

September 1,
2019

Special points of interest:

- Women’s Fellowship, 9/10, 10 am & 6:30 pm
- Church Work-day, 9/14
- Prayer Break-fast, 9/15
- HIOPE U starts up, 9/17
- Walk/Run for Life, 9/21
- Hymn Sing, 9/29

Hello,
September!

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Englewood Communicator

Rob’s Revelations by Dr. Rob Westlund

Dear Family,
On August 25th I preached on Joshua 9, the ruse of the Gibeonites. My main point was that we should seek the Lord on the important decisions we make in life, particularly the ones that involve promises or covenants. No matter how much information we think we have or how strong our position is we should seek the Lord.

It occurred to me while I was preaching that there was another huge theme in that narrative, the Israelites were not taking the Promised Land, they were being given the Promised Land. Point being that no matter how strong or wise the Israelites position was, God was giving the victory and God was positioning the Israelites in His promises. Thinking through that same theme for us, God is giving us the victory over sin and death and positioning us in

grace through Jesus. God is offering us a reconciled relationship with Him and redeemed life of purpose.

How transformational would it be to grasp a hold of the truth that God is *giving* us new life and pursuing us in love. Yes we strive to run the race, but the victory is already ours, given in Jesus. Yes we run with perseverance fixing our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of faith, but eternal life is already ours, given in Jesus. The transformation is that we live into the gospel blessing that is already given rather than trying to use our own strength, knowledge, and wisdom to take a deceptive hollow life.

Out of this transformative life would come praise, thanksgiving, joy, peace, hope, and love. As I told you, my latest trip to Colorado was a gift. It was given to me by a

generous friend who wanted me to go mountain biking with him. I know my friend and this was a pure gift with no expectations of repayment or strings attached. Every moment of the trip, except maybe a few steep uphill, I was thankful and joyful because of what was given. How much more has God given us in Jesus that is already ours?

In Jesus
Rob

Hymn Sing

September has 5 Sundays, so for the fifth Sunday we will have a Hymn Sing during the morning worship service. Starting September 1, there will be forms in your Sunday bulletins for you to write down the names of your favorite hymns. We will take the top nominees to use for our service on September 29!

Church Workday

There will be a Church Workday on Saturday, September 14, starting at 10 am. We will be focusing on the Education Wing and Youth Buildings. The more people, the faster the work will go!

Walk/Run 5K for Life

Be sure to go be the table in the church lobby and pick up your forms to take part in the Your Choice Resource Center's 1-Mile Walk and 5K Run to benefit the Your Choice Resource Center.

You just sign people up to sponsor you and show up on Saturday, September 21, at 8 am at the Rocky Mount Sports Complex to walk or run! The 5K run is new this year! Runners will register and fundraise online. Walkers can pick up pledge sheets on the table in the church lobby.

All proceeds for the walk/run will go toward the work of the YCRC.

Prayer Breakfast

The Missions and Fellowship Teams are hosting a Prayer Breakfast on Sunday, September 15, at 9:15 am (there will be no Sunday School on that day).

There is a food sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the church lobby. Please have your food at the church by 9 am.

Following the meal, we will get together for prayer for our congregation, our ministries, our community, and our world. The prayer time will end about 10:15 am, in time for you to prepare for our morning worship service!

HOPE U Coming to EPC

When 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, September thru May, 5-8 pm (starting September 17)

Where EPC Youth Building

Who HOPE graduates and other adults with disabilities who enjoy socializing and participating in group activities

What Each night the group will participate in a Bible study, service project, dinner, and social activity

Volunteers are needed, but you only need to come for one session a month! Anyone wanting to volunteer or wanting more info/questions can contact Rachel Westlund.

HOPE Coming Back in October

Mark your calendars now and prayerfully consider helping with our HOPE Program starting back up October 5, hours TBA.

Amber Fisher will be heading up the volunteers to help provide respite for families with children with disabilities. More info will be in bulletins and the next newsletter.

Greeter Training

Everyone who is on the current greeter list or anyone who would like to be put on the list is encouraged to attend the Greeter Training led by Pastor Rob and Denise Bissette planned for noon in the church library on Sunday, September 22. Lunch will be provided.

