



The Foothills Cooperative Parish

Whitnel UMC



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Gamewell UMC



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Colliers UMC



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April 2018 Newsletter

A Note and a Prayer

“Therefore since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through him, and we boast in the hope of God’s glory.” Romans 5:1-2 (CEB)

Easter Sunday someone gave me an unexpected gift. There was no card or no name on the bag so I do not know who to thank. The gift was a book – *Responsible Grace: John Wesley’s Practical Theology* by Randy Maddox which was one of four books of required reading in one of my favorite seminary classes and taught by the author. When I was preparing my theology papers for the Board of Ordained Ministry for Commissioning and Ordination, this book was the best reference I could have asked for. Someone heard me say that I loaned my textbook to someone and they never returned it. And the anonymous person gave me the book as a gift. On Easter Sunday. A day when God’s grace brought new life!

Responsible Grace and the seminary class that required the book were important (maybe monumental) in my understanding of grace in John Wesley’s theology of salvation. The book goes from the human condition

Parish Website

www.foothillscooperativeparish.weebly.com

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Submit Calendar Entries by the 20th of each month to
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or foothillscooperativeparish@gmail.com

Send Newsletter entries to
ourfcpnews@gmail.com by the 25th of each month.

Whitnel Pastor Preaching Schedule

April 1 - May 13.....Lori Anne
May 20 - July 1.....Peter
July 8 - August 19.....Lori Anne
August 26 - October 7.....Peter
Oct. 14 – Nov. 25.....Lori Anne
Dec. 2 – Dec. 24.....Peter
Dec. 25 - Baptism of the Lord.....Lori Anne

of life and God’s provision of grace so that humanity does not have to stay in a life of sin. As the book unfolds, Dr. Maddox outlines the way grace is extended to humanity. At each stage of life and each offering of grace humanity has the choice of accepting or rejecting the grace offered. In other words, God’s grace calls for a response by humanity (hence the name “Responsible Grace”).

Easter or Resurrection Sunday is the day we remember and celebrate the greatest gift of grace God gave all of humanity. Jesus died for the forgiveness of our sin and was resurrected so that we could have the hope of eternal life. Through our faith in a Risen Christ we are offered grace. As Paul wrote the church in Rome, we can stand by the grace we find through Christ and boast in the hope of God’s glory. God’s grace is free for us with no stings attached. Our only act is accepting the grace. Resurrection Sunday reminds us each year that we have God’s grace available to us.

The acceptance of God’s grace seems like a “no-brainer”. Who would not want God’s grace for the forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God and one another. Sometimes though, we choose not to accept the grace. We choose instead to hang on to grudges or hurts. We refuse to forgive or accept forgiveness from those who have hurt us. We prefer holding on to our selfishness instead of letting go and living the new life offered.

Easter Sunday evening as I held my new copy of *Responsible Grace* like an old friend, I pondered the times in the recent past that I have not responded to God’s grace with acceptance. There have been times when I have instead chosen my way instead of God’s grace. Thankfully, God continues offering me grace over and over. I can make better choices in the future and accept the grace when I forgive, accept forgiveness, and seek to live closer to God through the means of grace he gives us.

Thank you to the anonymous giver of a great (and needed) gift so that I could be reminded of my constant need for God’s grace. May I continually be a “Responsible” person with the gift of grace God gives me. Will you join me in this endeavor in your life as well?

God of grace and glory, you offer grace freely and without price from us. We can make the choice of accepting or rejecting your grace. Give us the openness of our hearts for seeing the need in our lives for accepting your grace. We pray in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Lori Anne

Parish Game Night



“I was in prison and you came to visit me”

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’” Matt. 25: 34-36

Many of you probably know that I was in prison the first weekend of March. No, I wasn't incarcerated, but rather I joined a team of 41 men, and participated in a Kairos Prison Ministry Weekend at Foothills Correctional in Morganton.

What is Kairos, well I'm glad that you asked. Kairos Prison Ministry International is a Christian ministry that is lay-led, ecumenical, and international in which men and women volunteers bring Christ's love and forgiveness to incarcerated individuals and to their families, which began in 1976.

I have been involved with this ministry since 1996. It's funny how we develop a mindset sometimes when we get involved with some form of ministry that we are going to impact those that we are ministering to. Well in most if not all ministry situations, we are the ones that get blessed and that's the case with Kairos. You see, when we allow God to use us as instruments of love and forgiveness, lives are changed.

