



The Covenanter

AUGUST 2020



I just received this letter and wanted to forward it along to the congregation. I'm not sure how to respond, but I'm praying an answer might arrive soon.

Dear Pastor,

I'm not sure where to begin... To be honest with you, I'm not really sure what happened. I imagine you know how complicated relationships can be. It seemed all was going well. I mean, I was available and tried to be welcoming and engaging. Perhaps it is my looks? I've always been self-conscious. There are so many others that are prettier than I am, you might say they have better features, and I'm sure they do. However, what I may lack in some areas, I make up for in others. Like most, I have my strengths and weaknesses, but at the end of the day, I know I'm beautiful the way God sees me.

It has been a wonderful journey - until recently. Like many others, time has come and gone, life has passed through me and I was content to watch. At times, I sensed a greater purpose. I sensed God had created me for something more, but the days came and went. I witnessed children grow and have children of their own. I've also had to say goodbye many times, and all seemingly to soon. It's been interesting over the years. Family, friends and loved ones used to drop by almost every day. We had a grand time. We would have picnics, watch the children run around and play, but my favorite part was when we would sing together. The music was so beautiful – I think I heard angels.

I guess looking back upon it all, I see a slow fade. In other words, what I'm describing didn't happen overnight. In fact, I've noticed for some time now there just seems to be fewer and fewer family left. Don't get me started on the kids and grandkids, they are so busy, their schedules are so full. They will drive right by someday, and not even stop in to say hello or pray with the old lady. It can be depressing.

I've always tried to encourage the family to look up. I've always tried to be gentle about sharing Christ with others, because our Lord has always been gentle with me. Nonetheless, I decided, really from the foundation of it all, that I should stand as a witness for Jesus Christ. I prayed that my life would bear witness to what God has done and how the Holy Spirit has shaped me, but maybe I pushed too hard? Perhaps, they grew tired of God? Maybe, people are simply tired of me? Maybe people are just too busy? I don't know the reason. I only know I'm lonely. I only know I'm empty. I only know I miss them.


You and the handful that drop by each week, please tell them how my heart breaks. Please tell them I would love to see all of them. Tell them the arms of my pews are open. Remind them, they can see visions of Christ in the kaleidoscope of colors that dance through the windows of my eyes. Tell them, you can still hear the beauty of my voice through the organ and piano. Even though their name tags lay scattered on the floor, like children scattered to the wind, tell them I read their names each week and long to see each of them. In the end, I know you can't make somebody love you, but what can I do so my family will come back to me?

Expectantly Waiting, Christ's House of Worship

Of course, this is a piece of creative writing on my part, but it reminds me relationships are a touchy thing. It also reminds me relationships require intentionality and a willingness to share one's self with another. We may be prevented from gathering corporately, but individually take a moment and stop by the sanctuary, say hello, say a prayer, enjoy her beauty – she obviously misses you.

Grace, Mercy and Peace,

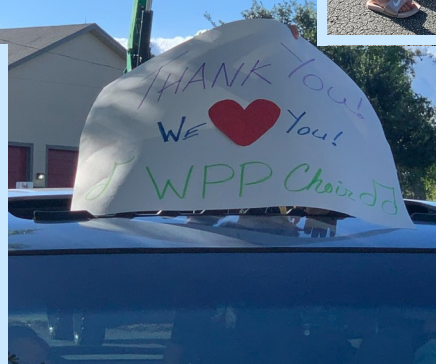
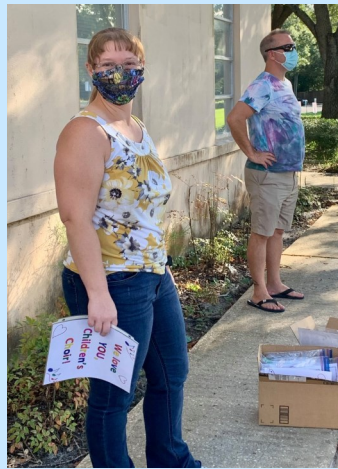
Pastor Darren



Hear the
"Still Small Voice"
of God

Children's Choir End of Year Recognition

On July 21st the Children's Choir gathered in the church parking lot to officially close out their season. Thank you to all the children, parents and volunteers who made all this possible.



