



Love in Action

The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

Volume 14, Issue 10

October, 2021

From Pastor Cole

Spirituality is not a formula; it is not a test. It is a relationship. Spirituality is not about competency; it is about intimacy... "Messy Spirituality" has the audacity to suggest that messiness is the workshop of authentic spirituality, the greenhouse of faith, the place where the real Jesus meets the real us. (Messy Spirituality, Michael Yaconelli)

What does it mean to be spiritual? What does it mean to be a "person of faith?" What does it even mean to be a "Christian?" These are questions that I think we sometimes take for granted. We skip right past them because maybe you are like me and we've been in church for a long time. Of course we know what faith is all about. Of course we know what it means to be a Christian.

While you likely have a better answer than I do to those questions above, I think it is important to take some time and really explore what "spirituality" and "faith" really mean for our lives. Here and now; today.

During the first three weeks of October, we will explore a sermon series taken from Michael Yaconelli's book, *Messy Spirituality: God's Annoying Love for Imperfect People*. I LOVE the title of that book. There is this idea (both outside and inside The Church) that spiritual people are perfect, or really close. If we are honest, we kind of like that impression. It feels good that people think us "good-church-going-people" have it all together. But I suspect (and I could be wrong) that many of us aren't as put together as we may seem or others may think.

This series is an opportunity for us to examine our faith more carefully. In doing so, maybe we can work up the courage to admit that our spirituality, our relationship with God, is evolving and under construction. Maybe we might even feel emboldened to believe that "Jesus is not repelled by us, no matter how messy we are, regardless of how incomplete we are" (Yaconelli again). Maybe we might even cut others a little slack too for their incompleteness or wherever they are on their journey.

If I could add one more thing, I would ask that you come to this series with an open, honest spirit. What I mean is that this series is a chance to bring your real self (imperfect as we all are) to God. Don't hide a thing. Don't try and pretend to be anything other than you — glorious and strange; beautiful and messy; an ongoing work in progress. When we bring our most authentic, vulnerable selves to God, something spectacular happens. We find that we are loved — just as we are. We find that we can share more love with others — just as they are. We find that we don't have to strive, grasp, reach, stress to be spiritual. We just have to be. And that's enough. It's exactly what the world needs right now: YOU!

So invite your friends. Read Yaconelli's book if you feel up to it. Be honest and trust that a life in love with God, a life where your every need is met and cared for, a life where you are able to care for others... all of this is possible and happening even now.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Cole

Prayer Concerns

Our Kindred Spirits Prayer Group meets on Wednesdays at noon at MVUMC. Come to the Grace Classroom to join this group and please keep these in your prayers:

