

The Circuit Writer

A monthly newsletter of
Tryon United Methodist Church

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April 2023

The Good News. The BEST News!

By the time you receive this edition of the *Circuit Writer*, we will have walked through the days of Holy Week and celebrated a risen Christ on Easter Sunday. And we will have begun the season of Eastertide—the Great Fifty Days of the time that Jesus spent with his disciples—not just the remaining eleven and the new one who came on board, but many who followed him in his life and ministry and would continue on in that ministry after his ascension. We will be walking now toward Pentecost and beyond. The cycles and rhythms of the church year keep us moving, but also keep us grounded in our faith. That is by design.

Pastors and church ministers and staff sometimes find it difficult to live in the moment when it comes to Holy Week and Easter. Advent and Christmas are the same. We plan and do a lot in those seasons, hoping that we are offering words and prayers and music and experiences that will be meaningful. We hope the familiar Scripture texts will speak to us (all of us) in new and fresh ways. We hope the things we do won't feel rote or stale. We hope.

We hope. We pray. We muster every bit of our creativity and our energy and talents and put together services that we pray will have us singing the *Hallelujah Chorus* long after we have sung it as our postlude on Easter Sunday. We pray that the prayers will reach deep within and say the words we may not have even known we needed to be praying. We preachers pray that somehow, somehow we can find a way to tell the story of the Resurrection that will inspire all of us to live into that role of being Easter people who raise our voices and share the good news that Christ the Lord is risen. He is risen, indeed.

And then, after we have done all that and offered all that and the adrenaline we were running on has finally expired, we sit. We finally sit because doing anything else requires more than we have in us to give. We are spent in every way. Every emotion we have has been called upon for that week—that Holy Week. What we do cannot compare to what Christ did. We have no expectations that it does or should. That's not the point of what we do and offer. But what we do in that Holy Week requires us to give our all. There is no other way to do it that I know of.

Perhaps what I, as your pastor, want you to know is that in a world that is looking for the next, best, “funnest”, greatest, most thrilling entertainment experience, Holy Week and Easter are not that. And there is no “next best”. That is THE BEST! There is nothing better than knowing that death was not/is not the final word for Jesus or us. There is nothing more thrilling than knowing that God's love for us was made known to us through the birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus and the sending of the Holy Spirit. There is nothing better than this. But there is more that we get to do with this BEST news.

You likely know that the Sundays after Christmas and Easter are traditionally the least attended Sundays at church. Pastors know that for as many people who show up for those two services with smiling faces and glad hearts, who fill the pews and make us feel so good about what we have done and offered, the following Sunday will be...well, not that.

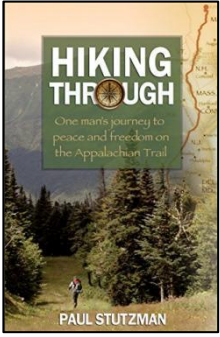
We don't get our feelings hurt though. First of all, it's not about us or what we do. It's about what we are able to do because of Christ. And second, we just hope that the good news that was shared those Sundays will be what sticks, what takes hold and what inspires those who heard the message to go and live the message. We just hope that those who come will know that they have heard the BEST news they will ever get and that it will be a message they will want to share with others who need that BEST news, too.

And, for those who come back the Sunday after Easter, just remember there's more good news for you to hear. Stay tuned because you are going to love it!

May God Bless You and Keep You. I wish you peace.

Pastor Lynnette

News and Notes



Page Turners Wednesday, April 26, 2:00 p.m.

After Paul Stutzman lost his wife to breast cancer, he sensed a tug on his heart--the call to a challenge, the call to pursue a dream. Paul left his stable career, traveled to Georgia, and took his

first steps on the Appalachian Trail. What he learned during the next four and a half months changed his life-and will change readers' lives as well.

In *Hiking Through*, readers will join Paul on his remarkable 2,176-mile hike through fourteen states in search of peace and a renewed sense of purpose, meeting fascinating and funny people along the way. They'll discover that every choice we make along the path has consequences for the journey and will come away with a new understanding of God's grace and guidance. Nature-lovers, armchair adventurers, and those grieving a loss may not be able to hike the AT themselves, but they can go on this spiritual pilgrimage with a truly humble and sympathetic guide.

We meet in the comfort shawl room at 2:00 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month. Whether or not you have read the book, we invite you to join us for a good discussion and some very good fellowship.

Polk County Summer Food Program 2023

Feed A Kid is a partnership program in Polk County that seeks to provide nutritional food and easy to make meals for children and families in need during the eight weeks of June 12 thru August 7, 2023 when school is not in session. Tryon UMC is one of the eight participating area churches in cooperation with Outreach doing its part to help reduce hunger and food insecurity in Polk County.

HOW CAN YOU HELP NOW:

- **Pray for the success of this program.** It is a collaboration of time and talents by volunteers who desire to practice true generosity without expectations in the planning, packing and delivering bags of food.
- Each of the churches has been asked to contribute \$1,500. Please prayerfully **consider making a donation** to help TUMC meet its goal. Your check should be made payable to Tryon UMC with "Feed A Kid 2023" written on the memo line.

UPCOMING WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

Mark your calendar to volunteer the **week of June 12, 2023!** Volunteers from TUMC will pack and deliver food the week of June 12.

If you can assist with packing food on the morning of Wednesday, **June 14**, or serve as a driver or navigator for the Thursday, **June 15** deliveries, please contact Charlotte Holly at (803) 215-2678 or charlottedholly77@gmail.com before April 30.