Our WPPC Youth went to *Tree Trek Adventure Park* on July 29th. A perfect place to go in these times of social distancing! Everyone had a great time and it was so good to get out for some fresh air and meet up with everyone.



DEACON'S DEN

Matthew 18:3: "And he said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'"

A story passed through Quaker circles about a young child and his baby sister. The boy's parents overheard him whispering to baby Sis. He said, "Tell me all about God. I'm starting to forget."

Daughter Annie and grandbaby Ava stayed with us for a week in June. When I picked up Ava and looked into her eyes, she looked straight back at me. Her pupils widened as she scanned my face, but she took in my appearance without judgment. She studied me with clearness, without prior assumptions. Her innocence gave me a sense of open horizons, of a cloudless blue sky.

Ava trusted us to feed, clothe and clean her, to give her comfort, and to encourage her when she tried out new skills. Surprises, hunger and waking up alone made her cry. But as soon as we met her needs, tears dried up. She smiled and did a happy dance when she greeted the next person she saw. Fears and the memory of discomfort didn't stick to her.

I can see the great benefit of becoming "like little children", but Matthew 18:3 puzzles me. How do we return to a childlike state? We spend a long time learning to act like responsible adults. Can we pretend that past troubles, current troubles, possible future troubles don't bother us? Can we live from moment to moment in clear wonder? Can we trust in the goodness of God's plan for us?

Perhaps the answer lies in trying to see the world with fresh eyes. New possibilities open when I wait to pass judgment on a person or situation. Or give myself room to adjust my attitude. An uncle always greets me with a jibe, a poke at my self-esteem. I took offense and avoided him when possible. But one day, it occurred to me that he was just inviting me to play a game. The next time he insulted me, I returned the favor. He grinned: I had met him on his terms.

Anxious, painful situations can lead to insights when I stop resisting experience. Speechmaking took on another flavor when I focused on the interaction between my pulse and the audience response. Flopping became a vivid field of discovery.

Pleasant moments can develop from discomfort. I trimmed the bushes in our yard last week. After a half hour, my shoulders ached. Thorns had scratched my forearms. Mosquitos feasted on my calves. I looked up and noticed the crepe myrtle at the end of the driveway. Fuchsia blooms stood out against a backdrop of green leaves. Well-being flooded my mind. I no longer minded my condition as I became immersed in the beauty of the flowers.

~Dennis Schmalstig, WPPC Deacon

LIBRARY NEWS



Q: Who made you?

A: God

Q: What else did God make?

A: God made all things.

Q: Why did God make all things:

A: For His own glory.

Q: How many Gods are there:

A: There is only one God.

Q: Can you see God?

A: No, but He can see you.

Q: What is the chief end of man?

A: Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

Q: What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A: The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

Q: What is God?

A: God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Q: Who are you?

A: I am a child of God.

Q: What does it mean to be a child of God?

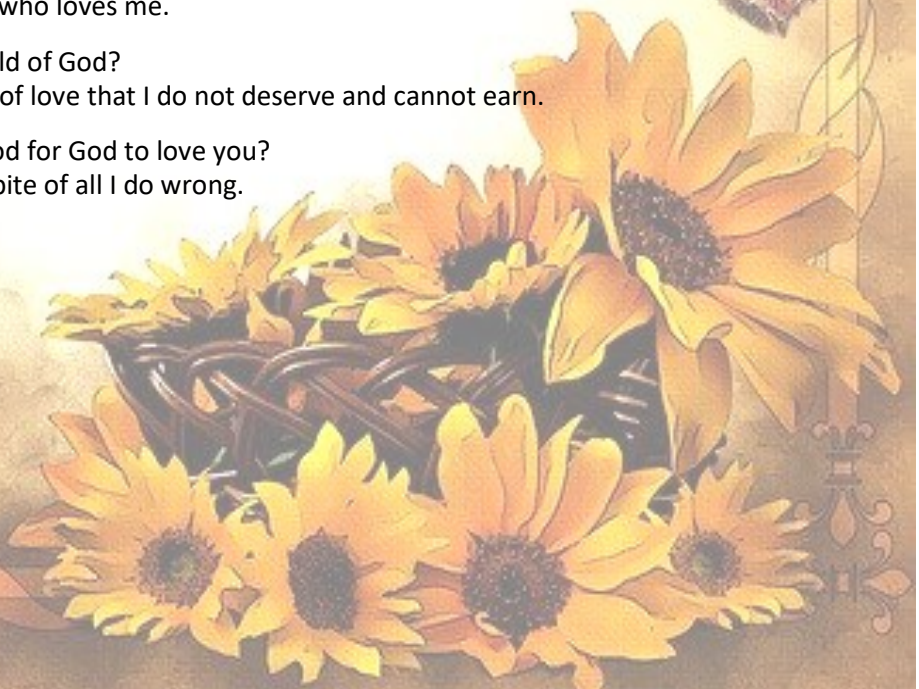
A: That I belong to God, who loves me.

