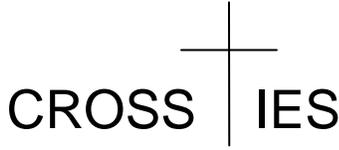


Presbyterian Church of the Cross
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TO CHRIST TO EACH OTHER TO THE WORLD

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SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sat	2	No Soccer (Labor Day Weekend)	
Sun	3	Adult Sunday School	9:45 am
		Voices of Angels Practice	10:00 am
		Worship Service	11:00 am
		SASTO NA Group	6:00 pm
M	4	LABOR DAY	
		Church Office Closed	
Tu	5	B Natural Music Academy Open House	4:00-7:30 pm
		B Natural Classes Begin	5:00-7:45 pm
W	6	B Natural Music Academy Open House	4:00-7:30 pm
		B Natural Classes Begin	5:00-7:45 pm
Sat	9	Soccer	9:30 am
Sun	10	Sunday School (Adults & Children)	9:45 am
		Voices of Angels Practice	10:00 am
		Worship Service	11:00 am
		SASTO NA Group	6:00 pm
W	13	Adult Choir Practice	6:30 pm
		Session Meeting	7:00 pm
Sat	16	Soccer	9:30 am
		Bible School	11:30 am
Sun	17	Sunday School (Adults & Children)	9:45 am
		Voices of Angels Practice	10:00 am
		Worship Service	11:00 am
		Church Cookout and Program	6:00 pm
W	20	Adult Choir Practice	6:30 pm
F	22	AUTUMN BEGINS	
Sat	23	Soccer	9:30 am
		Bible School	11:30 am
Sun	24	SHARING SUNDAY	
		Sunday School (Adults & Children)	9:45 am
		Voices of Angels Practice	10:00 am
		Worship Service	11:00 am
		SASTO NA Group	6:00 pm
W	27	Adult Choir Practice	6:30 pm
Sat	30	Soccer	9:30 pm

NO ROOM FOR HATE

Controversies surrounding statues and flags are igniting all over and most involve some form of racism or hatred of people of color or of a different religion. These are based in a very non-Christian philosophy that believes that the Aryan, or white race, is superior. Nothing could be further from the Christ of the Bible.

First, we need to realize that the people of the Bible, including Jesus, were not white. They were mixed races of African, Mediterranean and Asian ancestry. The followers of Jesus were mostly Jewish in the first 200 years. Jesus himself was a Jew.

Next, we need to understand that we are a country that has fought against the hatred and message of white supremacy, especially in World War II. There is no place for the philosophy that one race or religion is superior to another in our culture. Yes, we are Christians and we love our faith, but Jesus never put someone down due to their race or religion. He did condemn people who were selfish, greedy, arrogant and violent.

I am thoroughly Southern and I love it. In my mind, it is far superior to any other place on earth and I have traveled a bit. I love the food, the people (all colors), the climate, the culture and everything about it. But, when it comes to the Civil War, I believe most of us were misled by the wealthy slave-holders. Here in North Carolina, we were reluctant to even enter the war, because most people didn't own slaves. Nevertheless, we did and we lost, probably because we were morally on the wrong side of history.

When I was a boy (probably about 10), I brought home a Confederate battle flag that I had won at a carnival. My dad quickly told me that there would not be that kind of flag in the house because of what it represented. At the time, I really didn't understand, but came to understand that it represents hatred and violence, no different than the Nazi swastika.

(Continued on page 2)

No Room for Hate, continued from page 1

Living in other parts of the country, I have come to understand that we Southerners are not the only racists. I have seen it blatantly in the Midwest, in New England and out West. I have also seen it in Mexico, Jamaica, Russia and France. It is not right or pretty in any form.

The Declaration of Independence recognized the goal of our country that "all men are created equal." The Apostle Paul proclaimed that "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Both documents, the Bible and the Declaration of Independence, lift up the fact that we are all the "human race" and not divided along any lines of color, nationality or religion.

Any symbol of hatred needs to be eliminated, put in a museum, as a warning for the potential for evil within the human heart. In the museum of the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, there is a Nazi flag that had been captured in Germany. Under the flag was a quote: "We fought and died that evil would never again threaten the soil of free men."

We have seen the horrors of what happens when hatred is organized into a political movement, whether legitimate or not. Too many good people have died. Lynching, torture, enslavement, gas chambers and an endless list of evil atrocities document the fact that there is no place within Christianity that can tolerate these movements or the evil symbols that they represent.

As followers of Jesus, we need to always hold on to his words: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second [commandment] is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.

~ Gray Clark

VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR SOCCER SATURDAY

We need YOU to volunteer for 2 hours (10 am – 12 noon) on a Saturday to help feed the soccer kids hot dogs and hamburgers! You will be glad you did!!

ONE CITY, ONE BOOK

Again this fall, the public library is encouraging everyone in Greensboro to read the same book. "Hidden Figures" by Margot Lee Shetterly has been selected. This book, which was also an Oscar-nominated hit movie, is the incredible untold story of three African-American women working at NASA who served as the mathematical brains behind the successful launch of America's first astronaut into orbit, John Glenn.

Lively programs of discussion, films, theatrical productions and more are provided to engage the entire community in the themes of the chosen work. PCC has been asked to host one of these activities and you are encouraged to participate. If you don't wish to purchase the book, copies will be available for you to borrow. More information, including date and time, will be forthcoming.

DID SOMEONE SAY FOOD???

Yes, we did! Our annual **CHURCH COOKOUT** will be Sunday, September 17, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will provide the hot dogs and hamburgers. You can bring a side dish or dessert if you wish.

Also, we will learn more about the transition process as Gray retires. Join us and invite others!

WORSHIP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

We are still worshipping in the Fellowship Hall due to the fact that the air conditioning unit for the sanctuary has died. We love the intimacy and we can hear the choir! We have a chair with your name on it!

SHARING SUNDAY

The 4th Sunday of each month (that's September 24) has been designated as Sharing Sunday. You are encouraged to bring canned and dried foods (especially macaroni and cheese dinners and dried beans) for the Greensboro Urban Ministry food pantry; various needed items but trial size personal care items in particular for the Interactive Resource Center; and donations for the Salem Presbytery Hunger Offering. As of August 7, 2017, PCC has donated 383 pounds of food to Urban Ministry and many personal care items to IRC. We have received donations totaling \$240.00 for Presbytery's Hunger Program.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HAPPENINGS

FOR CHILDREN:

Our **Children's Sunday School** Class resumes meeting on September 10. Our children's choir, **Voices of Angels**, practices with John Huskey each Sunday at 10:00 am after which the children go to their Sunday School Class with Elaine Morehead for Bible lessons and activities. Lesson plans for the rest of 2017: September – Exodus of Hebrews from Egypt, October – various stories about Jesus, November – thankfulness and prayer, December – the birth of Jesus.

There are two more sessions of **Bible School** – Saturday, September 16 and 23, 11:30 am-1:30 pm. All children ages 5-14 are welcome to participate.

In December (date and time to be announced), our children and youth present a **Christmas Program** for us – always a big hit!

FOR ADULTS:

God's Covenant: What a wonderful promise God has made to us! This fall (September-November) the **Adult Sunday School** Class will study God's Covenant with his people. This is a key idea because it shows us how God relates to us and cares about us. We will study:

- Unit 1: Signs of God's Covenants
- Unit 2: Called into Covenant with God
- Unit 3: An Everlasting Covenant

Everyone is welcome! Please come join us and join in our discussions. We meet in Gray's office and would love to see you next Sunday.