

## LPC JUNE 2016 NEWSLETTER

We are a family of believers, glorifying God, welcoming new members from near and far, and learning to love God and neighbor.

### PASTOR'S CORNER

•As I write this letter, a member from Stanley White Presbyterian Church is with her daughter as she gives birth to her first child. It's a time of mixed emotions for them right now. The baby girl, Amelia, is only 32 weeks along and at last report only 4 pounds and 4 ounces. And although they can't wait to meet her, her arrival comes with a lot of worries.

In much the same way, my departure comes with a lot of mixed feelings. There are many of you who feel that it's much earlier than you were prepared for. Some of you are filled with worry about what is to come. With this transition comes the pain of change but there is also the hope of what lies on the horizon. I can't tell you what that future will look like, how it will change you or how it will be changed by you. There are a lot of unknowns lying ahead.

I can remember a time in my life when I was facing a huge transition. You see, I had been training for something for a very long time, but when it came time to do it, I found myself engulfed in fear and drawing back from diving in. Funny thing is, it was my pastor who came up to me and said, "Kevin, are you going to cut bait or fish?" What they were saying was clear. Was I going to just train or was I finally going to do what I'd been training to do?

In the weeks that lie ahead, you will have the opportunity to ask yourself many questions. What has stirred your heart in the past few years, what has lifted you up, excited you or given you hope? What have you found missing? Is there a subject you'd like investigate? Is there a burning question you'd like help answering? Is there

something new you'd like try or something old you'd like to try in a new way?

When it comes to ministry, one thing I know for sure is that ministry grows as needs arise and as we look inside and realize we can do something about those needs. It's like the call of a child in the night to their parents that stirs us from slumber to go be with them. It's like the phone call from a friend telling us about something that has hurt them that causes our heart to go out to them.

Now is the time to prepare and build on what you've learned. Your voice and understanding is what will be needed; to provide healing and support to those around you. And nothing can ever replace the importance of your presence.

Thank you for the past five years for being my teachers, my friends, my peers, coworkers and even my family. May God bless us all through the time we have spent together for the journey that lies ahead so that we can continue the good work that God has begun in and through each of us.

God be with you, till we meet again!

Pastor Kevin

#### PRAYER LIST

\*Our Church    \*The Brunks    \*Wendy Brunk's Mother    \*Susan Lloyd    \*Mary Clark    \*Charlotte Aycock and Family    \*Charlotte Aycock's Grandson, Rob Cowen    \*Billie Perkinson    \*John and Henrietta Williams    \*John and Henrietta Williams' Great Niece, Allison Gordon    \*Emily Williams  
\*Ann See    \*The Crawley Family    \*Nancy Lawler    \*Anne Baker    \*Ann Broaddus    \*John Acai  
\*Al Thompson    \*Harrison West    \*Larry West    \*Philip Alston    \*Our Service Folks Around the World    \*Believers Around the World

#### SESSION NOTES

~Church expenditures exceed revenues by \$8000. Spending is in line. Tithing is down.

~Lots will be sold in the future.

~Fellowship hall will be completed.

~Christi Secrest's transfer of membership is continuing.

~Coming up are Vacation Bible School and summer movies.

~Susan Lloyd will be away for 2 Sundays but Betty Anne Shearin will substitute for LPC's music.

~Alan Stallings is scheduled to come sing on 6-12-16. The Hamms will reschedule.

~John Williams and Philip Alston are still working on the foundation at the back of the church.

~John Clark will work on the handrail support at the bottom of the rail.

~Williams Construction sealed up the front doors.

~A porch over the front door is estimated to be \$7500.

~Jo Ann Daniels will research and get prices for a memorial plaque with B & A Trophy.

~Pastor Joe Sandoval and Pastor Kevin Brunk are scheduled to upgrade lighting in the back of the church to LED.

~The yard sale will be held at the town municipal parking lot 6-4-16 at 7:00-11:00am. One half of the sales receipts will go to Harrison West's family for his cancer treatments' medical expenses.

~The Supper Club will have a cookout 6-12-16 with yard games. Wanda Clark will coordinate the food and John Clark will provide the grill.

~Movies on the Lawn will begin at 8:00pm. Wanda Clark will prepare tickets and market.

~Vacation Bible School's theme is "Under the Sea". LPC is to provide snacks for Thursday, 6-23-16.

~John Clark will fill in at the pulpit July 3rd and August 21st.

~40% of the May 15th Pentecost offering will go to the John 3:16 Center.

