

# THE BURNING BUSH

*From the Pastor's desk...*

*The end of the matter is better than its beginning, and patience in spirit is better than the proud in spirit." Ecclesiastes 7:8-9*

Patience—a thing we all struggle with from time to time. During my incarceration as a concussed person, I began to wonder if I would ever be the same again. Would I be able to do the things I was missing such as simply walking around the block or speaking without stammering? I believe that God sometimes pulls the rug out from under us so that we have no choice except to be still and know that He is God. I had lots of time to think about what God's plan was now. I knew there was a lesson in it somewhere.

Just as we are anxious about when spring will finally get here and we can get out there and enjoy the sunshine, scratch in the garden, and observe all that is new in creation, we are given time to anticipate and work on our patience. I have discovered the down time I was given was God's way of causing me to listen more closely to what He wanted me to hear. You see we don't miss something until we can't have it any longer.

The good news is that I am emerging anew. I have learned to take time to enjoy the simple things in life. A bird on the fence singing its heart out and the prospects of nature's displays. Jesus taught that we should not worry about tomorrow in Matthew 7. We humans do a good job of filling our lives to the brim with Stuff! We over burden ourselves with full calendars, jobs, functions to attend, places to go and people to see. In all of this we have neglected two very important people—the Lord and ourselves. It should be the other way around. The Lord must always come first from the moment our eyes open until they close giving thanks in all things. I've always said, "You can't care for someone else, unless you take care of yourself." Be patient with yourself so that you can be for others. Be kind to yourself and to others. Be grateful for what you have and do not want what others have. All gifts are from God especially meant for you. You might even say they have been custom designed with you in mind!

I am almost fully recovered. Doctor appointments and therapy are still scheduled through May, but progress is being accomplished at last. Spring is here and I have endured. I am grateful for the experience and for change. So, don't be surprised by set-backs. They are more than likely going to be a learning experience. Be blessed to know as I do, that "grace is sufficient" when "God's power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Cor. 12:9.

*Pastor Linda*

# MAY 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Scouts 6-8	8 Presbytery 9:30 Session 7	9	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14 Scouts 6-8	15	16	17	18	19
20 Pentecost	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Trinity Sunday	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

## **SESSION SNIPPETS** **BY PAT WELKER**

Notes from the April 10 Session Meeting--

### **MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:**

**CHRISTIAN ED:** Crystal & Jodi & Tammy – 1) Palm Sunday Kids' Program – Bonnie did a fantastic job getting the 16 students ready to perform. They all paraded in waving palms and carrying their Gracie fish banks. 100 palms were purchased so congregation could also participate. After the pizza party, 600 eggs were hidden; half in the sanctuary and half in the Sunday School rooms. 18 kids quickly found them all! Thanks to Grace, Melody and Bonnie for help with hiding eggs. 2) Christian Ed Team – There will be a meeting April 29 after Church to discuss Sunday School classes for next year. Members are Melissa Herron, Alissa Holder, Lyndsey Johnson, Tammy Duley, Jodi Phillips and Crystal Gomes. 3) VBS – Our first meeting on March 18 went very well. We got to know each other and had good discussions working on consensus building. The dates for VBS will be discussed at next meeting. After much discussion, it was agreed to try a 5:30 start so we can finish by 8;m. A meal will be served at 5:30pm. Much discussion followed in regards to funding. With help from our participating Churches, Farmington Methodist and Baptist as well as Yates City Presbyterian, the bulk of our VBS budget should be covered. Our next meeting is April 15 at 12:30pm. We will finalize theme, dates and continue work on structure, schedule, mission and team personnel.

**FELLOWSHIP/MISSION:** Tammy, Jodi & Liz – 1) The Palm Sunday Pizza Party Mission Dinner had \$180 donated for VBS. 2) A Fishing Day is being discussed for Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. More details in near future. 3) The Fellowship Team is going to start looking at the Bazaar and are considering some changes. Watch for future details. If you want to help with the Bazaar, contact Tammy, Jodi or Liz.

**NOMINATING:** Tammy Duley as Elder Rep & Marianne Taylor from Deacons. At-Large members are Pat Welker, Michelle Lane and Linda Riley. - Nothing to report at this time.

**STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE/MEMORIAL & PERSONNEL:** Kathy, Crystal & Lyndsey – 1) It was noted that Crystal did a great job with the OGHS this year. The \$500 goal was surpassed with \$765.98 being collected. 2) It was also announced that Ciara Ulm has turned in her resignation as the Church Secretary and Lyndsey Johnson is going to replace her. She will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursdays. 3) It was noted that July 4 is a Wednesday this year. Kathy will begin working on the Cookout event in the near future.

**WORSHIP:** Tony, Tammy & Kathy –1) Elders to serve Communion on Sunday, May 6 will be Tammy, Liz and Lyndsey.

**EVANGELISM:** – Jodi, Liz & Tammy – Nothing to report.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Lyndsey & Tony – Lyndsey is going to meet with Brady to find out what he does and how to participate in the upkeep of the Church website and Facebook page.

**MEMBERSHIP REVIEW:** Pat – Nothing at this time.

**DEACONS' REPORT:** The Board of Deacons met March 18, during Fellowship with Missy Herron, Cozy Hoover, Lori Danley, Beth Martin and Marianne Taylor in attendance.

The sign-up sheet for Easter lilies will be passed in Church today and next week.

There were 4 cards sent and 4 visits made.

Cozy will bring bread for the Wednesday night program by “Jews for Jesus.” Marianne will bring bread for Easter Communion.

March 26 at 1pm, we will meet to assemble baskets for 6 shut-ins. Cozy will deliver to Barb Frank, Velma Petty, Keith Quin and Amber Lercher. Marianne will deliver to Leigh Ann Palley and Diana Threw.

Pastor Linda suggested that we use doilies on the plates for Communion. Cozy has purchased these. Next meeting is April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**TRUSTEES REPORT:** Trustees are going to be working on the front steps. They fear much concrete deterioration and are going to check into it.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** March has been a month of doctor appointments and work trying to get my brain back! Physical therapy and Speech therapy is helping but I feel like I'm not quite *all there* yet. March 30<sup>th</sup> rehab amounted to another trip to ER. Another symptom arose that caused them to insist I go. So, another CT scan and blood work to make sure I wasn't stroking out. The blood work showed very low sodium. They never did tell me where it went! I was still able to come for the Good Friday service at the Methodist Church.

Much of the month I worked from home. Ciara and I have gotten good at relaying the work back and forth. She and her family have been sick as well. So we have been a couple of people with diminished faculties. But we got the jobs done.

I was happy to be able to attend the special event of Jews for Jesus. I am so grateful to Crystal and Kathy for helping to get the publicity out there and set-up. On top of that, Crystal and Darrel were gracious enough to host David Garrett. I believe the people who attended saw the Passover in a new light and could better understand what Jesus was doing that last night in the Upper Room. David did a great job of presentation. We continue to pray for him and his group as they leave for Israel in two weeks. There they will join with other Jews for Jesus missionaries to evangelize among the Jewish and other ethnic people in Israel. In many places there are communities where faith in Christ is forbidden. A dangerous place indeed.

It was a joy to see the children's program on Palm Sunday. They always make our service so special not to mention the sugar highs after collecting the eggs.

Thank you everyone for your patience with me as I work to heal. This has been the weirdest journey I have ever taken. I believe I am making good progress. I've been told that one day, all of a sudden, everything will just click I can't wait for all my circuits to be connected again.

#### **GENERAL ITEMS:**

There were a couple changes to the Ministry Team members with Lyndsey Johnson leaving the Personnel Team and becoming part of the Worship Team. Tammy Duley is going off Worship but will continue on her other 3 Teams.

Kathy reported that a new water heater was installed in the manse.

OGHS realized \$110 from the Gracie Fish Banks, plus \$655.98 from the envelopes for a grand total of \$765.98. Crystal did a great job of promoting and getting kids involved.

Kathy reported \$205 was donated to the Church by Paula Monari's Grandson for his sales of Christmas ornaments in support of African orphans. He sold them during the Bazaar and Spoon River Drive Fritter Sales. Thank you to him for his great donation.

