



The Messenger

Newsletter of The Walhalla Presbyterian Church
and
The West Union Chapel
Volume No. 151, Issue No. 5 & 6 May/June 2017

Dear Church Family,

As we journeyed through Holy Week, I was reminded of an amazing short hike experience at the Abbey of Our Lady Gethsemani (yes, that's how they spell it) in north central KY. It's a Trappist (a.k.a. Cistercian) monastery and is the oldest operating monastery in the USA. Many parts of the monastery are open to the public at certain times, and I highly recommend this little hike because it is a deeply moving spiritual experience! The best way I can describe it is to share an entry from my journal.

March 16, 2013, [Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani](#)

Entry One—Shortly before 10 AM

I had no idea what to expect from the Abbey experience, but I had prayed several times that every member of the class would have a tangible experience of God during the hours at the Abbey. I was expectant.

As soon as we were dismissed from the conference room, I headed off alone in hopes of finding the walk to the statues. I did not find it at first. What I found was an area labeled, "Monastic Area Do Not Enter." I wondered what the monks do in their private areas. More than that, I was thankful to them for sharing so much of their space with the public. That sharing must be especially costly for them because we embody so much of the worldliness and internal noise that they strive to avoid. Opening their space to the public must be like freely offering one's body to mosquitoes—accepting significant inconvenience and irritation for the purpose of feeding strangers.

Walking alone through the woods and to the statues, I could feel the shedding of stress. Shoulders lowered; back loosened. It was a wonderful feeling. Walking on my elliptical in my bedroom offers only a tiny fraction of the stress reduction I experienced while walking in the woods.

Seeing the big bronze statue of the slumbering three—Peter, James, and John (Mt. 26.36-46)—I was overwhelmed with feelings of guilt. I am so much like them. Like them, I have given up a lot to follow Jesus. Like them, I am dedicated to him. Yet, like them, I certainly fail and disappoint him at times. How often? How frequently do I let down Jesus in a major way? I spent a few minutes with the slumbering disciples and with the thoughts they engendered. Then, I walked toward the bend in the path. I'd been told that a statue of Jesus would be around the bend, but I had no idea how strongly seeing that statue would affect me.

Seeing Jesus kneeling with his hands pressed to his head in anguish, I literally fell to the ground. With my face an inch from the leafy forest floor, a strong stench of decay filled my nostrils. Repulsed, I rose to my knees and stared a few minutes at my Savior. The stench of decay made me think of my own sin, mortality, and putrescence.

Looking upon him, four feelings washed over me repeatedly like wind driven waves: shame, gratitude, love for him, and his amazing love for me—a love I can neither match nor merit, a love that accepts as I am and which calls and empowers me to become better than I am.

Love, grace, and peace in Christ to you all!

Vaughan



Walhalla Presbyterian Church & West Union Chapel



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS



Submitted by Don Neal

The Third Annual BBQ for the rebuild of the church was the best so far. We deposited \$4028.00. Joe McCall will pay for the expenses, but it is much better than last year.

The Capital Campaign would like to thank (and you could thank them as well): Blossman Gas in Walhalla for donated propane, Sav-A-Lot Grocery in West Union gave us the meat at a discount, Blue Ridge Electric for the tents, WGOG, Seneca Journal, Walhalla Courier.

Most of all we would like to thank everyone who stood on the line and those who made or bought brownies for this event: Joe McCall, Elaine Barnett, Thomas and Lynda Alexander, Vaughn and Cathy Smith, Dawn Crump, Don Neal, John Morrah, Lamar and Rosemary Bailes, Bob Ashcraft, Sonny Petty, Alex Macaulay, and Jess and Janet Neville. Of course we need to say thanks to J.D. Hoggs BBQ (Jason Davis) for the best BBQ in town. Thanks to all of you for your help!



Mother's Day Offering Observance During May

Submitted by Susan Neal

For more than six decades, South Carolina Presbyterian churches have marked Mother's Day with an offering to be used by Presbyterian Communities, a special ministry these churches founded to bless older adults.

Today, Presbyterian Communities operates five retirement communities that more than 800 seniors across the state call "home." Each location provides a full range of accommodations and services from independent and active living to healthcare and memory support.

