

LITTLETON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 2016

WE ARE A FAMILY OF BELIEVERS, GLORIFYING GOD, WELCOMING NEW NEIGHBORS FROM NEAR AND FAR, AND LEARNING TO LOVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR.

PASTOR'S CORNER

A Word On The Word

Have you ever wondered why there are so many translations of the Bible? The last time I looked, there were well over 500 and still more being produced as interpreters work hard to translate the Bible into every language. I hear that there are over 2,000 versions being worked on today so that all people can read the Bible someday for themselves.

One of those translations that is very well known in our community is that of the King James Version (KJV) which came into being about 500 years ago. The other day, someone was telling me how much they enjoyed the King James Version of the Bible. But did you know there is more than one translation of the KJV and that's not including the New KJV (NKJV)? The KJV just celebrated its 500th anniversary recently and I had a chance to see different translations of it with different wording on display in a museum. In fact, they had several KJV Bibles open to the same page so you could see where there were differences in wording.

In the past 500 years, the English language has changed a great deal and so have the translations of the Bible into English. There are dozens of translations to choose from these days in many different shapes, sizes, colors. Some of them have great helps like illustrations, archeological evidence, devotions, theological dictionaries, and even concordances and maps. In my library at SWPC I have close to 30 different Bibles, including 2 in Greek (for the New Testament) and 1 in Hebrew (for the Old Testament).

Someone recently told me that they enjoy reading through the entire Bible each year. I like to read through it as well, but each time I do so, I like to use a different translation. In my reading, I have noticed that not all translations are the same. Some are written on a 3rd grade reading level like the Good News Bible, while others are written on a 12th grade reading level like the New Revised Standard Version. Some of the Bibles are only paraphrases like The Living Bible and The Message, while others are word for word as close to the original languages as possible like the New American Standard Version.

Sometime the differences between these versions are hardly noticeable and sometimes they are so dramatically different, you may be left wondering which one is right. For instance, in some versions you may find verses that don't exist in others. Why is that? This is due to the amount of research and dedication theologians put into translating Bibles for today. You see, there are versions of the Bible that go back 1000s of years, written on papyrus (reeds attached together to form paper) and vellum (animal skins). Discoveries have been made over time that have led to new translations based on the oldest and most reliable texts available. Some versions of the Bible, like the KJV, didn't know of the existence of some of these older versions and so their translations are different. Newer translations even make a note where those changes have been made and in some of them, they'll even show you the sources they drew from.

So, as you can see, this gives us a lot of choices when it comes to bibles. Each has its benefits. I enjoy the KJV for its poetry, especially when reading the Psalms. I enjoy using

the NIV, which is written on a 7th grade reading level, and The Message, which is a paraphrase in contemporary English written by a Presbyterian pastor, when working with youth. Each version of the Bible is unique. Each one has its own beauty. And if asked which I think is best, I'd have to say whatever version a person takes up and reads. Because, in the end, that's what really matters and the purpose behind their existences.

If it's been a long time since you read your Bible or even if you did it this morning, I hope you are not only blessed by its insights, but that you become a blessing to others by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit at work within you.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kevin

PRAYER LIST

*Our Church *Helen Heinlein's Neice, Missy *Charlotte Aycock's Brother and His Wife

*Billie Perkinson *John Williams' Great Neice, Allison Gordon *Harrison West

*Larry West *John Acai *Our Service Folks Around the World *Believers Around the World

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

*The Building Committee made a report to Session.

 ^Session voted to move the fellowship hall closer to the existing building due to distance and

 slope of yard and to have wire put in the cement to give it more stability.

*Wanda Clark is working on filling out the annual statistical report for LPC.

*Elders signed up for communion dates.

*Wanda Clark is putting together financial reports for the Finance and Property Committee of

 New Hope Presbytery in order for them to approve our acceptance of the gift of property from

 the Williams to be sold to help raise funds for the fellowship hall.

*Wanda Clark and Jo Ann Daniels are getting together to come up with fundraising ideas to

 propose to session.

*Session discussed the upcoming "Love Feast" supper being held in the sanctuary on Feb. 14 at 4.

*Philip and Debbie Alston and Lynn Lesak agreed to help coordinate special music for 2nd

Sundays.

*Pastor Kevin is setting up a Facebook page for LPC.

