



The Faith Circuit Rider

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From the Pastor



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Scripture Thought:



The two of us were in his shop surrounded by woodworking tools, piles of wood and several projects in various stages of completion. The man of her dreams and partner for life was in a hospital bed some 50 miles away after suffering his second stroke. The prognosis for a return to his shop and projects was not promising.

In retirement he had found a source of income to supplement a modest retirement income and they had been able to spend their days together on their mom and pop business, actually, more accurately stated, my mom's and pop's business. The unfinished projects paled in comparison with the unanswered questions. We would finish the projects and deliver the cabinets and other items promised. The craft show we could manage and the balance of the wood and tools would wait in hope for their master's return to use or shape them into something of service.

However, the unasked and unanswered question seemed to be as present as a ticking clock marks an agonizing movement of time. Like a fitful night and the tick, tick, tick of the clock whose hands never seem to move and dawn seems to never come.

Then she asked it. I must confess to being surprised by the question. I had heard the stories of her father's untimely death in her early teens, the struggles of the Great Depression, a husband away to war and a daughter to raise alone. I had seen first-hand her hard work in the Weave room, the garden and around the house; I knew she knew the harsh reality that life is hard. I also knew her to be a person of faith with a personal relationship with her Savior and Lord. This faith had sustained her at her mother's death and other events that befall the human condition.

"What did your father and I do that was so bad that God would do this to us", asked my mother. The question surprised me. I was surprised at the thought that God would single her or my father out to visit some wrath on them that she seemed to be taking so personally. But it is hard to accept the goodness and grace God apart from the possibility of the wrath of the same God. After all, I had been on the receiving of love with a switch. My initial response was one from the head. "Mama, there might be lots of reasons for daddy's stroke; genes, diet, lifestyle and who knows what else but I don't think God just singled him out to punish you or him. Sometimes bad things happen." I am quite sure she understood with her head but her heart was still trying to make sense of it all. That is the way life works. Our head gets it faster than our hearts. Hearts hurt while heads ponder.

That conversation came to mind recently when I received a call from someone who wanted to tell me how much they missed her good friend who died too soon. She went on to ask the question of why the good die before we are ready for them to leave us. I gave all the right "head" answers. I reminded her of the Rabbi Kushner's assertion that there is randomness to the good and bad in life and Leslie Weatherhead's ultimate will of God being accomplished. in spite of life's crummy circumstances. I lifted up the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus as a case study of God's redeeming a tragedy and turning it into a triumph. Then I told her what I know to be true from my study and experience, the distance between knowing and feeling may be continents apart. I went on to tell her about what Paul reminded us in I Corinthians 13, "Now we know in part..."

But of most comfort to me is something I heard long ago. I do not remember where but it is written on my soul with indelible ink, "When you cannot understand the mind of God, trust His heart."

*Agape',
Pastor Rob*

From the Lay Leader

May 2019

“What is a Mother” by Fred Kruse (Taken from Windows to a Mother’s Heart)

Somewhere between the youthful energy of a teenager and the golden years of a woman’s life, there lives a marvelous and loving person known as “Mother”.

A mother is a curious mixture of patience, kindness, understanding, discipline, industriousness, purity, and love. A mother can be, at one and the same time, both “lovelorn counselor” to a heartsick daughter and “head football coach” to an athletic son.

A mother can sew the tiniest stitch in the material for that dainty prom dress, and she is equally experienced in threading through the heaviest traffic with a station wagon.

A mother is the only creature on earth who can cry when she’s happy, laugh when she’s heartbroken, and work when she’s feeling ill.

A mother is as gentle as a lamb and as strong as a giant. Only a mother can appear so weak and helpless and yet be the same one who puts the fruit jar cover on so tightly even Dad can’t get it off.

A mother is a picture of helplessness when Dad is near and a marvel of resourcefulness when she’s all alone.

A mother has the angelic voice of a member in the celestial choir as she sings Brahms’ lullaby to a babe held tight in her arms, yet this same voice can dwarf the sound of an amplifier when she calls her boys in for supper.