Q: What makes you a child of God?

A: Grace, God's free gift of love that I do not deserve and cannot earn.

Q: Do you have to be good for God to love you?

A: No, God loves me in spite of all I do wrong.





In person services are suspended until further notice. Please join us on Sunday mornings for our online worship service. A link to the video will be sent out Sunday morning. You can also find sermons on our website at: <http://winppc.org/sermons/>.

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

WPPC continues to need your kind and generous financial support. As we are sure you are aware, even though we are not able to hold in person Sunday services the church's expenses continue. Gifts may be made by mail or on our website – www.winppc.org/give.

As always, we are extremely grateful for your support that upholds the entire life of the church.



Pastor Reile of the Santa Clara Presbyterian Church in Cuba, recently shared with us that they have very few cases of COVID-19. For a month now they have been having services in the sanctuary. They follow health instructions and practice hand washing and physical distancing (no mention of masks). They continue to keep all of us in their prayers. On a happy note, Reile and Danellys welcomed their daughter, Diana Laura Marrero Delgado to their family on July 3rd.



Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of:

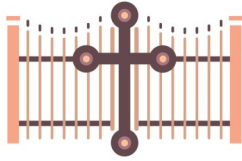
Myrtle Crawford, 7/5/20

James Hollingshead, 7/17/20

Bible Quiz

In John of Patmos' vision, what is special about the 12 gates of the New Jerusalem?

- A. They are made of gold and always closed.
- B. They are made of amethyst and onyx.
- C. They are closed by day and open by night.
- D. They are made of pearl and never closed.



Answer: D (See Revelation 21:21, 25.)

Puzzle!

After looking up each Bible passage, find and circle the location in the word search. (If a verse lists more than one place, figure out which one is hidden.) Answers can be found horizontally, vertically and diagonally.

Genesis 2:15
Genesis 11:9
Genesis 35:1
Exodus 13:18
Ruth 1:1
1 Kings 18:19
1 Chronicles 11:4
Isaiah 23:1
Isaiah 23:2
Isaiah 23:3
Jonah 1:2
Matthew 3:6
Matthew 4:18
Matthew 26:36
Luke 24:13
John 2:1
Acts 8:5
Acts 11:22
Acts 17:16
Romans 1:15

T O W E R O F B A B E L
I J E M O A E S C E E M
G H A R S D U O H V L R
L I E S N Y F M T H I A C
E A H T B D C D H E L N A T
S A M T H E T C A N G U
U M T H E T C A N G U
R A E T B D C D H E L N A T
1 K I N G S 1 8 : 1 9
1 C H R O N I C L E S 1 1 : 4
I S A I A H 2 3 : 1
I S A I A H 2 3 : 2
I S A I A H 2 3 : 3
J O N A H 1 : 2
M A T T H E W 3 : 6
M A T T H E W 4 : 1 8
M A T T H E W 2 6 : 3 6
L U K E 2 4 : 1 3
J O H N 2 : 1
A C T S 8 : 5
A C T S 1 1 : 2 2
A C T S 1 7 : 1 6
R O M A N S 1 : 1 5

oops!

From a church newsletter in Memphis, Tennessee:

NEW BIBLE STUDY CLASSES NEXT WEEK!