Bruce Arrow	Lovia & Tom Barefoot	Jim Bauden	Audrey Baxter	Jane Berrevoets
Robert Scott Blackadder	Erma Bond	Savannah Brigman	Jonathan Burr	Joe & Mari Conneen
Lance Conway	Diana Duclos	Kirk Duclos	Vickie Dykhuizen	Earwood Family
Cory England	Clarissa Fisher	Carol Gardner	Bonnie & Larry Germaine	Gracie Heger
Michael Hinebaugh	Carolyn Hobson	Holt Isom	Phyllis Jackson	Connie Jones
Bubba & Shirley Kelley	Gail Kevenik	Allen Kitchens	Jay Langford	Cheryl & Destiny Little
Devoice Medford	Sandra Morris	Jim Neely	Michael O'Gorman	John Planchock
Courtney Quick	Scott Reed	Angela Reid	Charlie & Mildred Rich	Randy Rogers
Betty Sutton	Sammy Sutton	Pietro Tondini	Brian Toole	Unspoken Requests
Jane Berrevoets	Jessica Cothorn	Vicky Flynn's family	Edith Highsmith	Sandra Morris
Michael O'Gorman	Ginger Revls	Patricia Rowell's family	Donald Adkins	Kelly Aldridge
Eileen Bogo	Larry Bogo	Greg Boyd	Hazel Bradshaw	Wendell Burchfield
Stokey Caldwell	Colton	Teresa Crocker	Rev. Paul Davenport	Connie Dennis
Anita Desmond	Willard Dockery	Dorothy Gardner	Brenda Griswold	Peyton Gully
Bud Hanselman	Grace Heger	Michael Hill	Jim Hunt	Jimmy
Lewis Lowder	Lynn Martin	Jack McElveen	Paul Mehaffey	Brenda Messer
Tom Miller	Ruby Moore	Jim Murtaugh	Karen Neely	Lois Oehme
Norann Planchock	Pete Planchock	Pola	Mike Rickman	Rhonda Riley
John Saxton	Candie Sellers	Ron Sellers	Don & Wanda Shoemaker	Elizabeth Smallwood
Sarah Smart	Annie Smith	Jane Spell	Carolyn Strickland	Kent Taylor
Greg Tiffany	Sam Tiger	Martha Bradshaw Trull	Audrey Waters	Ted Watts
Aaron White	Tom Wynch	Janene Young	All Travelers	Bishop Carter
Our Children & Youth	Our Choir	Clean Slate Coalition	Community Garden	
Disaster Victims – especially those with Flooding		District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jae Lee		Food Pantry
Haywood Pathways Center	Haywood Street Congregation	Homeless People	In God's Creation Hiking Group	
Manna Foodbank & Publix	Men's Group	Missionaries	One Board	The Open Door
People Affected by Acts of Violence, Addiction & Mental Illness		People looking for Work	People needing Medical Help	Refugees
Schofields Ministries – MOM Program		Shepherd's Table	Sonshine Recovery Ministries	Our Staff
Sunday School	UMW – "Grace Circle"	Van Ministry	The United Methodist Church	World Events & Peace
Hattie Sue Bonham Family	Jim Mackey Family	Kelly Reed Family	Roger Sneed Family	

PRAYER REQUEST

WE ARE HERE TO PRAY FOR YOU



Amanda Bryson, Joshua Cruse, Andrew Davis, Clayton Hardy, Samuel Hunter, Ian Hutton, Michael Morris, Kane Pinkston, Joe Stroupe, Luke Turner, Camille Tyler, Michael Woodard, 21st Military Police Company, Prisoners of War, Veterans, Those Injured & MIA.

Those in Nursing Homes including Lou Baker, Shirley Mann → Haywood Lodge; Becky Bender, Jane Cable, Lady Hughes, Margaret Smith, Betty Sutton → Maggie Valley Nursing & Rehab; Gail Pace → Silver Bluff; Sue Shepherd → Smoky Mtn Nursing Home; Haywood Lodge, Maggie Valley Nursing Home, McCracken's Nursing Home, Silver Bluff Nursing Home and Smoky Mountain Health & Rehab.

Those who are Homebound including Kathryn Brannen, Joseph Cullen, Wanda Deutsch, Willard Dockery, Helen & Joe Duke, Betty Ferguson, Nancy Lott Gerald, Tom & Vivian Gerard, Zelda Hanson & her cat-Patches, Bea Hawkins, Mary Beth Johnson, Paul Mehaffey, Hilda Palmer, The Pickens Family, Doug Ramsey, Ken Roach, Linda Rondecial, Maureen Shaw, Trene Sutton, Charlie & Rena Upright, Bill & MaryAnn Vignola, Terri Waddell, David & Donna Wagner, and Aaron White.

Just a reminder that Pastor Cole's cell number is 828-577-9906. You can call or text him at that number. If you have an emergency, he is available 24/7.

Haywood County School Teachers and Students, College Students, Sunday School Teachers & Subs, Children's Church Workers and also including Bill Chamberlin, Shelly Coker, Anna Coleman, Eddie Ferguson, Beverly Ketner, Kristin Litchford, Renee Mackey, Jenny McPhaul, Wanda Messer, Annie Palmer, Barb, Danny & Megan Planchock, Gail Quick, Lynn & Mark Rains, Shafin & Taylor Ross, Rev. Mike & Sue Shirley and Luke Williamson.

Emergency & Medical Workers, Missionaries & their families including Elizabeth Carmichael, Jeff Mackey & the MV Police Dept., Linda Palmer, Lynn & Mark Rains and Susan Snyder.

