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MAY 2024

Dear Kingston Family,

There is no such thing as a perfect church. I know you know that. There is no such thing as a perfect denomination, our PC(USA) flavor of Presbyterianism has plenty of issues, no doubt. However, what I do appreciate about our denomination is the connectedness we share. A few weeks ago the Bannans were in Paducah, KY to see the eclipse. I had hoped to see Kip while we were there too, but the prison was on lock down. Instead, I emailed the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Paducah, KY. Like Conway, Paducah has only one PC(USA) church. I simply told their pastor, the Rev. Lex Allum, in my email that I would love to see their church. She graciously responded and told me when she was available.

When I went by, we had a lovely conversation and I was delighted to learn how much First Pres Paducah has in common with Kingston of Conway. She is a solo pastor as I am. They have 7 people on staff (including nursery workers), as we do. They are almost the exact same positions! They have very close to the same number on roll and average close to the same in worship. She has been there about 3 years, as I have at Kingston. We talked about how many active elders and deacons were in our church as well as the challenges and joys we had shared in ministry. Their church was built in the 1800's, just like ours. And get this, their church has also flooded! Now, Paducah is on the banks of the Ohio River (quite larger than Kingston lake), and it flooded back in 1937. Although their flood happened much earlier in history, it also caused significant damage to their building. They had to rebuild it from the ground up. When I returned to our hotel, I remember telling Holly, "I love meeting other pastors that speak Presbyterian."

Fast forward to this week. A month or so ago, Mary forwarded me an email she received from the Rev. Emile Harley. Emile is the pastor at Winter Park Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, NC. Emile has a really neat ministry. A few times a year he takes a group of church members (mostly older adults) and they load their church bus and go visit places usually within a two hour drive. They also make it a habit to visit the town's PC (USA) church, if there is one.

So the crowd from Winter Park arrived this past Wednesday, toured the Riverwalk, went to the Horry County museum, and at 11am, I showed them around our buildings and did my best to share our history (it was not as thorough as Ben Burroughs unfortunately, but I did my best!), but then they asked me if they could do something I didn't expect. (continued pg. 3)

Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr. Pastor

Holly Bannan **Director of Discipleship and** Communications

Bradley Hardee Music Director

Mary Alwine **Administrative** Assistant

David Moore Sexton

Kira Hamilton Emma Hamilton Nursery

Session Digest from April Session Meeting

- The session agreed on the importance of AED devices in our buildings, which was brought up at the previous meeting. A motion was made to approve the purchase of 3AED devices which will be located in the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and Kingston Building. There will be a designated team of 12, including 5 staff, that will be trained how to operate the devices in the case of a cardiac emergency.
- There will be changes coming to the Board of Pensions dues for all churches with installed pastors. These are the medical and pension dues required by churches to pay for an installed pastors terms of call. The changes were for informational purposes only as the session will not need to act on the changes until the fall.
- The Sexton job description has been updated by Building and Grounds and approved by the session. Personnel, Finance, and Stewardship committee will post it online and will begin reviewing resumes.
- David's last day on staff will be Thursday May 30th, 2024. We will have a goodbye party for him on Sunday June 9th in the fellowship hall immediately following worship with a covered dish luncheon.

rightnow MEDIA



May RightNow Media Spotlight

What Does God See When He Looks at Your Heart?

The heroes of the Bible offer complex, flawed examples of leadership. Their stories prompt us to examine the difference between our outward appearance and what God sees in our hearts. In this ten-session series, pastor and author Sharon Hodde Miller guides us through the book of 1 Samuel, exploring the frailty of the human heart and the faithfulness of God.



KPW SALAD SUPPER/BIRTHDAY

OBJECTIVE will be on Monday, May 6th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. All women of Kingston are invited. Bring a salad to share and come join in the fellowship of our women of the church.

(continued)

Pastor Emile said "Hey Robert, we normally make it a practice when we visit other churches to sing a hymn or 2 and then pray over the church. Could we sing with you and then pray over Kingston?" I was stunned, in a good way of course, almost a bit teary eyed. I replied, "Oh my, I would love that, thank you so much!" However, Knowing Bradley was on his way in, I was not about to sing acapella. I told Bradley about the church being here and he came right over to the sanctuary, fired up the organ and played "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" and "Spirit of the Living God" and in true Kingston fashion this small group from a presbyterian church in Wilmington, NC, Bradley and myself sang our hearts out.

