

# The Vine & Branches

September 2020

## Saving Lives by Praying, Caring & Sharing

So much attention has rightly been devoted to saving lives from the Covid-19 virus. The CDC has instructed that regularly washing our hands and wearing a mask around groups of people will help reduce the spread of infection, thus saving lives. As Christians we're called to care for both the physical and spiritual needs of people. In John 3:16, Jesus proclaims that anyone who will believe in Him will receive eternal life. Several years ago, I heard Christian leader Lon Allison share the following strategy of helping people open up to receiving Jesus's offer of life eternal:

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#### Pray Daily.

In 1991, Lon Allison was invited to a private dinner with Billy Graham and twelve other church leaders. Each leader was given an opportunity to ask a question to Mr. Graham and Lon went first. He asked "Do you believe there is a link between prayer & evangelist impact (people being saved)?" Billy Graham leaned across the table and looked him in the eye and said an emphatic "YES!" Then he spent the next 40 minutes telling Lon how the 1949 Crusade, which led hundreds of people to Jesus Christ including Louis Zamperini, was bathed in prayer. The Apostle Paul requested the Church to pray for three things that would soften people hearts to receiving the Good News of Jesus: pray for open doors (Col.4:2-3), pray for the right words to speak (Eph. 6:19) and pray for courage to speak them (Eph. 6:19). Saving lives begins with praying each day for people you know who have not given their life to Jesus.

#### Care Sacrificially

Lon Allison came to Jesus as a late teenager through an outreach of a local church. His parents had never attended church even though he invited them to go. At the age of 20, Lon started to internally bleed, so much so that he nearly died. During his weeks in the hospital different people from church came to check on him and upon his release a large portion of his hospital debt was covered by a church leader. It wasn't long before Lon's parents came to church and found eternal life in Jesus. The reason we follow Jesus is not simply to experience the blessed life but to be a blessing. Caring for others leads to saving lives. People don't really care how much you know until they know how much you care. 1 Peter 2:12 "Live such good lives... that they (unbelievers) may see your good deeds and glorify God."

#### Share Your Story of Jesus

In 1 Peter 3:15-16 we are instructed to "give a reason for the hope [we] have". Try writing out your story of salvation in three sentences. The first sentence begins with "Before Jesus I . . . ." The second sentence begins "I met Jesus when . . . ." The third sentence begins with "Now that I have a relationship with Jesus . . . ." As we engage people in spiritual conversations, God will often let us know He is reaching out to them by the degree of interest they demonstrate. Remember every person has a longing for a relationship with God, a desire to belong, a need for forgiveness and significance.

Grace and Peace, Bob Paddock

## Student Ministry

My name is Bill Eberly, Student Minister here at Cornerstone. I grew up in a small town in Pennsylvania about the size of Chatham. We didn't attend church very often when I was a child, so I didn't know a lot about God. My parents did their best raising me, but I was a child that was definitely bent on sowing my wild oats. I "missed the mark" in so many ways, yet after years of driving my parents crazy, God called me out of the pit by His Glorious Grace during my sophomore year of college.

I distinctly remember the pastor of the church we went to a few times a year. I remember he never judged me, always had a kind word for me and personally took me to go play racquetball. Those memories stick with me to this day and were seeds planted that not many people saw. I'm not sure he knew just how big a deal those simple interactions were and are to me today.

By God's Grace, we at Cornerstone hope to share the Love of Christ with the teens in multiple ways. We've had a pool party, a waterfall hike. Next week, we'll take part in a service project where the students will be able to serve our community. I pray that through these encounters the students will discover that God's grace flows like water to cleanse and refresh their souls.

## Gentle

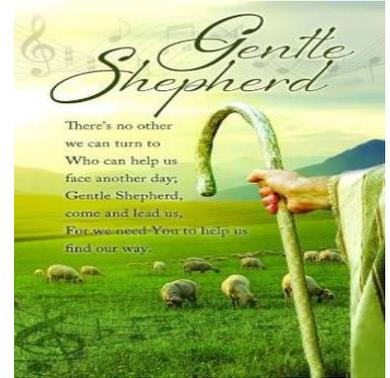
Gonna' tie this month's article to last month's....last month my word was "speak". This month's word is "gentle". Pretty sure those two need to go together more often. Besides thinking and praying before I speak, I need to be sure I'm doing so with gentle words (though there are times when more forceful words may be appropriate). If I use harsh and demeaning words, my listener is going to tune me out pretty quickly. Proverbs 15:1 tells us that "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

When I first started looking at scriptures and song lyrics for "gentle", the first thing that came to mind was an old song "Gentle Shepherd" which says

"Gentle Shepherd come and lead us  
For we need You to help us find our way  
Gentle Shepherd come and feed us  
For we need Your strength from day to day  
There's no other we can turn to  
Who can help us face another day  
Gentle Shepherd come and lead us  
For we need You to help us find our way"

I'm so thankful that Jesus is that Gentle Shepherd that we need, who's there for us every single minute of every single day! I hope you'll follow along with me during the month of September at <https://www.facebook.com/evidencetech/> as we explore "gentle" scriptures and songs.

Administrative Assistant, Tia Harmon



"Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!" (Matthew 12:50)

The Kingdom Kids are memorizing Matthew 12:50 using American Sign Language. We are taking a closer look at the life of Jesus.