Presbyterian churches and their members play a vital role in sustaining this ministry. One way they do this is through the Mother's Day Offering, which is used solely to provide charitable care for needy residents who have outlived their life's savings.

On Mother's Day, May 14, our congregation will continue this tradition of caring that touches the lives of needy seniors. Please consider giving generously for this special offering and help give these seniors and their families precious security and peace of mind.

Walhalla Presbyterian Church has a special relationship with Presbyterian Communities of SC for two reasons: (1) Two of our beloved members, Velma Letson and Gene Nix, reside at the Clinton Community, located approximately 75 miles away. (2) The Foothills Community is only 40 miles away in Easley, SC. If you would like to visit either of these communities, please contact Susan Neal or Rosemary Bailes, either of whom will be happy to arrange a luncheon visit and tour for you. You may be surprised to see what beautiful continuing care residential communities our denomination has to offer.

Hymn of the Month

Submitted by Doug Keel

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1846

*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11:28

Anyone can work with adults, but it takes a special person to communicate with children. Among the early hymnists, one connected with youngsters better than Horatius Bonar, “the prince of Scottish hymnists.”

Horatius was born just before Christmas in 1808, one of eleven children. Two of his siblings—John and Andrew—also became outstanding preachers. After studying for the ministry at the University of Edinburgh and serving an internship at Leith, Horatius was ordained and began pastoring in Kelso. Later he moved to Edinburgh where he became one of Scotland’s most famous pulpiteers.

He began writing hymns while at Kelso, and many of them were especially for children. Later, in his church in Edinburgh where only the Scottish version of the Psalms were sung, only the children were allowed to sing his hymns. On one occasion in the adult services, two of his church leaders stormed out in protest when a hymn was announced. But the children never protested. They loved his visits to Sunday School when he would lead them in exuberant singing.

Horatius wrote “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” for his Sunday School children in 1846. On the page containing the words, he doodled four faces and the head of a man wearing a hat. He based his three verses on three wonderful promises of Jesus in Matthew 11:28, John 4:14, and John 8:12. The first half of each stanza echoes our Lord’s promise, and the last half of each stanza frames our response.

Where did his love for children come from? He and his wife had last five of their children in rapid succession. But God gave him hundreds of children in his Sunday Schools. And that’s not all . . .

Many years later, a surviving Bonar daughter was widowed and returned home to live with her parents. She had five young children. Writing to a friend, Horatius said, “God took five children from life some years ago, and He has given me another five to bring up for Him in my old age.”

Horatius was nearly 80 when he preached in his church for the last time. Among his last requests was that no biography of him be written. He wanted all the glory to be Christ’s alone.

From Robert J. Morgan’s “*Then Sings My Soul*”, copyright, 2003

West Union Chapel

By Kitty Coffey

A heart-felt thank you to the members of the Walhalla Presbyterian Church choir and director, Mimi Taylor for their contribution to the April 14 Good Friday service held at the West Union Chapel. Beautiful voices along with a beautiful spirit enhanced the extraordinary and somber message delivered by Rev. Jack Taylor. Jack Taylor is a long time servant of the Presbyterian faith and a beloved friend of the Chapel. We thank Rev. Taylor, The West Union Chapel congregation and the Walhalla Presbyterian Church choir for their participation and valuable assistance during this Holy Week Celebration.

To each and everyone:
Thank you for your continued faithfulness
And dedication to serve.
May the Lord lead and guide us in the
Paths we are to follow.

Thank you once again,
West Union Presbyterian Chapel

Dedicated to our dear friend

Kathy Darnell

In the loss of her son Jamie

“In All The World”

By Washington Irving

Submitted by Kitty Coffey

There is an enduring tenderness in the love of a mother to a son that transcends all other affections of the heart!

It is neither to be chilled by selfishness nor daunted by danger nor weakened by worthlessness, nor stifled by ingratitude.

She will sacrifice every comfort to his convenience; she will surrender every pleasure to his enjoyment; she will glory in his fame, and exult in his prosperity—and if misfortune overtake him, he will be the dearer to her from misfortune. She will love and cherish him throughout the days of her life; and if all the world beside cast him off, she will be all the world to him.

