

IT TAKES GRACE...

“When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.”
[Dietrich Bonhoeffer]

You can take this for what it’s worth as my opinion on dating and relationships, but I would think it’s probably not the most comforting thing to invite someone into a relationship with the words, “I love you. Come and die.” I guess it kind of worked for Romeo and Juliet, but I’m thinking Shakespeare may have used up whatever romance was in that line...

“I love you. Come and die.” Not really trying to paint a very bright future. No warm fuzzies attached. If you heard it from the wrong person, you might call 911. But, from Jesus, it is not a threat. It’s a wonderful invitation to *live*.

It’s one thing to be exposed to Jesus – lots of people are *exposed* to Him. Some like what they see, others don’t. Some are drawn to Him, while others are repelled. Some choose to believe; others hesitate or refuse. All of that has to do with being *exposed* to Jesus.

It is a whole different thing, though, to be invited by Jesus

to die, to realize what Jesus truly wants is for us to die so He can live through us. (“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” – Galatians 2:20)

Let that soak in...By accepting Jesus’ death at the cross as applying to us, His resurrection then is also ours to claim. Christ died; we died in Him. Christ lives; He lives in us.

“I love you. Come die... and you will find life!”

It is an invitation to recognize a different way and a different reason for living. Jesus’ desire is that the very being of who we are changes. I am no longer Lon, doing things for Lon, living for Lon, even serving God and others, but by my own effort. No. God’s Word and His Spirit call me, and all of us, into a deeper experience: “For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.” (Matthew 16:25)

What has happened in the life of every believer is that Christ has taken up residence in us. The question we have to answer is, “How

crowded do we want our lives to be?” It is His intent that we die, so He can take up residence in us. Not a bad deal...if we are all in on Jesus being Lord in addition to Savior.

In this season of bountiful harvests and beautiful reminders of God’s presence, I’m reminded of the words in Don Moen’s classic song:

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son

Richest Blessings,
RevLon

Thank you to everyone who made Pastor Appreciation Day so special for Rob, Pete, and myself. Pat and I truly appreciated all the kind and encouraging words and thoughtful gifts. We certainly are blessed to minister with this church family.

Rev Lon

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SET FOR NOVEMBER 12

There will be a congregational meeting in the gym at 9:00am on November 12. Our Finance/Administration Committee will review the Session’s budget approved for 2018. We also will elect

four elders to serve on the Session for the class of 2020, along with a trustee for that same class.

FROM THE MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

We will be having a military truck in the Veteran's Parade on November 5th. All veterans are welcome to ride in the back (there are seats along both sides). If you would like to join us, please call Dawn Stokes in the church office (270-821-6426) or Matt Sills (502-851-6655). Wear your military clothes or hat if you still have some!

We will be making shoeboxes again this fall to send overseas. They will be packed the week before Thanksgiving. More info to follow.



GIVING TO GOD

First let me thank Connie and Mike Skultety for their generous contribution of "Mums for Bibles". If you missed it, Connie and Mike grow the biggest and best mums around and they donated the proceeds to our *mission* at the Hopkins County Jail. Connie has been known to share her gift of growing mums with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, The Ballard Veterans' Center, Hanson Elementary School and the Boy Scouts of America. Well done good and faithful servants! Thank you, thank you, thank you!
The "Water People" are at it again. Four of us are venturing back to the Yucatan, Mx (November 27—December 2) to covenant with another church, helping them provide clean safe water for them and their surrounding communities. They, and the rest of the WP Team, will be soliciting your prayers and support for the 2018 LWW *Mission* Project.

Late Fall is here and Winter is approaching, therefore, The Warming Place will be open for those who need shelter from the cold and gloom of the world. We'll need volunteers to supervise and clean; prayer warriors food to offer the hungry; gloves, socks, etc.; and once again your prayers and *mission* support.

Of course, we are involved with the Christian Food Bank of Hopkins County, the Door of Hope, the Salvation Army, the Mahr Center, Samaritan's Purse, the Prayer Center, Our Youth, and other fine *missions*, including those of PC(USA).

Isn't it great to realize that God has given us all these many ways to share our time, talents and treasure?

Praise the LORD!
On the Inside,
Pastor Pete

P.S.: Thank you for the Pastor Appreciation cards and generous gifts. God has truly blessed me

with a loving church family. I will continue to go where God directs me and I will always be grateful for your love, prayers, and support. Thank you.

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------------------|------|---------------------------|------|--------------|
| 3rd | Jim Agin | | John Bushong | 29th | Becca Wilson |
| | Doris Thomas | 21st | John Betts | | |
| | Rena Roberts | | Janet McClain | | |
| 5th | Sam Waddell | | Heather Ricketts | | |
| 6th | Lance Millard | 22nd | Luanne Cole | | |
| 7th | Austin Walker | 24th | Mike Hofmann | | |
| 12th | James & Glori Cope (A) | | David & Merry Brooks (A) | | |
| 14th | Dave & Val Dreusicke (A) | 25th | Burl & Paula Milligan | | |
| | Ruth Hendrix | | Becky Moore | | |
| 18th | Ross Thomas | 26th | Connie Conover | | |
| 19th | Daniel Carter | | Mike & Margie Rawlins (A) | | |
| 20th | Alice Kelley | 27th | Erlene Ewing | | |
| | Charlie Hoskins | 28th | Floyd & Rhonda Gordon (A) | | |



From the Congregational Care & Fellowship Committee

How quickly time goes by!! The holiday season is upon us and soon we will begin the festivities. On Sunday November 19th following church service we will have our Thanksgiving potluck.

