

The Chalice

NEWSLETTER
Winterville Christian Church



MARCH 2020

TRUTHS AND TALES

Pastor Bob Brooks

One of the fascinating things about a wilderness canoeing trip is the mystery of what's around the next bend. One can look at the maps, talk to people who have paddled this river before you and make anticipatory plans on how you will handle what's around the bend. Yet, the morphology of the river will bring surprises.

I am reminded of paddling the Wind River in the Northern Yukon and hearing about a daunting set of rapids that we needed to be ready for. We heard that the waves were massive and the hydraulics dangerous. Everyone was nervous and hoping there was some way to avoid huge waves that could cause us to be swimming at the snap of a finger.

As we got closer to the rapids, we could hear the water and it sounded as big as we were imagining. Then as we rounded the bend, we could see the huge wave churning and crashing against the rocks. So even before we entered the current it seemed these rapids were as big as we had imagined.

When we got close to the rapids our guide stood up in the canoe to survey the rapids and find the best spot for us to enter. She told us that there was a nice path for us on the left side of the rapids and to follow her. She explained we would be running some number 1 and 2 size rapids, rather than 4 and 5. One could hear a sigh. Then conversation began again as we paddled on the edge of the huge water in the middle.

There are those times when we throw a few spoonful's of angst into our daily walk that we can turn a challenge into a huge mountain to climb. We can see this in the fear of the corona virus and people panicking and emptying shelves at the store as we over-worry. I know that I find it easy to do with issues with my health (and rapids on rivers). When going to the clinic for a doctor's visit or screening, I can imagine the worst and, in my worry, start making final arrangements.

When we are in the grip of anxiety it sure does weigh life down. We each have those things in life that trigger it and then it soon can take over if we allow it to live rent free in our brains. In many cases we make decisions to avoid the situation that is the object of our anxiety.

I am not able to give a step by step pathway to end one's anxiety. Instead, I offer some faith counsel.

- Read Matthew 6: 35-34
- Read and memorize – Exodus 14:14
- Pray the prayer of serenity.

It is good for us to remember that Jesus had some times when he worried. He could have let it overwhelm him and become anxiety but I think the truth of God's presence in all situations helped him to trust in God and find a sense of peace.

If it is something you would like to discuss further, I'd be honored to walk with you through whatever causes your anxiety. Also know, I pray for you daily as well.

Hope to see you Sunday if not before. Be blessed!

Pastor Bob



We continue our walk with Jesus through the wilderness of the 40 days of the Lenten Season. During our first week we found out that there are lessons to be learned in the Wilderness. We continue

March 8 - The Wilderness Requires Trust

March 15 - The Wilderness Where Honesty Comes Out

March 22– The Wilderness Can Be A Place Of Healing

March 29 - The Wilderness Helps Develop Muscles

April 5 - Déjà vu All Over Again

April 12 - In The Wilderness We Discover Resurrection



The heart of the Gospel is that we should love God by loving our neighbor. One of the ways that we do this is to find out what God is doing in our community and become part of it. So, we are sharing God's love in our community in a number of ways. Every month we visit the folks at a local facility for the aging. We gather for conversation, singing and a few games of bingo. We also partner with the volunteers at the Joy Soup Kitchen. The JOY stands for Jesus Others You. They serve the disadvantaged in the Greenville area with support for the body, mind, and spirit of those they serve.

It would be great if you would join us and discover the JOY – Jesus Others You. On **March 24th @ 3:00pm**, we will gather in the church kitchen (time to be announced) to make sandwiches for those who are served by JOY Soup Kitchen. While you may not think one can find the love of Jesus in a sandwich, come find out that you sure can. Thanks to Aaron Lucier for his leadership on this project.



In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, hygiene kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families. These little packages are lifesavers to those without. These kits include:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28 to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package (either one is acceptable)
- One bath-size bar of soap in the original package
- One toothbrush in the original package
- Ten standard size Band-Aids

Our congregation is putting together 35 kits that we will take to a drop off in Richmond VA. They will be used for people experiencing loss in natural disasters and victims of a variety of unseen

struggles. You are invited to join us by furnishing supplies and helping to put them together. We thank Julia Keville for her leadership on this project.



3/5 - Marisa McLaughlin

3/6 - Nicole Rogers

3/11 - Sharon Worthington

3/12 - Stacey Mills

3/12 - Jansen Bonds

3/18 - Candy Nichols

3/18 - Avery McLawhorn

3/28 - Annie Brooks



3/26 - Samantha Greene & Kim Lunde

3/29 - Jim and Nicole Rogers

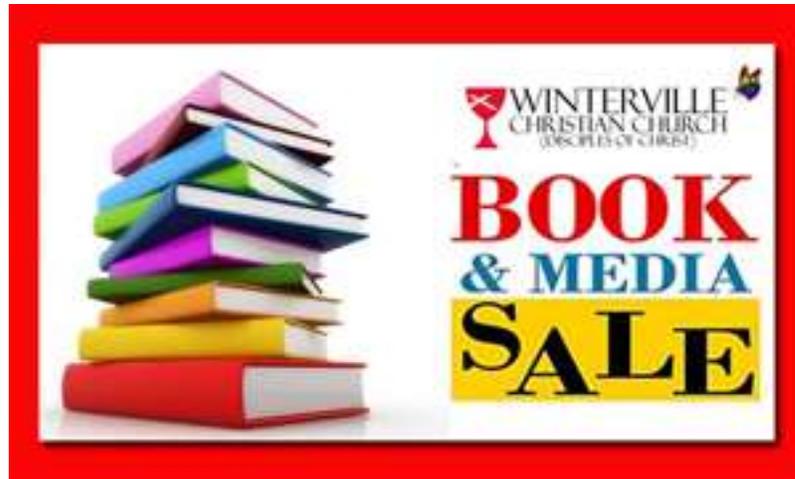


Everyone is invited to join us for dinner on **March 19th @ 6:30**. We will meet at the Marathon Restaurant on Evans St. It's Dutch Treat. If you want more information or plan to attend please contact Candy Nichols.



The church yard sale has been tentatively set for **Saturday, May 9**. We are hoping to have lots of help to get us ready, during the day of the sale, and clean up. Some of the specific ways you can help.

- Bake things for the bake sale
- Price items
- Set things out during the week of the sale
- Help customers
- Help with clean up at the conclusion



Greg and I are toying with the idea of a "Books, Music and Movies Mini Sale" prior to our planned May 9th yard sale. Search around and see what you can find to contribute. Ask friends and neighbors, as well. We would like to have them at the church as soon as you can conveniently get them to us.

-Peg

Thank you

We want to thank Greg James and his helper Peggy Cliborne for the great job in revamping and updating our on-line Handbook. Thanks to their effort it looks great and is up to date.



The “Green Team” will meet on **Sunday, March 15, 2020 @ 11:45am**, immediately following worship. Please join us as we discuss ways Winterville Christian Church can be good stewards of God’s earth. Psalm2:1 states, “The Earth is the Lord’s, and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. You can learn about the program by clicking here: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/green-chalice/green-chalice-program/>

Friday, March 20, 2020 is Arbor Day in NC. For more information, visit www.arborday.org.