*George Heinlein is being asked to perform the financial review of 2015 records.

*Session is discussing the covenant between the pastor and the congregation at the March

meeting.

*LPC will host the March 16th Lenten Luncheon at the United Methodist fellowship hall.

*A Lenten study of "The Call" by Adam Hamilton will be held each Tuesday at 10:30 during

Lent at LPC.

*A Maundy Thursday Seder meal will be held at SWPC on March 25th (time TBD).

*A community Easter Egg Hunt is being held at the John 3: 16 Center on Sat., Mar. 26th.

Volunteers are needed before the event to post flyers, provide plastic eggs, help stuff eggs,

bake cookies, and on the event day to mark hunt areas, hide eggs, arrange prizes, register, lead

groups to hunt in areas, and serve snacks. People may call Nancy Roegner at 252-586-1823

for more info.(A meeting will also be held on Mon.,Feb. 9th at 9:30am at Lakeside Lutheran to

help coordinate.)

*In a meeting of the corporation, Jo Ann Daniels was elected as President and Henrietta Williams

was elected as Secretary and Treasurer for 2016.

*Easter Lillies are being ordered for Easter Sunday by Jo Ann Daniels.

*Jo Ann Daniels is working on getting LPC a commissioner to the upcoming Presbytery meeting

on March 5th at Hudson Memorial PC in Raleigh.

*Session will update its manual of operations at the April meeting.

*Pastor Kevin is ordering palms for Palm Sunday.

*Rev. Jordan Davis from Union Presbyterian Seminary of Richmond is coming to preach on Sun.,

Aug. 14th. Rev Davis serves on Seminary Relations and comes at no cost to the congregation to

find out more about how the seminary can help the local churches.

*Session decided to change the cover of the bulletins to the old sketching and to invite people to

submit pictures from time to time to be included. The Skinner children are being asked to draw

pictures for the covers on Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter and more if they enjoy it.

WISH LIST

*Rugs for classrooms

*Furniture for fellowship hall

*Stairs from road to side of property

CALENDAR

MARCH

Volunteers: Fellowship-Clarks Flowers-Clarks Ushers-Clarks

Birthdays: 15- Lynn Lesak 19- Tommy Clark 25- John Skinner

1 Tues. 10:30am Lenten study at LPC

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

5 Sat. LPC Commissioner goes to Presbytery meeting at Hudson Memorial PC in Raleigh

6 Sun. 9:30am Worship, Communion

8 Tues. 10:30am Lenten study at LPC

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

13 Sun. Daylight Saving Time begins

9:30am Worship, Fellowship

15 Tues. 10:30am Lenten study at LPC

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

12:00-1:00 LPC hosts Lenten Luncheon at Littleton United Methodist Fellowship Hall

20 Sun. Palm Sunday

9:30am Worship

22 Tues. 10:30am Lenten study at LPC

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

Sunset Purim begins

- 24 Thurs. 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Seder meal at SWPC - Sign up for food to bring there.
- Sunset Purim ends (except Shushan Purim lasts until 25th)
- 25 Fri. Time (TBD) Community Good Friday service at Lakeside Lutheran Church
- 26 Sat. Community Easter Egg Hunt at John 3:16 Center
- 27 Sun. Easter
- 9:30am Worship
- 29 Tues. 10:30am-noon Pastor Kevin's Office Hours
- 30 Wed. 10:30am-noon Pastor Kevin's Office Hours

PURIM

Purim, from the Hebrew word "pur", meaning lot (purim is the plural) is the holiday celebrated by Jews to remember the story of the biblical book of Esther. In it Haman cast lots to decide what day to kill the Jews. The Persians called her Esther after Ishtar/Astarte/Easter because she was so beautiful like this goddess. But in Hebrew Esther means "hidden". So, this name was important for what happened in the story.

About.com>Learn About Purim or Feast of Lots says this about the holiday:

"Purim is a celebration of God's faithfulness, deliverance, and protection. Although the Jews were sentenced to death by King Xerxes' original decree, through Queen Esther's courageous intervention and willingness to face death, the people's lives were spared. Similarly, all of us who have sinned have been issued a decree of death, but through the intervention of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the old decree has been satisfied and a new proclamation of eternal life has been established."

It would be a good month to read the book of Esther since this holiday occurs in it!