HERE IS A SAMPLE OF WHAT WE ARE DOING:

- Read: Matthew 9:9-13
- In This Passage: Jesus asks a tax collector named Matthew to be His disciple. Tax collectors were known for being greedy, cheating men who no one liked. So when Jesus went to Matthew's house for dinner with a lot of other "bad" people, the religious leaders got mad. But Jesus came for everyone—and those who realize they are sinners need Jesus.
- Bible Point: Jesus came for everyone.
- Summary Verse: "When Jesus heard this, he said, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do' " (Matthew 9:12).
- Read: John 5:1-18
- In This Passage: Jesus goes to a pool where sick people often hang out hoping to be healed by the power of the bubbling water in the pool. One lame man is never able to get there soon enough, so Jesus heals him. The religious leaders get mad, but Jesus is God, and He tells them so.
- Bible Point: Jesus is God.
- Summary Verse: "But Jesus replied, 'My Father is always working, and so am I' " (John 5:17).

We are discovering that He is more than just a historical figure. We are learning about His heart, with the hope of having our hearts changed.

Because of Jesus,  
Michelle Clinton  
Children's Minister Proverbs 3:5-6

**Sunday, August 30, 2020**

Student Ministry Service Project  
9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders

**Time:** we will leave Cornerstone after third worship service and return around 4ish

**Service Project:** clearing land and burning brush piles at Jenny Cole's home

**What to bring:** a bagged lunch and work clothes

**Food:** we will make hotdogs and marshmallows for a late afternoon snack

**You're Invited to a Wedding Shower**

**For:** Allison Weaver & Joshua Howell

**Where:** Cornerstone Church of Christ

**When:** Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>

A gift table will be set up for you to drop off your gifts/cards.

They're registered at Target, Amazon, Bed Bath & Beyond

Join us in loving and supporting this young couple!

**YOUNG ADULT  
MINISTRY**

(ages 18 to 30 something)  
Ice Cream Social & Lawn Games

**Outdoor Event on Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**from 6 to 8 pm at Cornerstone. For more**  
**info see or contact Elizabeth Tucker**  
**at [blue.fire.108@yahoo.com](mailto:blue.fire.108@yahoo.com).**



**You're Invited to Katie & David Mitchell's Baby Shower**  
**September 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 12 noon**  
**Where:** Cornerstone Church of Christ

Come out to a drive-up baby shower for the Mitchells. Let's bless this couple as they prepare to welcome baby Timothy in October. Feel free to say hello and pick up a goodie bag...or stick around from a safe distance and watch them open their baby gifts.

They're registered at Target and Babylist.com. Their nursery theme is Peter Rabbit with light green as the main color with white and blue accents.

\*There will be no diaper raffle because they plan to use cloth diapers for Timothy\*



**Men's Biscuits  
& Bible**

**Saturday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:30 am in Grace Cafe**

**Men, you don't want to miss  
this great time of fellowship**

**Student Ministry**  
**Sunday Night Outdoor Service Events**  
**For All 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders**  
**(you can invite your friends)**

**What:** A time of experiencing God - followed by food and games

**Where:** Cornerstone Church of Christ

**When:** Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 5:30 – 7:30 pm

**Meet:** Behind church in front of the outdoor stage

See or Contact Bill Eberly at [william.eberly@pcs.k12.va.us](mailto:william.eberly@pcs.k12.va.us)  
if you can attend or need more info.

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We're on the Web!  
 See us at:  
[CornerstoneChatham.org](http://CornerstoneChatham.org)

**Sunday**  
 Worship Services – 8:30 am; 9:45 am;  
 11am  
 Adult Bible Fellowship – 9:45 am  
 Kingdom Kids – 9:45 am and 11 am  
 Nursery – 9:45 am  
 Middle School – 9:45 am

**CORNERSTONE**  
 CHURCH OF CHRIST



Latest Prayer Requests

**Send Prayer Concerns to Evelyn Francis:**  
[evelynfrancis434@gmail.com](mailto:evelynfrancis434@gmail.com) or  
 call 434-432-4300

**Prayer Concerns:**

Kim Walker: Oscar Dalton – liver cancer (Kim's uncle)

Teresa Lewis – health issues (Beth Redd's mother)

Gloria Pope – health issues (Charlene Pope's mother)

Kathy Burnette – health issues (Ocie & Mildred Betterton's daughter)

Janet Reynolds – heart issues (Tina Roach & Mitzi Giles mother)

Jeff Pearson – recovering from hip surgery

Jenny Cole: Lynn's mother who is 97 years old and in nursing home in Alaska with an outbreak of Corona Virus (Jenny's friend)

Jenny Cole: Nina – a veteran who suffers from PTSD and alcoholism (Jenny's friend)

The hope of Jesus Christ will heal our people and our land

Families in our communities

Rwanda Challenge

Tim & Erin MacSaveny (Bible translators for Tanzanian languages)

Harry Gillespie – recovering from serious automobile accident

Elizabeth Short – stomach issues

Colleges and Universities

Students, teachers, and school faculty in our communities

Medical staff, first responders, police, grocery store workers and all those working on the

front lines during this corona virus pandemic

**Praise:**

Congratulations to Ashley & Angel Tuck on the birth of their daughter Amelia Grace on Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>. She weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and 20 inches long

**Sympathy to the families of:**

Louie Pierce  
 Douglas Perry  
 Janice Hardy