#### NOTES FROM LYNN

#### FEAST OF PENTECOST

Names: Feast of Harvest (Ex. 23:16)- from first fruits of harvest

Feast of Weeks (Ex. 34:22)- from 7 weeks + 1 day

Pentecost (Greek word Pentekostos)- from 50th

Shavuot (Hebrew word)- for Feast of Weeks

When: Leviticus 23:10, 11, 15, 16      50 days after the morrow after the Sabbath (Passover)

Barley was the first grain to ripen from the winter crop. Wheat was the last grain to ripen. The children of Israel harvested their barley on the first day of the week after Passover. They cut their first sheaf and took out the grains of barley. These grains were put into a bowl- an omer of measurement. It was about one half of a gallon. The omer was taken to the Temple to be presented to the Lord in thankfulness. Then fifty days were counted- called "counting of the omer- until the wheat harvest . At that time the first fruits of that wheat was offered to the Lord at the Temple.

The children of Israel traveled from Egypt and got to Sinai. Seven weeks later they received the ten commandments to live by on the first Pentecost. Since they, and we, are condemned by them because we can not perfectly obey each one, Jesus offered up His Life to deliver us from judgement (Romans 3:31 TLB). We have to have the ten commandments to know how we should measure up to be a perfect child of God. Jesus measured up and so the perfect Blood of God paid for what our sinful blood could not do. It was offered to the Father God in place of ours. Death is the consequence of sin. Jesus died so we don't have to perish at the end of this time on earth. We have the hope and the faith that when we quit breathing in this dimension we will live forever with God in His Kingdom. "...only when we trust Jesus can we truly obey Him (Romans 1:12 TLB). Jesus was the first fruit of creation. He was offered up to God like the first wave (of the sheaf) offering was offered- on the first day of the week after Passover- on the first day of the fifty days of the Feast of Harvest\ Pentecost. At the same time the harvest of barley was being presented to God in the Temple Jesus was "raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep" (1 Cor.15:20).

Fifty days later, as the wheat harvest was being offered in the Temple at Pentecost, Jesus' followers became the first fruits of the Holy Spirit.

\* "The in-between time of counting the omer allows us to prepare for this dual celebration; the event at Sinai when God gave Israel the Ten Commandments and the event at Pentecost when God gave the Holy Spirit. Jeremiah 31:33 moves the original law from stone to human hearts. "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it." Paul, writing to the Corinthians, said, "You are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts (2 Cor. 3:3)." \*1

Just as the Israelites gave God the best of the first fruits of their harvests, we could give ours to God too. It might make Pentecost more meaningful to us. Our firstfruits could be from our gardens- give someone our first vegetables or flowers. It could be from our time- make a phone call or visit someone who may need it before we do our own activities. It could be from our hobbies or talents, such as baking something for someone. A person could sew or paint or repair or whatever you like to do for yourself, do it for someone else first. You may be a good listener and could share that skill. Some may want to include a little extra money with their regular tithing. Whatever we do that is good for others is good to God.

God gave His Son who was the firstfruit of humanity to rise from the dead. So, now, since we died with Him, we also rise with Him. Right now we have faith on that. In God's timing we will rise too.

\*\* "Academic knowledge of the law does not enable us to think like God. Becoming godly in our thoughts, attitudes, and actions is beyond the comprehension and ability of men and women without an additional ingredient-God's Spirit." \*\*2

1 John 5

1. Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: every one that loveth Him That begat loveth him also that is begotten of Him.

2. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments.

3. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.

4. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. KJV

\*1-Celebrate the Feasts by Martha Zimmerman, p. 98, Published by Bethany Fellowship, Inc.,c. 1981

\*\*2-God's Holy Day Plan, p.24, Published by United Church of God, c. 2013

JUNE 2016

Birthdays: 6- Wanda Clark 20- Debbie Alston

Volunteers: Flowers- Lynn Lesak Ushers- The Drivers Fellowship- The Drivers

4 Sat. 7:00-11:00am Yardsale Helpers needed at 6:00am

5 Sun. 9:30am Worship, Communion

Congregational Meeting After Service

7 Tues. 10:30am-noon Pastor's Office Hours

8 Wed. 10:30am-noon Pastor's Office Hours

11 Sat. Sunset Pentecost starts

12 Sun. Pentecost

9:30am Worship, Guest Singer- Alan Stallings

5:00pm LPC "Goodby" Cookout (Please help with sides and dessert)

14 Tues. 10:30am-noon Pastor's Office Hours

15 Wed. 10:30am-noon Pastor's Office Hours

19 Sun. 9:30am Worship (Last time for Pastor Kevin here)

23 Thur. Snacks for Vacation Bible School from LPC

24 Fri. 8:00pm Movie on the Lawn

26 Sun. ?