentative)

Aug 1 – Aug 4 **Mike & Karen Walkup**

Aug 8 – Aug 11 **Rhett & Donna Carter**

Aug 15 – Aug 18 – **Rhett & Donna Carter**

Aug 22 – Aug 25 – **Debbie Lutton & Deb Banta**

Aug 29 – Sep 1 – **Debbie Lutton & Deb Banta**



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

John and Karin Morton would like the CrossWalk Family to know that they have moved. Their new address is:

1711 Washington Pike
Knoxville, TN 37917



Thanks!

Karin



We will have a guest musician playing with the Praise Band on *Aug 5th*. His name is **Chris Brock**. He will be playing banjo and mandolin alternately.

Trey



Family Promise of Knoxville

Interfaith Hospitality Network We need dessert donations and contributions for the cake auction at the Pasta and Bluegrass Festival. If you are interested, please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter for more details. Thank you!

Courtney Scollard

graciousdoll@gmail.com



FALL FESTIVAL AND CRAFT FAIR

Save the Date: *Saturday, September 29, 2018*
from *9am-2pm*.

We need volunteers to help run the activities. A sign-up sheet is available at church.

T-shirts: We want our volunteers to be easily recognized. If you would like to order a CrossWalk T-shirt, please let **Courtney Scollard** know. Shirts are \$6 each and are available in sizes *Youth Small* to *5XL*. *Orders must be placed by August 26.*

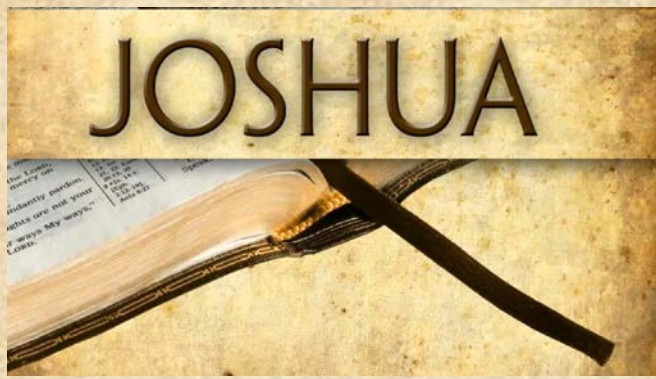
Things we'd like to borrow are:

Tailgate canopies, card tables, and corn hole/bean bag toss games.

A sign-up sheet is available at church.

Please contact **Courtney Scollard** if you have any questions.





Commentary on Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

by Scott Shauf

Today's passage contains one of the most familiar lines from the Old Testament, Joshua's charge to **"choose this day whom you will serve,"** combined with his own response, **"but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord"** (Joshua 24:15). Probably less well remembered are the context in which Joshua makes the charge and the people's astonishingly positive rejoinder. The story is without a doubt one of the true high points in the history of the Israelites' faith. The question for us today is, *how can we appropriate such faith?*

The place in the story

The story takes place at the end of Joshua's and the Israelites' conquest of the Promised Land. In fact, we are well after the period of invasion and warfare, **"a long time afterward, when the Lord had given rest to Israel from all their enemies all around, and Joshua was old and well advanced in years"** (Joshua 23:1). All the tribes have gathered at Shechem, a point right in the middle of the land and right between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim, where Joshua had previously renewed the covenant with the people (Joshua 8:30-35). Joshua had already spoken to the leaders of all the people in chapter 23, right before the passage had given what had seemed to be his final words, in awareness that he himself was shortly to die (23:14). He had given the people stern warnings to follow the law of Moses, laying out the severe consequences should they fail to do so, concluding with, **"you shall perish quickly from the good land that he [the Lord] has given to you"** (23:16).

Yet here in chapter 24 Joshua speaks again. This time he speaks **"to all the people"** (Joshua 24:2), and he speaks not from himself but as a prophet: **"Thus says the Lord,"** begins his speech. The

speech from v. 2b through v. 13 consists of a first-person narrative -- from the perspective of God -- of the mighty acts God had accomplished from the time of Abraham through the conquest of the land. It emphasizes throughout that the whole history was God's doing, not the people's: **"I brought you out"** (v. 5); **"I destroyed them before you"** (v. 8); **"I rescued you"** (v. 10); **"I sent the hornet ahead of you"** (v. 12); culminating with, **"I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and oliveyards that you did not plant"** (v. 13). The speech contains no admonitions, instructions, or warnings, not even including the giving of the law in its account. None of Israel's failures along the way are mentioned, either. It is a straightforward, powerful narrative of God's presence with and action on behalf of the people.

The charge

Thus, when getting to Joshua's charge at v. 14, the decision the people have to make is initially based entirely on remembering their own history through the perspective that God through Joshua has narrated it. The charge is simple: **"revere the Lord"** (the NRSV's "revere" here has traditionally been translated "fear") and **"serve the Lord."** The decision to serve God is put in the context of an option to instead serve the gods the people's ancestors had worshiped prior to the call of Abraham (in his land "beyond the River," i.e. the Euphrates) and in Egypt; v. 15 adds the gods of the Amorites, the people whom the Israelites had conquered and displaced. The expression of the choice is striking in that Joshua does not denigrate these gods at all. They and "the Lord" (Hebrew YHWH, the proper name of God in the Old Testament) are simply given as alternative choices for allegiance.

How do we remember?

The question for the people, then, is *how they will remember their history and whether this history of God's acts will be the basis of their identity going forward.* Here we ought to see ourselves in a similar position, for the question of *how we narrate our own past and present, and how we see God working in them, is a perennial question for Christians.* When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we recall Jesus' words, **"Do this in remembrance of me"** (Luke 22:19). Is Jesus' death the ongoing basis for

our worship, or did his death mean something else? Was he really raised from the dead, or will we take the choice offered in Matthew's Gospel, where some believed instead that his body was stolen (Matthew 28:12-15). As we are still in the season of Pentecost, do we remember that event as God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the church, or as something else, perhaps the disciples being drunk, as some at the time suggested (Acts 2:13)? We have the options. *Which will we take?*

Moreover, the question is always before us in our daily lives. *Can we narrate the story of our own lives as the mighty acts of God?* We might think of the question in terms of our individual lives, but Joshua put it to the people as a whole. We thus might better think of the question corporately, as a church. How can we narrate our history as a people and our lives together going forward as God's work among us?

The response

The people shined in their response to Joshua: **"Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods"** (Joshua 24:16). They summarize Joshua's (God's) account of their history as their own (vv. 17-18a) and then conclude, **"Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God"** (v. 18b). Joshua is not satisfied, for he then goes on to give all the warnings we might have expected already (vv. 19-20), but the people are emphatic in their commitment to the Lord (vv. 21-24), and the exchange concludes with a covenant renewal (vv. 25-28). Nor was this mere lip service, for v. 31 then tells us that **"Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua."** This was a great moment in the history of Israel, one of those all-too-few times when the people really got it right. The story stands as an example and a charge to us: *Will we serve the Lord or the gods of our times?*



Pasta AND Bluegrass FESTIVAL

Benefiting
 Family Promise®
of Knoxville

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25th • 6:00 to 8:00

Sacred Heart School
711 S Northshore Dr, Knoxville, TN 37919

**15 Tastings of
Competition Level Pastas**

**Gluten Free, Vegetarian and
Vegan Options available**

**Tickets: Adults \$10
Children \$5**

Buy Tickets online:
www.eventbrite.com/e/pasta-and-bluegrass-festival-tickets-35148224285



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A United Way Partner

