

Respect is a quality of life that many of us "older folk" were taught as being most valuable. Respect for parents, for our elders, for teachers, for those elected to high office, and, perhaps, respect for the earth were deemed vitally important for our common life and even our survival. It is therefore of some concern to those of us that were so conditioned that the virtue of respect seems to be fading away. There is alienation and expressed hostility often at home, in the schools, in the public square and even toward Mother Nature.

Tragically, some Christian leadership are developing the lack of respect for our planet and the marvelous order with which we are blessed. They seem this earth as provided for our use (and even abuse) and that we should press on with such activity. After all, their argument goes, Jesus will return soon and the earth will be destroyed and in its place will come a new heaven and a new earth. Therefore it makes no real difference what we do to our planet.

I see that as shoddy and vulgar theology. This planet is a gift. We don't know when or how it will all wind up. But we are dependent on this planet for our survival and caring for it is of utmost importance and worth or our genuine respect.

This Sunday we will look at Point #7 of our Progressive Christianity chart - We strive to protect and restore the integrity of our Earth.

What are some ways that you nurture and care for the earth, the very body that has had a part in nurturing and caring for you? Think on these things as we approach worship on Sunday.

Please review all the points on the opposite page.

By calling ourselves progressive Christians,
we mean that we are Christians who...

- 1 Believe that following the path and teachings of Jesus can lead to an awareness and experience of the Sacred and the Oneness and Unity of all life;
- 2 Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience the Sacredness and Oneness of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom in our spiritual journey;
- 3 Seek community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to:
 - Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics,
 - Believers and agnostics,
 - Women and men,
 - Those of all sexual orientations and gender identities,
 - Those of all classes and abilities;
- 4 Know that the way we behave towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe;
- 5 Find grace in the search for understanding and believe there is more value in questioning than in absolutes;
- 6 Strive for peace and justice among all people;
- 7 Strive to protect and restore the integrity of our Earth; and
- 8 Commit to a path of life-long learning, compassion, and selfless love.



Prayer Requests

CONCERNS

Those who have lost loved ones: Family of Grady Lippard, family of Emily Davis, family of Gladys Worth, Louise Grose and family

Those who are sick: Amber Davis, Chris Shuford's Aunt Francis, Redallia Freeman, Glenda, a friend of Phyllis Munson, John Marlin, Miguel Angel Morillo, Tony Bellamy, Sue Walser, Suprena Tabor, 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, Ric Comer, Ernie Hendrix, Mary Ruth Godfrey, Anita Tuit and family, Gail Germain, John Munson's father, Anita Johnson, Barbara Robinson, Mary Jean Grose, Dr. Hanna Kutfteh, Beecher and Mary Lee Grose, Don and Deborah Autrey-Cooke, Scott Cranfield, Bobby Long, Leisa Parks, Dalton Edwards

Those facing tough times: Cindy Huffman 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: Greg West, Josh Wingfield, James Pulliam, Mark Staley, Adam Ivey, Warren Dilger, Austin Frutig, Zach Spoor, Mary Jane Johnson, Travis Clower, Logan Frutig, Nathan Myers, Caleb Sisk, Felix Martin, JJ Golden

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Church maintenance before Sunday: Starrette/Lippard, Jr.

Second Hour Helpers: This Sunday - John Mark Brown and Sarah Adams; Marsha Angell and John Koppelmeyer

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

*Birthdays: October 20 - Tom Wiberg;
Keri Rawls*

October 21 - Kevin Angell

October 22 - Jerica Parlier

October 24 - Steve Coarsey

*Wedding week for Haley Hendrix
and Worth Williams!! Good times!*

Concerns

JoAnn Grose, sister-in-law of Neal and Louise, is having hip surgery on Tuesday.

Gina Barrickman-Beckham is having rotator cuff surgery in a few weeks.

Jean Stroupe's sister, Nancy Schwab, has pneumonia.

Ernie Hendrix had a rough week last week. Hold him tight.

CALENDAR

Monday : 8pm - NA

Wednesday: 7pm - Choir
Rehearsal

WORDS OF GRACE

"Progressive Christianity -
Point Seven"

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 24

BUDGET

Needed year to date: \$79,285.50

Received year to date:
\$79,123.90

Under budget: \$161.60
Weekly needs: \$1887.75

We will vote on Deacons this Sunday. Sheri Coarsey, John Koppelmeyer and Kevin Angell's names have been placed in nomination. You may vote for two. If you are not able to be present on Sunday, ballots will be available in the vestibule of the church and you may vote until 6pm on Wednesday, October 29.

Check out the grace website—
www.gracestatesville.org and see Julie Parlier's picture as the winner of the "Hometown Hero

Aware" for September,
sponsored by Charles G.

Monnett, III law firm. Julie has dedicated her life to making sure children or all ages and situations have an opportunity to learn.

We're so proud!

Iredell-Statesville Schools is hosting a training on "How to be an ALLY for LGBTQ youth" on November 4, 2014 at ADR from 8:30-3:30. There is no cost to attend and lunch will be provided. If you would like to sign up, please let Amanda Peters know by 10/24/14.
amanda_peters@k12.nc.us