Serving in September

Greeters

9/1	Rex Bisette & Rusty Bryant
9/8	Mac & Yvonne McLeod
9/15	Phil & Leona Briggs
9/22	Dave & Ginny Hodges
9/29	Harold & Nancy Colston

Lay Readers

Cindy Batchelor
Denise Bisette
Daxie Dozier
Phil Briggs
Buck Young

Ushers

9/1	Ellen Henson & John Brown
9/8	Bob Carlson & Mary McMillan
9/15	Buck Young & Kevin Lewis
9/22	Richard & Karen Rose
9/29	John & Jean Feagans

Children's Church

Indy Chesis
Sherry Young
Leona Briggs
Kay Owen
Denise Bisette

Soundboard

9/1	Yvonne McLeod and Leona Briggs
9/8	Jeff Proctor and Caleb Chesis
9/15	Jeff Slack and Cierra Devine
9/22	Denise Bisette and Caleb Chesis
9/29	Yvonne McLeod and Leona Briggs

Elders of the Month: Nancy Kirkwood & Rose Burnett

Thanks

In preparation of putting in the carpet, I asked for help in moving the furniture on a Sunday afternoon. Boy, did I get it! I was expecting it to take three or four hours to complete, but with all the help, it took only about two hours. You do not know what this means to me. Everything went very smoothly moving the furniture out of the way. The women came in and cleaned the blinds and dusted. Lots have helped in getting us back to normal! Thanks again!

Building and Grounds Chair Johnny Long

Dear EPC Family: Thank you so much for the graduation gift. It was very thoughtful and I will enjoy reading it!
Summer Joyner

To my church family, Thank you for coming to my Birthday Party and for all the love and support you have shown me the 50+ years I have been a member here. You have made an "Ole Lady" very happy. God bless each of you.
Betty Smith

Birthdays

2	James Wade
6	Will Winstead
9	Marsha Winstead
10	Toni Rose
11	Carolyn Barden
14	Sarah Wade
15	Sean O'Brien
18	Johnny Brown
23	Hannah Jones
26	Emily Bisette
	Elijah Jones
29	Rachel Westlund
30	Kevin Lewis



Anniversaries

3	Richard and Paulette Pitt
8	Charles and Fannie Zuidema
20	George and Emilee Peterson

Blood Drive

For the Blood Drive on August 8th and 9th:

2-Day Goal	68
Collected	<u>75</u>
Over Goal	7

Thanks to everyone who helped!
Our next Blood Drive is October 10th and 11th.
Paulette Pitt

Congratulations!

Charlie Lanham and Ashley Harris were married on July 26th! The Lahnam's have three children Charlie Harris and Lily and Zoey Lahnam. Congratulations to all!

Directory Change

Please change your directory entry for Betty Smith:
Phone: 252-443-0221
Email: bwsmith1929@outlook.com

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 SS, 9:15 am Fellowship, 10 am Worship, 10:30 am	2 Church Of- fice Closed Labor Day	3 The Outpost opens for a new season!	4 CORE, HI, 6:45 am Congregational Care Team, LIB, 10 am Choir, 7 pm	5 Bible Study, LIB, 10:30 am Stitches of Love, YB, 11:30 am	6 Church Of- fice Closed	7
8 SS, 9:15 am Fellowship, 10 am Worship, 10:30 am Small Group, McLeod's home, 6 pm	9 Prayer, SAN, 6:30 pm Missions Team, LIB, 7 pm 2020 Budget Forms Due	10 Women's Fellowship Morning Group, LIB, 10 am Women's Fel- lowship Sup- per, FH, 6:30 pm	11 CORE, HI, 6:45 am Small Group, Gravelly home, 6:30 pm Choir, 7 pm	12 Bible Study, LIB, 10:30 am Stitches of Love, YB, 11:30 am	13	14 Workday, 10 am
15 Prayer Break- fast, 9:15 am Worship, 10:30 am Small Group, McLeod's home, 6 pm	16 Prayer, SAN, 6:30 pm	17 HOPE U, YB, 5-8 pm Presbyterian Men, FH, 6:30 pm	18 CORE, HI, 6:45 am Small Group, Gravelly home, 6:30 pm Choir, 7 pm	19 Bible Study, LIB, 10:30 am Stitches of Love, YB, 11:30 am Session Meet- ing, LIB 7 pm	20	21 YCRC Walk/ Run for Life, RMT Sports Complex, regis- tration @ 8 am, Opening @ 9
22 SS, 9:15 am Fellowship, 10 am Worship, 10:30 am Greeter Training, LIB, noon Small Group, McLeod's home, 6 pm	23 Prayer, SAN, 6:30 pm	24	25 CORE, HI, 6:45 am Small Group, Gravelly home, 6:30 pm Choir, 7 pm	26 Bible Study, LIB, 10:30 am Stitches of Love, YB, 11:30 am	27	28
29 SS, 9:15 am Fellowship, 10 am Hymn Sing, 10:30 am Small Group, McLeod's home, 6 pm	30 Prayer, SAN, 6:30 pm	<div style="background-color: #808000; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p>Key CORE Men's Group FH Fellowship Hall HI Hampton Inn LIB Library YB Youth Building</p> </div>				