### **Other Announcements:**

**Congratulations! The Farmer's Closet has been given the "Service Above Self" award in honor of their service to the community.**

**David and his family and 820 other Jews For Jesus missionaries are headed for Jerusalem on April 25 to bring their message to the people in that city. David asked that we pray for them as they take embark on this trip to a dangerous part of the world.**

**The amount given to the OGHS was \$655.98. \$181.98 of that amount was from the kid's Fish banks. Thanks for everyone who donated this very worthwhile church mission. A special thank you to the kids for their enthusiastic participation.**

**We celebrate the achievements of Grace Duley and Melody Martin for the 1st place awards they received for music.**

**If you have a graduating senior this year who is active in the community and the church, they may be eligible for the Council of Churches scholarship award. Pastor has the information you will need to start the progress. The Council of Churches will be reviewing the candidates soon. Scholarships will be awarded August. Don't miss this opportunity!**

**Congratulations to Ella Johnson for being accepted after cheerleading tryouts!**

**Alyssa Ulm won a County award for her showmanship in a play!**

**We are sad to say goodbye to Ciara Ulm, our Administrative Assistant. We appreciate her hard work for us and wish her only the best. She has stuck with me through this journey, especially during the**

time I was missing in action due to the fall. It seems I owe her more than just gratitude. Be well and happy, dear Ciara.

We welcome Lyndsey Johnson to the position. Lyndsey was so gracious to step up to the job. As Pastor I look forward to working with her. She brings new ideas and change to the office as each new secretary has. As of May 1st, she will be the face of the office and the voice you will hear when you call. Do encourage her as she takes us on! I am thankful for these young women who chose to serve the church and our Lord with their unique talents. God has truly blessed us.

Pastor Linda

### **Coming Attraction!**

Get out your fishing poles and spend the day at Welker's Lake on Saturday, June 2nd. You can come out and fish anytime that day then stay and enjoy a picnic at 5pm. Bring a dish and bring the kids! More information will be revealed in coming weeks. But do set this time aside for your fishing pleasure. There will be time to share some of your most famous and tall "fishing tales."

## PRAYER LIST

**Ongoing Prayers:** Todd Guidi; Jeff Sturch; Chris's friend has cancer--stage 4; Ed Goggin; Deb Benton; Kevin Martin; Angie; Sally (Grebe) Seaman; Joseph Christiansen; Andy Swanson; for our country; Rusty, pancreatic cancer, Haley, experimental meds; Kay Wenzel; Leigh Ann's nephew John, Melissa's aunt has lupis; Beth's friend, Donna SMA; Jean Peterson; Isabell Haggard(kidney donation); Brandi Hayes; Terry Schriener; Elisha DeCoursey; Hannah Stancil; Bruce Fisher; Angie Porter; Lisa Adler; Melissa's Grandpa; Nicolle Hannan, Cheryle Fryman's daughter; Andrew Goggin Karen Wilson's son on liver transplant list; Mary Ulm, knee replaced; Diana, friend of Tony & Diana; David Garrett & family in Israel, Beth's brother in law, Darrin Berry, Jim, Jay's co-worker, Pat Welker, Karen Wilson's son in law, Mark-bitten by spider in Cambodia, Karen's son Andrew Goggin waiting for a liver, Louanne Jackson.

**At Home:** Amber Lercher, 24 HR care at home; Katy; Doug St. Clair

**Those in Assisted Living:** Kenny Holmstrom, Barbara Frank, Velma Petty and Keith Quin at Courtyard Estates in Farmington; Dianna Threw at Farmington Country Manor; Hazel Morby at Courtyard Estates in Canton; Leigh Ann Taylor at Heartland in Canton.

**Bereavement:** Family of Betty Riley, Donna Degroot's sister in law. Family of Ryan McCrae, Paula's nephew. Family of Don Brawner, Marianne's brother in law.

**Please let the office or Pastor Linda know of those who can be taken off the prayer list. Thank you.**

Please let us know of any additions or corrections. Our prayer chain: If you have an urgent prayer request, contact Pat Welker at 309-338-4575. She will then pass the prayer request along.



**1** Emily Phillips **4** Christopher Lucas **5** Annie Swanson  
**11** Emma Evans Ethan Evans Crystal Gomes **12** Monica Swanson  
**15** Jayme Johnson **19** Kathy Skaggs **20** Rev Linda Philabaun Lynea DeCoursey  
**22** Blake Johnson **24** Craig Duley **27** Paul Watters

The Burning Bush  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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Blessings on:



**COME WORSHIP WITH US  
SUNDAYS!**

Sunday School	9:30AM
Fellowship Time	10:30AM
Worship Service	11:00AM

Join us for a great message and God's word! Enjoy wonderful music and fellowship!

**“In the  
Beginning  
was the  
Word, and  
the Word  
was with  
God, and  
the Word  
was God.”  
(John 1:1)**