Turkey & dressing, ham, rolls and drinks will be furnished. Please bring your favorite dish and join the celebration.



We will be going shopping for Christmas baskets in December. Amy Taylor is overseeing this worthy cause. If you would like to contribute in any way, just send it with your offering, earmarked for Christmas baskets.

September Finances at a Glance

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$ 56,116.10 | YTD Income | \$295,367.72 |
| Expense | <u>\$(27,901.89)</u> | YTD Expenses | <u>\$247,120.98</u> |
| Net | \$ 28,214.21 | TYD Net | \$ 48,246.74 |
| Undesignated | | YTD Undesignated | |
| Income | \$ 51,221.00 | Income | \$245,013.05 |
| Expense | <u>\$(25,138.71)</u> | Expense | <u>\$182,482.73</u> |
| Net | \$ 26,082.29 | Net | \$ 62,530.32 |
| Designated | | YTD Designated | |
| Income | \$ 4,895.10 | Income | \$50,354.67 |
| Expense | <u>\$(2,763.18)</u> | Expense | \$64,638.25 |
| Net | \$ 2,131.92 | | |

HOW'S YOUR STRESS LEVEL?

Recently we've been going through a series with the students in our youth group about stress. Those reading this may not remember the stress of middle and high school or you may not know the stress that this current generation feels but it is real and it is having an impact on them. And honestly the reasons for stress haven't changed much over the years. They may be self-inflicted or come from other sources but they still get a person to a point of anxiety and worry.

The struggle lies in where we find our worth, our identity and our contentment. For teens they are searching for an identity that sets them apart. I recently heard of a survey that showed teens have a desire to be famous. Possibly that is why they are so into social media since that can gain them instant gratification in knowing that someone is interested in their post, tweet, youtube video or snapchat. The danger is when there isn't enough instant feedback that gives them what they feel they need then they worry they have little or no worth. But let's be honest we are no different than they are. Adults are just as self-centered and struggle with

wanting the same things as teens. We all want to be known and valued. And when we seek to be known just for what we do or what we have or who we're with or who we are more than Whose we are and that we know Him things get out of balance.

So let's focus on the One who gave us His Word to light our path and give our life balance.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

"So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly

Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today." Matthew 6:31-34

"I am leaving you with a gift—**peace** of mind and heart. And the **peace I** give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." John 14:27

God is good, all the time! And all the time, God is good!

In Christ's Love,

Rob

Romans 12

PS – THANKS SO MUCH! Denise and I appreciate your gifts, cards, and words of encouragement. You continue to bless us with your support and generosity and we are humbled by your outpouring of love!

YOUTH NEWS:

Thanks to everyone that contributed to our first youth fundraiser for the year. We couldn't offer to give them half price events and trips and other means of blessing them if it weren't for your generosity. This one brought in \$733! Thanks again!

Fall Retreat: November 10-12 is our W. KY Presbytery Youth Fall Retreat at Camp Loucon. Cost for our youth is \$30 each. We will leave from the Wilson's home at 6 PM on the 10th and return 3 PM Sunday the 12th. Hope to have a good crew attend this always popular retreat!

Angel Tree Fundraiser: November 29th at 5:15 we have a Spaghetti, salad and bread plus homemade desserts to raise money for our annual Angel Tree shopping we do. We normally choose the older children on the Salvation Army Angel Trees and do for as many as we can afford based on donations. Thanks so much for supporting our mission to bless those less fortunate in the name of Jesus Christ!

Poinsettia Order Forms Available November 5th

Again this year we will be taking orders for Christmas poinsettias to decorate our church. Beginning November 5th through November 26th forms will be available for your order. The cost will be \$15.00 each. Please use one order form per flower. If you have any questions please call the church office (821-6426).



We will be hosting the Messiah on December 10th at 6:00PM.

Refreshments will be served afterwards. If you would like to bring cookies, please have them at the church by that afternoon.

November 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--------------------------------|---|--|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 5:15 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal | 2 Women's Great Banquet #180 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS | 6 6PM Great Banquet Team Mtg | 7 6PM Session Meeting | 8 5:15 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal | 9 6:30PM Messiah Rehearsal | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 6PM Great Banquet Team Mtg Shoobox Drop off—all week | 14 | 15 Blood Drive 5:15 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal | 16 6:30PM Messiah Rehearsal Vienna Great Banquet #48 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 9AM Loading Shooboxes in Semi | 21 6:30PM Messiah Rehearsal | 22 No Activities | 23  Happy Thanksgiving | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 5:15 Youth Fundraiser 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal | 30 6:30PM Messiah Rehearsal | | |

Come one and all for our annual stage call! We need the brave and the bold, and those who like to “act out.” You need to have no talent or even try-out. Some must perform for the audience to applaud. Now is the time to shine before your talent is outlawed! Our 3rd Annual

Church-Wide Talent/No-Talent Show will be Wednesday night, December 13 after the fellowship supper. See Lon Lorton or Janet Agin to get on the program.



*Star
Search*
Church-Wide
Annual Talent
No Talent
Show

Each year the Agin Christmas Party seems to compete with parades and concerts and other holiday treats. So this year we figured let's try something new and have it on a weekday, but the same party and food. All our church family is asked to attend on Thursday Decemeber 7th starting at 6:00PM. Bring a sweet or a snack to share with everyone, heaven only knows when the party will be done. We always exclaim at the end of the night Merry Christmas to all and to all a “good” night. Agin's 270-836-9774.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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