

Two experiences from the recent Easter weekend stand out as especially meaningful. Both involved relating to people who had a sense of special need and the sharing of food. The first was the practice that we often realize on holidays in coordination with Fifth Street, namely, the delivery of meals on wheels to those shut-ins, many of whom would not have a meal if someone did not bring food to them. Some folk are quiet, but grateful. Others express their gratitude with much conversation. We often get notes or calls left on the answering machine stating a sense of thankfulness for the meal that arrived per the delivery efforts of Grace folk. This past Saturday eleven individuals/families participated in the meal delivery.

The second experience was the annual Easter Sunrise Service at Fifth Street Ministries. This has developed to a point where folk from Grace, the community-at-large, and the shelter join together for a time of worship and then the sharing of a big breakfast together. This year, we had a large gathering with perhaps one of our largest representations from the shelter. It gives us the opportunity to do what the church is most strategically called to do....go where there are hungry people and feed them. That is also joined with the monthly service at the soup kitchen. The breaking of bread on Easter morning was a thing of beauty. Thanks to so many who offered a helping hand.

Grace

www.gracestatesville.org

Gary's cell - 704-682-1768

Prayer Requests

Those who have suffered loss: Family of Ric Comer; Chris Shuford and family, Family of Laura Wilkenson, cousin of Jean Stroupe

Those who are sick: Peggy King, Susie Wiberg, Rhea Lamb, Luke Cashdollar, Donald Joines, Davis Overcash, Ronda Stewart-Wilcox, Juanita Stroud, Helen Current, Diane Martin, Amy Hrabar, Logan Elkins, Madysen West, daughter of Reponda Powell, Kat Martin, Amber Davis, Redallia Freeman, Miguel Angel Morrillo, Tony Bellamy, Sue Walser, Marian Grant, Fred Wilson, Jean Wilson, Sharon and Dennis Keller, Teresa Rimmer, Daniel Renegar, Mary Alice Woods, Jeff and Karen Coggins, Tressie and Allen Starrette, Ernie Hendrix, Mary Ruth Godfrey, Anita Tuit and family, Gail Germain, John Munson's father, Anita Johnson, Barbara Robinson, Mary Jean Grose, Dr. Hanna Kutteh, Beecher and Mary Lee Grose, Don and Deborah Autrey-Cooke, Scott Cranford, Leisa Parks, Dalton Edwards
Those facing tough times: Ed and Nancy Clark, David and Teri Campbell and family, Faith Aiken, Dima Hanania and family, Robbie Harkey and family, Michael Teasley and family, Goodman family, those who are mentally ill, those who are affected by violence, those who are incarcerated, those dealing with addictions in our community and in our world: Children who are a part of the Guardian ad Litem program, local law enforcement officers and fire fighters

Those in the military: Molly Murphy, Greg West, Josh Wingfield, James Pulliam, Mark Staley, Adam Ivey, Austin Frutig, Zach Spoor, Mary Jane Johnson, Travis Clower, Logan Frutig, Caleb Sisk, Felix Martin, JJ Golden

CELEBRATIONS

April 7 - Keith Stroupe

11 - John Hendrix

Anniversaries: April 3—Scott and Sharon McDougall; April 5 - David and Phyllis Rogers; April 6 - Mike and Luann Nigrelli; April 7 - Tom and Susie Wiberg

CONCERNS

Remember Savannah Garrett, friend of Sloane Goodman, who is waiting on test results to determine if more surgery is needed.

April 5 - 12, 2015

gracestatesville@gmail.com

OUTREACH

ICM is in need of a variety of canned food items
Fifth Street is in need of garden tools, garden hoses, anything that can be used in a greenhouse or garden.
Both agencies can benefit from your financial support

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Church maintenance before Sunday:- Munson
Worship Hour Childcare for Sunday - Janice
Comer and Arnold Watt / Kevin Angell and Nancy Davis

BUDGET

Needed year to date:
\$27,397.72
Received year to date:
\$22,757.25
Under budget: \$4,640.47
,Weekly needs: \$1956.98

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you can help with mowing this spring/summer/fall, sign up on the sheet in the back of the church.

Monday, April 13 is the time for serving supper at Fifth Street. Hope you will join us at 5pm. We are finished within the hour and it is a great experience.

CALENDAR

- Monday: 8pm - NA
- Wednesday: 7pm - Choir rehearsal
- Friday: 8pm - NA
- Sunday: 10am - Sunday School; 11am - Worship

EASTER'S CONTEXT THEN AND NOW

by Tom Ehrich

Easter always has a context.

The original took place in the context of Roman oppression of the known world, massive enslavement of defeated peoples, excessive wealth in the hands of a few, widespread ignorance, a corrupt emperor claiming to be God and God's corrupt people claiming to be righteous.

To that world, Jesus said hardly a word. He refused to defend himself from false accusations. He refused to curry favor with the powerful. To the wealthy he said, Give it away. To the righteous he said, Deny yourselves, and pick up your own cross. To the weak he said, Be strong. To the strong he said, Be weak. To outcasts he said, Welcome. To his accusers and tormentors he said, I forgive you.

Easter's context is much the same in 2015. Widespread oppression and enslavement, excessive wealth in the hands of a few, worsening ignorance, bigots claiming to serve God, the self-righteous claiming to revere God's truth, hatred declared holy, and what God does value -- love, mercy, justice, tolerance, peace -- declared expendable.

To our world Jesus has the same few words to say. Give it away, take up a cross, be strong, be weak, welcome, I forgive you.