Our prayers and thoughts are with you.
God bless you in your time of sorrow



Family Night Supper

Wednesday, May 10th

6:00pm

Walhalla Civic Auditorium

*Our God is always faithful and gives us
Encouragement in our fellowship.*
Hebrews 10:24-25

Please join with us as we gather to enjoy food and fellowship. This is our annual Salad Supper and we ask that you bring your favorite salad, or create a new taste, to share. The Fellowship Team will provide crackers, beverages, and dessert. We would like to get an estimate in attendance for setup. Please check your bulletins for signup sheets. If you miss the sign up, please come, we welcome all!

We look forward to sharing this time together.

Walhalla Presbyterian Church Finances Monthly Report

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN— April 2017

Bank Balance.....	\$ 70,135.43
Loan Balance.....	\$ 574,118.00
Donations Received.....	\$ 15,878.00*
Loan Payment.....	\$ 4,786.20

GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT—March 2017

Beginning Balance.....	\$ 8,122.97
Offering Monies Received.....	\$ 8,566.00
Total Funds Available.....	\$ 16,688.97
Disbursements for the month.....	\$ -11,766.43

BALANCE AS OF March 31, 2017..... \$4,922.54

General Offering Y-T-D.....	\$ 24,516.00
Year-to-Date Expenses.....	\$ -36,331.11
Expenses verses Offering.....	\$ -11,815.11

*This figure does not include the BBQ Benefit on April 15, 2017

Circle News

Submitted by Sylvia Rumer

The Nettie Long Circle will have their annual luncheon on Thursday, May 11th at 11:30 am, Palmetto Sweets, 115 E. Main Street, Walhalla.

The women of WPC and WUC are invited to join us for a time of fellowship, good food and fun!

Please call Sylvia Rumer 638-8418 by May 7th if you can attend.

Presbyterians in the Kitchen

Submitted by Rebecca Sobeck



BAKED BRIE WITH WINE SOAKED BLACKBERRIES

- 8 oz. round brie in wooden box
- 6 oz. fresh blackberries
- 1/2 cup Pinot Noir (red wine)
- 2 tsp. sugar
- 1 baguette, sliced

1. Dissolve sugar in Pinot Noir.
2. Add blackberries and allow to sit at least 30 minutes.
3. Cut top rind off of Brie and return the cheese to the box.
4. Bake on flat baking sheet at 350 for 10-12 min.
5. Spoon blackberries onto baked brie.
6. Serve with baguette slices.



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The Messenger

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Purpose: To publicize the good news of the mission and ministry of Walhalla Presbyterian Church and West Union Presbyterian Chapel for the glory of God.

MAY

2017

JUNE

1 Mon
2 Tue
3 Wed
4 Thu
5 Fri
6 Sat
7 Sun WPC Communion Sunday
8 Mon
9 Tue 9am WUC Administration Meeting
 10am Carolyn Rogers Myers Circle Meeting/WUC
10 Wed 6pm Family Night Supper/Walhalla Civic Aud.
11 Thu 11:30am Nettie Long Circle Women's Luncheon/
 Palmetto Sweets, Walhalla
12 Fri
13 Sat
14 Sun Mother's Day / Mother's Day Offering
15 Mon
16 Tue
17 Wed 5pm Session Meeting/WPC
18 Thu
19 Fri
20 Sat
21 Sun
22 Mon
23 Tue
24 Wed
25 Thu
26 Fri
27 Sat
28 Sun
29 Mon Memorial Day—Office Closed
30 Tue
31 Wed

1 Thu
2 Fri
3 Sat
4 Sun WUC Communion Sunday
5 Mon
6 Tue 9am WUC Administration Meeting
7 Wed
8 Thu
9 Fri
10 Sat
11 Sun
12 Mon
13 Tue
14 Wed
15 Thu
16 Fri
17 Sat
18 Sun
19 Mon
20 Tue
21 Wed 5pm Session Meeting/WPC
22 Thu
23 Fri
24 Sat
25 Sun **MESSENGER DEADLINE**
26 Mon
27 Tue
28 Wed
29 Thu
30 Fri