A mother has the fascinating ability to be almost everywhere at once, and she alone can somehow squeeze an enormous amount of living into an average day.

A mother is “old-fashioned” to her teenager, just “Mom” to her third-grader, and simply “Mama” to a little two-year-old sister.

But there is no greater thrill in life to point to that wonderful woman and be able to say to all the world, “That’s my mother!”

I thought this writing was most appropriate as we will soon be remembering our mothers, wherever they are, on May 12th. I am truly grateful to my mom for everything she taught me and the example she set for me. I miss her every day! I hope wonderful memories of your mom will flood your soul as you remember her on Mother’s Day.

Susan

Treasurer’s Report



April 25, 2019

“I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it with my Prayers, my Presence, my Gifts, my Service, and my Witness.”

2019 Budget \$51,739.00

Needed through 04/21/19 for budget	\$16,556.48
Received to date for budget	\$16,191.00
Behind Budget	\$ 365.48
Paid out to date for budget	\$13,657.44

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS!

JIF Class



Classes for All Ages

Thanks to Rob for the Lenten Study.

George will be leading lessons on Ecclesiastes during this month.



The UMM will meet at their new time and day immediately following the morning worship service on Sunday, May 5, 2019.

Gerald

God Bless All the Mothers!

**“Give her of the fruit of her hands;
and let her own works praise her
in the gates.” Proverbs 31:31**





May is such a busy month in Haywood County. So much beauty to be grateful for and so many opportunities to do Christ's work in this world. Communion will be on Sunday May 5th and we will be accepting nonperishable foods for Haywood Christian Ministry. Then on Saturday, May 11 the postal carrier's food drive will happen nationwide. If you feel unable to participate in both drives that will be ok. If you have a po box or your carrier doesn't pick up your food, bring it to church and I will deliver it. Any food donated to postal carriers does stay in Haywood County.

On Memorial Day, May 27th we will have our cookout to raise funds for the Bear Closet that is located in the Francis Cove church. This ministry aids the young mothers and families that need help with baby supplies.

God bless you all, the way you bless me with your love and generosity,

Beth



**SERVING MEALS
TO THE HOMELESS**

OPEN DOOR - 32 Commerce Street,
Waynesville, Saturday,
May 18th at 5:30PM.

Colorful Ladies of Faith

We will meet on the third Thursday at 10:00. We are excited to have new coloring cards and hope all can attend for fun and fellowship as we support this ministry

At noon we will enjoy eating together. Bring your own lunch; desert and beverage provided.



Visit our website at fumcwnc.org

It has been updated and is updated weekly!

New Feature: You can click on the Upcoming Worship scripture and view the actual Pew Bible translation.



If any changes or additions need to be made please contact me by calling 828-456-6944 or email jlf21@charter.net. Thanks, Judy

Flowers for Faith



We appreciate those who have signed the Flower Calendar list and those who will fill in the Sundays that are still available. The Flower Calendar is on the Bulletin Board.



Invitation:

Come at 2:00 to enjoy a delightful movie and snacks. All are invited to join us in the JIF Room.



**LETTER CARRIERS'
FOOD DRIVE
SAT., MAY 11, 2019**

May Servants:



Greeters: Betty Gant

Educational Entrance: Committee of the UMM



Our church now has assistance for the hearing impaired. If you have trouble hearing the service, please pick up a hearing aid in the narthex.

A special thank you to Eduardo and Tracy for spearheading this project and helping to make our worship services more meaningful for all.

Rev. Robo Calling

Please be reminded to contact **Rev. Robo (400-7947)** if you have sickness, death, or any prayer needs.

It is a privilege for your Faith family to share your burdens or prayer concerns and lift you in prayer.

May Celebrations Happy Birthday



5-Betty Gant
13-Frances Scruggs
18-Abbey Scarbrough
18-Earl Cogdill
31-Bina Cogdill



6-Gerald & Susan Trantham
7-Carolyn & Charles Taylor
31-Bina & Earl Cogdill



Happy Mothers Day

*She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and laughs at the days to come.*

*She opens her mouth in wisdom;
kindly instruction is on her tongue.*

Proverbs 31:25-26