Financial Information for August

	<u>August</u>		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Tithes and Offerings	\$21,415.50	\$27,949.51	(\$6,534.01)
Other Income	164.29	262.08	(97.79)
Total	<u>21,579.79</u>	<u>28,211.59</u>	(6,631.80)
Expenses	<u>22,744.72</u>	<u>26,018.29</u>	3,273.57
Total Income or (Expense)	(\$ 1,164.93)	\$ 2,193.30	(\$3,358.23)

	<u>Year to Date</u>		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Tithes and Offerings	\$188,634.66	\$223,596.08	(\$34,961.42)
Other Income	902.45	2,118.64	(1,216.19)
Total	<u>189,537.11</u>	<u>225,714.72</u>	(36,177.61)
Expenses	<u>211,339.67</u>	<u>228,656.56</u>	17,316.89
Total Income or (Expense)	(\$ 21,802.56)	(\$ 2,941.84)	(\$18,860.72)

Out of the Most Severe Trial. . . Giving During Difficult Times

I would like to address what it means to give sacrificially versus out of our discretionary income. As giving is still around 2% for most Americans and among Christians it is reported at 2.2–4%, we find ourselves in an interesting time. Churches are closing and giving is down, yet in many churches they met or exceeded their giving goals.

So what is the real situation as it relates to giving? You know I have written for years that poor giving habits flow from the lack of correct teaching on Biblical stewardship. And correcting that is still my number one motivation. But I believe there is another reason that some struggle with giving — it hurts.

What hurts? Giving more hurts us in the world's money system. It hurts us in our monthly budget. We believe it "takes away" something that belongs to us. That is why the teaching in the second letter to the church at Corinth is so interesting and important. Paul writes to them telling of how the Macedonian churches gave "out of their most severe trial" (2 Cor. 8:2). Their situation was not good. It was uncomfortable. It was not easy. Their giving was sacrificial. It was going to cost them something. Yet they pleaded with Paul to be included in giving to the ministry.

Today, much giving is from discretionary income. Income that could be used for travel, new items, going out to dinner, extra clothes, gifts, and upgrades to the things we currently own.

We all know we are among the wealthiest countries in the world. We have heard this since we were born and as our world becomes smaller we see how much we have and how little other people groups have. We want to be generous, but only to a point, it seems. That point is pain. We give up to, and just before it hurts. If I give more, I would have to sacrifice something. That's too much to ask. I "need" to keep this much for myself. Does this resonate with anyone in your thinking?

This is why Jesus talked so much about money. One key teaching is Luke 16:13 is where Jesus states that "man cannot serve both God and mammon" (mammon = the things of this world we desire). To "serve" them means to make them the priority, to put them in the highest place in our lives. And Jesus warned us. I wonder, can there be any commitment to anything without sacrifice? Can we follow Jesus without sacrifice? Can we be a disciple without being a steward? Can we be a steward without sacrifice?

[John R. Franks, johnrfrank.com]

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship Morning Group will be meeting on Tuesday, September 10th at 10:00 in the church library. We will resume our study on Revelation.

Please read Revelation 1:7,8 in preparation.



The Women's Fellowship will have their annual Fall Covered Dish Supper on Tuesday, September 10, at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

Please bring your favorite main dishes, side dishes, salads, and/or desserts to share!

Cindy Speight will be on hand to share her testimony and her gift of music.

Small Groups

The Sunday Small Groups will begin meeting on September 8 at 6 pm at Mac and Yvonne McLeod's home. They will be doing a video series by Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale entitled "Jesus Among Secular Gods".

The Wednesday Small Group meets on September 11 at 6:30 pm at Keen and Ashlin Gravely's home. They will continue their study on the book of Mark.

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