Our Country, Government, Service men, women & their families including Jesse Brestle,

Makenzie Moore, Zachary & Gabriella Moore,

October

2021

September

November

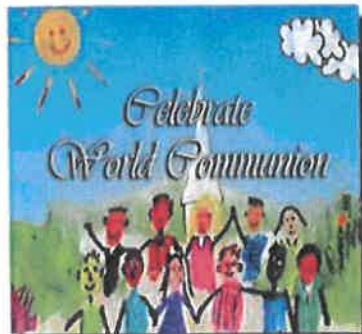
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25		21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30				28	29	30			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 Sunday School (9am) — Daisy Room Worship @ Barn (10:30)	27 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30)	28 Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6:30pm)	29 Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6:30pm)	30 Girl Scouts (6pm)	1 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall	2 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall
3 Sunday School (9am) — Daisy Room Worship @ Barn (10:30) HOLY COMMUNION	4 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30)	5 Open Door (9:30am) Food Pantry (10-12) Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Disciple Bible Study (6:30pm)	6 Open Door (9:30am) Food Pantry (10-12) Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Disciple Bible Study (6:30pm)	7 Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall Wesley Foundation Meal (5pm)	8 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall	9 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall
10 Sunday School (9am) — Daisy Room Worship @ Barn (10:30)	11 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30)	12 One Board Meeting (6pm) — Fellowship Hall & Zoom	13 Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6:30pm)	14 Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall UMW Grace Circle (2pm) — Fellowship Hall Girl Scouts (6pm)	15 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall	16 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall
17 Sunday School (9am) — Daisy Room Worship @ Barn (10:30)	18 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30)	19 Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6:30pm)	20 Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6:30pm)	21 Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall Men's Group (5:30pm) - Daisy Room Girl Scouts (6pm)	22 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall	23 Blessing of the Animals — (10am-12pm) Barn Area AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall
24 Sunday School (9am) — Daisy Room Worship @ Barn (10:30)	25 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30)	26 Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6:30pm)	27 Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6:30pm)	28 Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall Girl Scouts (6pm)	29 Trunk or Treat (2pm-4pm) — Church Parking Lot	30 Trunk or Treat (2pm-4pm) — Church Parking Lot

Service & Missions, Announcements Update

The Adult Sunday School Class will meet on Fridays at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

We have an "AA" Group Meeting every Saturday evening in the Grace Classroom at 7:00 pm.



Pastor Mike & Sue Shirley invite you to their Adult Sunday School Class. We will meet every Sunday at 9:00 am in the Daisy Classroom. Bring a Bible and join us! All are welcome!

Don't forget that Sunday, October 3rd is World Communion Sunday.

Our Church Food Pantry operates on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am - noon. We are asking that everyone in the congregation to bring COFFEE this month. Personal hygiene items are appreciated also. Thank you for helping!



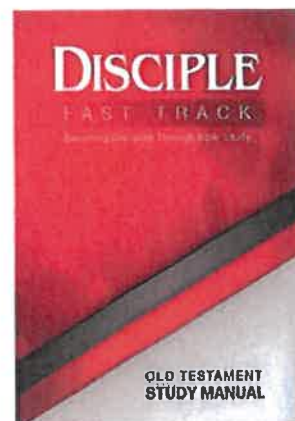
Tuesday, October 5th is the last day to get agenda items on the list for the One Board. Please send requests to Ken Brown.

The Open Door will be on Wednesday, October 6th. Please contact Shirley Saxton if you can help. Thank you for your help feeding the hungry amongst us!

The Wednesday evening Bible Study will meet in the Grace Classroom at 6:00 pm. Please notice the time change to 6:00 pm instead of 6:30 pm.

Those interested in helping out with the Wesley Foundation Meal for the Western Carolina University Students on Thursday, October 7th, please contact Wanda Messer at 828-734-7848.

We will have our One Board Meeting on Tuesday, October 12th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall or via Zoom.



The Grace Circle UMW will meet on Thursday, October 14th instead of October 7th at 2:00 pm in the Grace Classroom. The program will be our World Thank Offering! Please remember to bring your blue boxes or jars of change you have been saving all year! **Don't forget the date change. All are welcome!**

We have a Girl Scout Troop Meeting every other Thursday evening from 6:00 – 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our meeting this month will be October 14th and October 28th.