Attention, Singles!

We'd like your input to help us plan our new Singles Misery.

We want your feedback.

Sounds like they could use a *ministry*.

oops!

From a worship bulletin in Muncie, Indiana:

Rejoice in God's many blessings.

Praise Gold!

For he richly provides all our needs.

God is indeed our greatest treasure!



Compete for the crown



The apostle Paul compares the Christian life to running a race for an imperishable crown.



Directions: From the starting line through the finish line, circle every third letter. Then place the circled letters in order in the blanks below to complete 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, NIV.

START

ctrejasucphelnpomrxkibvztaejargiusonycw

iqsatexympsakogmzsjeeubtnyehapidmrfo

tegrbuanpicdnofihmneygjocsxrdpoetwkin

FINISH

"Do you not know that in a _____ all the runners run, but only one gets the _____? _____ in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who _____ in the _____ goes into strict _____. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a _____ that will last forever."

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-25, NIV

Answer: race, prize, run, competes, games, training, crown



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<u>1</u> <i>Jim Ocque</i> <i>LaRue Ott</i>
<u>2</u> <i>Tom Simmons</i>	<u>3</u> <i>Ernestine Beattie</i>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> <i>Marilyn Kieffner</i>	<u>6</u> <i>Bette Jumper</i>	<u>7</u> <i>Brad Hurd</i>	<u>8</u> <i>Emily Kent</i> <i>Laurie Grizzard</i> <i>Carol Pickler</i>
<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> <i>Robbie Dreasher</i> <i>Carol Howell</i>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> <i>Steve Bryant</i>	<u>14</u> <i>Cheryl Darcy</i> <i>Malcolm MacDiarmid</i> <i>Hilda Shaw</i>	<u>15</u> <i>Mary Beardall</i>
<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> <i>Harper Erb</i>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> <i>Caroline Beaty</i>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> <i>Bianca Anderson</i> <i>Jean Carolan</i> <i>Isidoro dePaula</i>	<u>22</u>
<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> <i>Nancy Hamlin</i>	<u>25</u> <i>Sandy Matrick</i>	<u>26</u> <i>Larry Seel</i> <i>Ann Tebbetts</i>	<u>27</u> <i>Ann MacDiarmid</i>	<u>28</u> <i>Susan Price</i>	<u>29</u>
<u>30</u> <i>Donna Ettinger</i>	<u>31</u> <i>Marilyn Simmons</i>					



The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor
 The Rev. Emily Wasser, Associate Pastor
 Carolyn Achenbach, Director of Operations/Accountant
 Cindy Mitchum, Executive Assistant
 Barbara Hordern, Administrative Assistant
 Justin Chase, Director of Music
 Penny Walsh, Organist
 Susan Davis, Director of Handbells & Children's Music
 Tricia Wilson, Director of Preschool Programs
 Kenny Lovelace, Sexton

SESSION

2020

Doris Anguish
 Marilyn Bryant
 Rick Davis
 Steve House
 Larry Seel
 Bob White

2021

Phillip Anderson
 Lisa Dreasher
 Jayne Leach
 Shaheed Mohammed
 Peter Rice
 Nelson Roe

2022

Theresa Coker
 Bonnie Gaughan
 Fran Morrissey
 Sean Tallungan
 Michelle Trahan
 Jay Van Hook

DIACONATE

2020

Ardyth Austin
 Cathy House
 Caroline James
 Jim McKinney
 Dennis Schmalstig
 Matt Straub

2021

Mike Galyean
 Reta Jackson
 Julie Kent
 Curtis Koon
 Sara Van Arsdell
 Jeanne Vinci

2022

Susan Davis
 Jane Munns
 Rachel Myers
 Christine Rich
 Meg Ball Thomas

MISSIONARIES

Rev. Gordon and Dorothy Gartrell - Brazil
 Jenny Bent - Dominican Republic
 Mark Hare - Haiti
 Dr. Dan & Elizabeth Turk - Madagascar

For Covenanter or Sunday bulletin submissions, please fill out a publicity request online at <http://winppc.org/publicity-request/> or contact Cindy Mitchum at cindym@winppc.org or 407-647-1467.