After we finished, Emile looked at me and said, "May I say a prayer for you and for Kingston Presbyterian?" I said "absolutely." He prayed a beautiful prayer that God would watch over us, continue to bless us, and he acknowledged to God he could sense how hospitable we all were. Several people commented on their way out, "Pastor Robert, this is a beautiful sanctuary, thank you for letting us sing here, and thank you Bradley for playing the organ. It was so lovely!" Pastor Emile, then said, "We are thinking of grabbing lunch at Bonfire, is it any good?" I said, "Oh yeah, anytime you are in town, eat there or the Rivertown Bistro." He said "So they are pretty good?" I said, "Yes they are, but I am kind of biased because, well, one of our dear members owns them." He said, "Well sounds good to me!"

Blessings,

Robert

Pastor Robert





MAY BIRTHDAYS

- I Fisher Wilson
- 3 Michelle Crocker
- 6 Rebecca Beverly West Courtney Sophia Smith Annette Tatgenhorst
- 7 Adam Sorensen
- 9 Leslie Wilson
- 10 Mabel O. Greene

Taylor Beverly

- 12 Jack Aidan Bell
- 13 Lynn Fontaine
- 15 Brianna Threewitt Hyde Abbott
- **I7** Jessie Ferrell
- **18 Preston Sorensen**
- 24 Randy Beverly Morgan "Mo" Sutton
- 25 Sutter Ann Sorensen
- 26 Jason Richardson
- 28 Sarah Agnes Courtney Marvin Nicholson
- 29 Luke Wilson Cara Lawson

<u>MAY</u> VOLUNTEERS

Head Usher: Forrest Beverly

Ushers: Rebecca Beverly Dennis Esandrio Wayne Staton

> **Counters:** Gina Staton Mary Sutton



Summer Pool **?** Party dates to be announced soon!

C.A.P. NEEDS

Canned breakfast meats; spam, corned beef hash Cereal Jelly (plastic jars if at all possible) Spaghetti sauce (also plastic jars) Pasta (spaghetti noodles or other) Vienna sausage **Canned Chicken Broth** Boxed or bag stuffing mix Brown gravy packs Boxed mash potatoes Canned yams **Cranberry sauce** Brownie mix

Also needed: Bathroom tissue Paper towels Tooth brush Razors Bar soap

WACCAMAW YOUTH CENTER BIRTHDAYS If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Cathy Beverly.

THE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Food Pantry, adjacent to the Shepherd's Table, recently opened and has been serving the community by providing perishable and non-perishable food to members of our community who need food assistance. The Pantry is open to customers on Mon, Wed, & Fri. Rebecca, the Pantry Manager, needs volunteers for unloading donations and restocking the pantry shelves on Tues & Thurs. Please contact Rebecca if you are interested in volunteering on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Her number, 843.465.2397.



Do you know anyone who would like to join our staffing team here at Kingston? We are looking for a part-time custodian responsible for maintaining the overall order and cleanliness of all Church buildings, parking lots, and outdoor common areas. The ideal candidate will be a service-minded individual with commercial cleaning experience, strong attention to detail, excellent time management skills, and the ability to work independently. Call the church office to apply. Serious inquiries only.

Help us celebrate our High School Seniors!

Last year, you were invited to highlight bible verses and leave bookmarks for our graduates. We are doing something similar this year. If you would like to share a favorite Bible verse or leave a special note for them, please bring it to the office during the month of May. They will be given to them during worship on June 2.





| May 2024 June 2024 SuMo TuWe Th 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 30 | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|----------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| Apr 28 | 29 | 30 | May 1 7:00pm Choir Practice | 2 | 3 7:00am Youth Breakfast 8:15am Jr/Sr HS Breakfast | 4 |
| 5 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Sunday Worship (Sanctuary) 11:30am Covered Dish (Fellowship | 6 | 7 4:00pm Youth @ Shepherd's Table | 8 7:00pm Choir Practice | 9 | 10 7:00am Youth Breakfast 8:15am Jr/Sr HS Breakfast | 11 |
| 12 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Sunday Worship (Sanctuary) | 13 2:30pm CE Meeting (Parlor) | 14 6:00pm Deacons Meeting (Kingston Building) | 15 7:00pm Choir Practice | 16 6:00pm Prayer Shawl | 17 7:00am Youth Breakfast 8:15am Jr/Sr HS Breakfast | 18 |
| 19 8:30am Men's Breakfast (Fellowship 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Sunday Worship (Sanctuary) | 20 | 21 6:00pm Session Meeting (Kingston Building) | 22 7:00pm Choir Practice | 23 | 24 7:00am Youth Breakfast 8:15am Jr/Sr HS Breakfast | 25 |
| 26 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Sunday Worship (Sanctuary) | 27 | 28 | 29 7:00pm Choir Practice | 30 | 31 7:00am Youth Breakfast 8:15am Jr/Sr HS Breakfast | Jun 1 |