All "Love In Action" articles are due to the Church Office by Tuesday, October 19th.

The Men's Group will meet in the Daisy Classroom at 5:30 pm on Thursday, October 21st. Men, please come enjoy a time of Bible study and fellowship.

If you do not have a permanent nametag, please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the Sanctuary or call the office.

Service & Missions, Announcements Update (continued)

Charge Conference

We have scheduled Charge Conference for **November 9th at 6:00pm** in the **Fellowship Hall**. All Administrative Board members are asked to attend. All are welcome to come if you'd like! If you want to know more about what a Charge Conference is, does or why we have it, please reach out to Pastor Cole.

Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals is a tradition that stretches back some 800 years to St. Francis of Assisi. He is attributed with saying: "Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join [humanity] in praising God."¹ Praying for and blessing the animals that give so much joy and love to our lives is not just something "cute" to do — it is being faithful to the task God has given us as humans!

Join us on October 23rd anytime between 10am-12pm out by the barn. All (non-venomous, please) pets are welcome!



Trunk or Treat Halloween Fun

This year we will be hosting Trunk or Treat on Saturday, **October 30th from 2pm-4pm** in the church parking lot. Although we felt the drive-through event last year went great, we have decided to allow families to park and walk through the car maze to receive their treats this year. Hopefully this will be more fun for the kids, and they will get to show off their costumes!

In order to make this a wonderful event for our community, we need YOU! We need the following things:

- Bags of **individually wrapped candy** (You can drop these off at the church office or on Sundays during worship.)
- Volunteers to help during the event on **October 30th**. We will begin organizing and decorating car trunks at 12:00. Feel free to dress in costume! Also, bring a few extra bags of candy for your car just in case we run short.

If you are able to help out, please contact the church office, Pastor Cole or call or text Wanda Messer (734-7848). Thanks ahead of time for being a celebration of love to our community!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Jeff Mackey | 18 | Kody Highsmith |
| 2 | Dick Cole | 19 | Dwight Hart |
| 2 | Katie Muirhead Hermida | 19 | Brian Smith |
| 4 | Sarah Buff | 19 | Caine Thomas |
| 4 | Bonnie Hanson | 20 | Betty Ferguson |
| 4 | Cheryl Little | 21 | Elizabeth Colborne |
| 5 | Stacey Boris | 21 | Barbara Hannah |
| 8 | Cliff Peebles | 21 | Aaliyah James |
| 8 | Sharon Ross | 21 | Noah Smith |
| 9 | Jason Beemer Jr. | 23 | Jayden Dotson |
| 9 | Mike Brosius | 25 | Stephanie Love |
| 9 | Penelope Standley | 26 | Destiny Little |
| 10 | Susan Plott | 26 | Tori Swinford |
| 13 | David Wagner | 27 | Barbara Briggs |
| 14 | Emily Ferguson | 27 | Ella Sutton |
| 15 | Hazel Bradshaw | 27 | Brenton Yadon |
| 15 | Irene Rollar | 28 | LaDonna Rollins |
| 16 | Carole Platt | 29 | Brooke Autrey |
| 16 | JP Smith | 30 | Trudy Brosius |
| 16 | Jon Snyder | 31 | Katherine Cabe |
| 16 | Donny Wall | 31 | Stuart Harrell |
| 17 | Eli Bennett | 31 | Sherri Mauch |

HAPPY OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY!

- 1 Annette & Tom Sharpe
- 7 Valerie & Scott Sutton (1989)
- 11 Tyla & Jason Moody (1997)
- 12 Barb & Art Olsen (1968)
- 17 Beth & Ken Brown (1998)
- 24 Alice & Sam Welch (1969)
- 26 Trudy & Jerry Hall (2013)
- 26 Mary & Doug Sisk (1968)





We are asking the congregation to send cards or letters to certain College Students and Other Members each month. This month we are remembering College Students – Annie Palmer and Luke Williamson and Other Members – Kathryn Brannen and Joseph Cullen. Their addresses are:

Annie Palmer
281 Setzer Cove Road
Maggie Valley, NC 28751

Luke Williamson
PO Box 424
Maggie Valley, NC 28751

Kathryn Brannen
501 South Seas Drive #404
Jupiter, FL 33477

Joseph Cullen
102 Meadowbrook Rd #7
Maggie Valley, NC 28751

From Beth Brown, Lay Leader

"Why Christians Fail to Change: Spiritual Ignorance Part I"

We are continuing our series from Chip Ingram's book, "Yes! You Really CAN Change. What to Do When You're Spiritually Stuck." Chip Ingram is a teaching pastor and CEO of Living on the Edge, an international teaching and discipleship ministry.

We left off last month learning that Chip believes there are at least three primary reasons Christians fail to change as thoroughly as Scripture promises: spiritual ignorance, spiritual isolation, and spiritual myopia. The next two months we are going to read about spiritual ignorance.

"Many Christians simply don't know who they are. They don't understand their identity in Christ, the new nature they have been given, the foundation of grace God has provided, and the Spirit who lives within them. As a result, they revert to old-nature strategies: try hard, do good, fail, and try again. Those strategies come early in life; most of us have been trained from an early age in a punishment-and-reward system. We experience negative consequences for bad behavior, but we are given incentives and rewards for good behavior. So it's only natural that we would apply the same psychology of behavior to our relationship with God.

But that's not the kind of relationship God has given us. Jesus already took the punishment for our sins, united us with Him in resurrected life, and made us His coheirs so we can receive the rewards He deserves. That's part of what it means to be "in Christ." He exchanged His life for ours, taking our sin upon Himself and giving us His own righteousness. He paid the price for us, and we enter into the life He has given. When we act as if our relationship with God is based on our behavior, we are stepping out of that grace and reverting to old ways. We have to know who we are in Him and live from the new righteousness He has provided.

The biblical word for being made right with God is justification. That's what happens the moment we receive Christ. We are justified. God takes all the sin and guilt in the debt column of our lives and marks it "paid in full." This isn't just a wave of a wand or an arbitrarily canceled debt; it is based on what Jesus did on the cross. He took the penalty of our sins upon Himself, and when we received Him by faith, that sacrifice applies to our relationship with God. Everything is paid for. Not only that, the righteousness of Jesus was deposited into our account, so that God sees us as holy and pure in Him. That's our legal standing before God (Acts 13:39; Rom. 3:24, 28). We can't add to that standing or take away from it. It's ours – a gift of grace. The biblical word for living out that justification – demonstrating the righteousness that has already been given to us – is sanctification. It simply means being "set apart" to God. In one sense, we have already been sanctified – set apart and made holy. But in a practical sense, it's an ongoing and lifelong process by which God changes our heart and lives from the inside out to conform our character to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29; 1 Thess. 5:28). Like being given a new wardrobe that doesn't fit us now, we are given sanctification and then spend our lives growing into it.

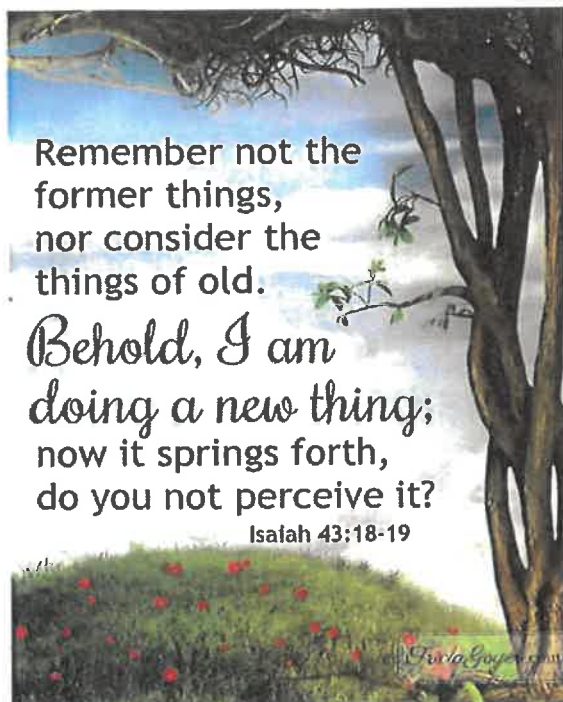
But that's where the problems arise. Many Christians don't know how to grow into it. How do we make use of the grace God has given? Why do we keep sinning if God already forgave us and cleanses us? How do we live as new creatures in our old, sin-saturated environment? If we don't know the answers to these questions, we will revert to the try hard, do good for a while, fail, then try again cycle. Eventually that turns into trying hard and faking it – or just giving up.