People have asked or commented, “Aren't you afraid?”, “How can you go in and be with people like that, they're outcasts from society?” Well to be honest my first experience was a little nerve-racking. To ride up and see that razor wire fence, to have the big metal door slam behind you, and to have a group of inmates stare you down from head to toe makes you want to turn around and get out of there as quick as you can. But when you realize that those that are incarcerated are sons and daughters of the same creator as you and I, are only in there because they made a bad choice and got caught, you suddenly realize that there by the grace of God go I!

Jesus calls us to make disciples. Our denomination's mission is to, “Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World. Won't you consider volunteering? I would love for our Parish to have a prison ministry. If you feel God calling you to make a difference in this world, I would love to speak with you about becoming a volunteer. And ladies, Kairos has a special ministry just for women. It's called Kairos Outside



and it is a 2½-day weekend done in a retreat center for women who have an incarcerated family member or friend. Please pray about it and see what happens!

Christ's Blessings to you,

Peter

Youth & ARK

We were challenged to be "the hands and feet of Christ" for March Mission Madness. Our Parish Youth rose to that challenge!



Foothills Cooperative Parish Youth gather and prays over items for our ARK (Acts of Random Kindness) Day Adventure!



- Taking activity bags to the Pediatric Unit at Catawba Valley Medical Center
- Blankets to Nursing Home patients
- \$5 in anonymous envelopes blessings in random mailboxes



Parish Committee Updates

Parish Staff Parish Relations Committee

Next meeting date to-be-determined.

Parish Council

Next Parish Council Meeting: April 24th @ 6:30 – Gamewell UMC

Foothills Cooperative Parish (Colliers, Gamewell & Whitnel UNITED Methodists)

Date	Day	COLLIERS	WHITNEL	GAMEWELL
1	Th	EASTER SUNDAY		
2	M		Cubs 6:30pm (Scout Ctr)	Cubscout Pack 266 7:00pm
3	T		Troop 6:30pm (Scout Ctr)	
4	W	Prayer Group 6:00 Wholehearted Practice 6:30		Choir Practice 5:30
5	TH			Life Study @ Parsonage 6:30
6	F			
7	S			
8	SUN 2 Easter	Carolina Family – Worship Senoir Dinner w/ Youth 5pm Intersection @ Dos Amigos 6:30	Breakfast 8am “One Leadership” Mtg 2pm Senoir Dinner w/ Youth 5:00 Intersection @ Dos Amigos 6:30	Senior Dinner w/ Youth 5:00 Intersection @ Dos Amigos 6:30
9	M	Ladies Lunch @ Fatz 1pm	Cubs 6:30pm (Scout Ctr)	Cubscout Pack 266 7:00pm
10	T		Troop 6:30pm (Scout Ctr)	Admin. Countil 6pm
11	W		Community Meal 6pm	Choir Practice 5:30
12	TH			Life Study @ Parsonage 6:30
13	F			
14	S			
15	SUN 3 Easter	Circle 1 @ Captain’s Galley 6pm		
16	M		Cubs 6:30pm (Scout Ctr)	Cubscout Pack 266 7:00pm
17	T	Circle 2 6pm	Troop 6:30pm (Scout Ctr)	UMW 6pm
18	W	Prayer Group 6pm		Joy Lunch Bunch – Noon Choir Practice 5:30
19	TH			Life Study @ Parsonage 6:30
20	F		Craft Session 6pm	
21	S			
22	SUN 4 Easter	Trustees’ Mtg 5:30		
23	M		Cubs 6:30pm (Scout Ctr)	Cubscout Pack 266 7:00pm
24	T		Troop 6:30pm (Scout Ctr)	
25	W	Bible Study & Dinner 6pm		Choir Practice 5:30
26	TH			Life Study @ Parsonage 6:30
27	F			
28	S	Family Outing @ Sim’s BBQ Youth Yard Sale & Silent Auction Bidding 7am – 2pm	Youth Yard Sale & Silent Auction Bidding 7am-2pm	Youth Yard Sale & Silent Auction Bidding 7am – 2pm
29	SUN 5 Easter	Auction Item Pick-up Noon – 5pm		
30	M		Cubs 6:30pm (Scout Ctr)	Cubscout Pack 266 7:00pm