Next, month we will learn how to grow our faith from Spiritual Ignorance to Spiritual Knowledge. I'll share a little insight with you. The answer lies in your bible. As Pastor Cole mentions with some regularity, reading your bible is the only way to know God, find answers to your questions, find the help and guidance to your concerns, and move in the direction God wants for you discovering the change you've always wanted. God is there – open your bible. You'll see.

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From Beth Brown, Lay Leader (continued)

"A Fresh Perspective"



Remember not the former things,
nor consider the things of old.

Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?

Isaiah 43:18-19

Have you ever found yourself questioning the decisions you have made? Or, have you ever asked God why bad things happen to good people? Why is there so much hurt and pain in the world? Are you angry with God, the world or those close to you? Is the new normal overwhelming and frustrating?

"But forget all that – it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do a brand-new thing. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness for my people to come home. I will create rivers for them in the desert! The wild animals in the field will thank me, the jackals and ostriches too, for giving them water in the wilderness. Yes, I will make springs in the desert, so that my chosen people can be refreshed." Isaiah 43:18-20

I too am struggling. I've had an overwhelming amount of sad news, change and frustration lately. The changes in our world and our fears surrounding Covid don't help. Things seem to be compounding – growing weekly. I am not at peace. I am frustrated, short tempered, disappointed and sad. Not a great combination.

In one of my devotions I recently read, "Move Your Fence," from Our Daily Bread, the author, Patricia Raybon writes, *"The village vicar couldn't sleep. As World War II raged, he'd told a small group of American soldiers they couldn't bury their fallen comrade inside the fenced cemetery next to his church. Only burials for church members were allowed. So the men buried their beloved friend just outside the fence.*

The next morning, however, the soldiers couldn't find the grave. "What happened? The grave is gone," one soldier told the reverend. "Oh, it's still there," he told them. The soldier was confused, but the churchman explained. "I regretted telling you no. So, last night I got up – and I moved the fence."

God may give a fresh perspective for our life challenges too – if we look for it. That was the prophet Isaiah's message to the downtrodden people of Israel. Instead of looking back with longing at their Red Sea rescue, they needed to shift their sight, seeing God doing new miracles, blazing new paths. "Do not dwell on the past," He urged them. "See I am doing a new thing." (Isaiah 43:18-19). He's our source of hope during doubts and battles. "I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, (providing) drink to my people, my chosen (people)." (V.20). Refreshed with new vision, we too can see God's fresh direction in our lives. May we look with new eyes to see His new paths. Then, with courage, may we step onto new ground, bravely following Him."

God can help us find a fresh perspective on whatever is going on in our lives whether it's related to health concerns, monetary issues, feelings of frustration or being overwhelmed, sadness at the loss of loved ones or sadness due to news or change. These are all valid and true. We have our belief and the source of great love, compassion, healing and forgiveness all within reach, through the power of prayer. Lean on the One who knows what it is like to go through pain and suffering. He bore our sins and lived a human existence to help us. Trust and believe! Forgive your past and move on. Also pray for those who are sick, hurting and sad. Do what you can to help others in need. Be the hands and feet of Jesus. I believe that as believers in Christ, we can be God's earthly angels. We can be both gift and giver. We can provide hope and love. We can help change the world by our fresh perspective, our attitude and our heart.

From Beth Brown, Lay Leader (continued)

Pray with me -
 Lord Jesus, you are the author of new and fresh perspectives. When you came into this world you brought change. You brought hope. May we lean into you as we work to change our attitude to find hope and peace, trusting that you are here with us as we journey through each day, taking what comes at us - good or bad - with a fresh perspective. We may be treading on new ground, but knowing you are constantly beside us, walking this new path with us gives us courage. We are not alone. Thank you for being the one thing we can always count on who will never change. Thanks be to God. Amen.



1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 -

***"Always be joyful.
 Keep on praying.
 No matter what happens,
 always be thankful, for
 this is God's will for you
 who belong to Christ Jesus."***

1 thessalonians 5:16-18

From Bill Chamberlin, Treasurer

	August	Jan - August
Projected Budget Need	\$24,041.39	\$192,331.12
Actual Expenses	\$24,573.93	\$210,863.66
Offerings Received	\$16,758.70	\$218,858.52
Over/Under	(\$7,815.23)	\$7,994.86



**Treasurer
 Report**

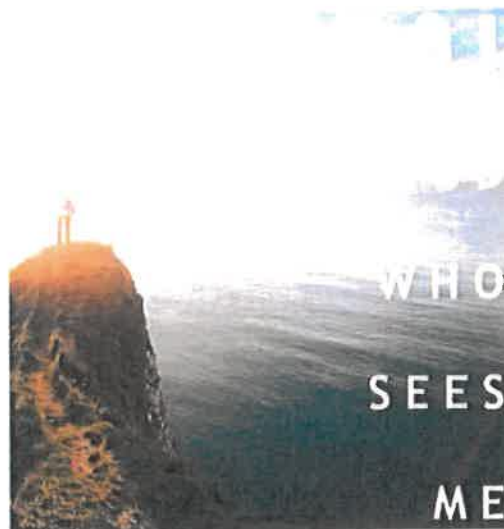
Witness Corner by Bea Hawkins

"Responding To Closed Doors"

(Taken from *The Bible in One Year*; InTouch.org)

God answers prayer in one of three ways: "yes," "no," or "yes, but not yet." This last reply seems to be the most dreaded – sometimes even more than an outright "no." However, patience is an important trait for the Christian, as Scripture stresses repeatedly in stories, psalms, and epistles.

Waiting on the Lord to unlock a door is always wiser than attempting to pry it open ourselves, even when the delay has been long. After God promised him descendants (Genesis 12:2), Abraham lived for 25 years with an answer of "not yet." After that quarter-century, the answer finally became "yes." But meanwhile, Abraham and Sarah came up with their own plan to get an heir – Sarah's servant Hagar bore Ishmael. The couple may have convinced themselves they were "helping" God live up to His prophecy, but really they were disobeying. The consequences were disastrous. Bitterness and blame affected every member of the family (Genesis 16:4-6; 21:9-10). What's more, Ishmael's people lived in enmity with their neighbors, and that hostility persists in the Middle East today (verses 9-14; 25:18).



Our patience gives God time to prepare the opportunity on the other side of a closed door. Even if we could force our way by manipulating circumstances, we would not be happy with what we find there. No one in Abraham's camp was satisfied with the situation they created! We can have contentment and joy only when we access the Lord's will at the very moment He ordained. The blessings we find on the other side of an open door are always worth the wait.

Genesis 16 (NIV)

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me." "Your slave is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her. The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered. Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count." The angel of the LORD also said to her: You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery. He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers." She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered. So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Other Announcements



*Join Us In Celebrating
the Special Blessing of:
Lurie Albritton's 100th Birthday*

Drive By

Saturday October 2nd, 2021

12:30pm til 2:00pm

537 Clayton Avenue

Lakeland, Fl 33801

Wishing her a Happy Birthday

and God's Blessings 863-687-2476

Maggie Valley United Methodist Church - Worship Service 10:30 am

4192 Soco Road

Maggie Valley, NC 28751

Office Phone (828) 926-8036

Fax (828) 926-3932

renee@maggieumc.org

Rev. Cole Altizer, Pastor - Cell (828) 577-9906

Rev. Mike Shirley, Assistant Pastor – Cell (804) 714-6319

Jason Jones, Pianist & Choir Director

Janice Rogers, Organist

“Knowing Christ, Growing Faith, Serving Others”

Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

“LOVE IN ACTION” Newsletter

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On the web at www.maggieumc.org