Thank you.

Trying Something Different

At our last quarterly lunchtime get-together, several interesting and helpful observations were made about our monthly Circuit Writer. You may remember that we switched from a printed newsletter to a digital version when the pandemic prevented our mail team volunteers from getting together. In many ways, it worked out very well. More of us had become accustomed to the internet, and we were able to stay in touch with each other on a regular basis. Bulletins and announcements grew more frequent and detailed.

At the same time, however, cell phones were emerging as a primary communication tool. And a newsletter article can look very, very small on a small screen!

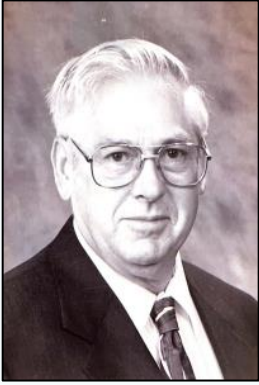
We'd like to try a combined approach, continuing our weekly email announcements to keep us up to date and adding a *printed* version of the Circuit Writer on alternate months to provide additional information, review past events, and help our church family get to know each other better. Look for the next Circuit Writer in June.

Families always do better when they communicate. Please stay in touch by contributing ideas and articles and offering your suggestions. (This is usually a lot easier if you also take the time to read the newsletter.)

Love to you all,
Nancy Hiley, Circuit Writer editor

Remembering our own

Chuck Davis



Charles “Chuck” Eugene Davis, 87, was born just after midnight on January 1, 1936, and died on Friday, January 20, 2023, in Apex, North Carolina, where he and his dear wife Virginia recently moved to be near family. The intervening years were very full indeed: after high school, Chuck enlisted in the United States Air Force, studied the Russian language and flew reconnaissance over Russia, after

which he served in Guam, in Japan, Massachusetts, Delaware, and eventually Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1966, Chuck met our dear Virginia, and the two were married after only knowing each other for one month, resulting in 56 years of marriage. Chuck officially retired in 1989, leaving both the Air Force Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel and United Airlines. Fortunately for us all, the couple moved to Tryon, North Carolina.

In Tryon, he spent the next 25 years volunteering countless hours with Habitat for Humanity, Polk County Red Cross, Tryon United Methodist Church, the Kiwanis Club, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (among many others), serving in leadership positions with many of them. In 1998, he received North Carolina Governor Hunt’s Outstanding Volunteer Service Award; in 2008, he was named Tryon’s Outstanding Citizen of the Year; and in 2012, he was inducted into the Second Wind Hall of Fame on the recommendation of Habitat for Humanity.

We’re told that the only time Chuck failed as a volunteer was when he “fostered” a family of eight cats. They were able to place six kittens with homes, but two kittens and the mother stayed with Chuck and Virginia. (The mother cat, Asia, is still with them today!)

In 2020, the couple moved to Apex, North Carolina, to be closer to family and to attend to Chuck’s failing health. Chuck is survived by his wife Virginia, who continues to live at The Reserve in Apex; his son, Emerson Andrishok, and his wife, Penny Andrishok, of Iowa City, Iowa; and his granddaughter Rachel Briggs, her husband Andrew Draughon, and their two children (Chuck’s great-grandchildren) Charlie and Ernie, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Chuck and Virginia were loving and generous members of our church family for more than 30 years, and we count each year a blessing for the rest of us.



Homily Excerpts*

“Chuck was the kind of person who recognized that there was work to be done and if he could manage it, he would be doing that work—for as long as he could and to the best of his ability.

When you are recognized with awards and honors in your town, your community and your state as a dedicated volunteer—as Chuck Davis was—then you are a person who understands what it means to be a servant to neighbor. Somewhere and at sometime in his life, Chuck heard the words of Jesus to love God and love neighbor. His dedication to service his whole life is a testimony to us here today and to all who knew him and were the beneficiary of his gifts and talents.”

I think today, Chuck would not want us to make too much of a “fuss” over him, but I’m pretty sure he would want each one of you . . . to remember him with smiles (even when there are tears). He would want you to know that now, he can remember what he could not recall for a while; he is whole in ways he could not manage to be for a while; and he is free from anything that ever stepped in the way of his being the person God created him to be.

He would want you to take to heart the words Jesus offered those he loved: Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me.”

What a privilege it was to walk on the same path for whatever time we could with a man like Chuck Davis! We give thanks for his life and the ways he was part of each of ours.

**Lynnette Sills, Pastor
Tryon United Methodist Church*



Mac Wallace

Bryant McClure (Mac) Wallace passed away on Friday, February 3 at Mission Hospital in Asheville. Mac was a native of Franklin and a graduate of Franklin High and Mars Hill University.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah; son, Chad (Elizabeth); daughter, Amy; his beloved grandchildren, Jackson, Ann Elise, Susan and Louie; sister, Susan Clark; brother, George Wallace (Karen); and Mary Ann Hendricks (Paul). He was predeceased by his twin brother, Michael; older brother, Richard, "Dick" Wallace; and his parents, Susan and Edwin Wallace.

Mac was employed by Michelin Manufacturing in Spartanburg until his retirement. He was devoted to his family, enjoyed many long friendships and had the gift of finding humor in almost all situations....

This brief obituary gave us the basic facts, but Mac's family and friends picked up where these facts left off when they gathered at Harmon Field for a warm, loving, laughter-filled celebration of Mac's life. Friends and family members, young and old, sang his praises, recounted adventures, told tales, and essentially drew a picture of a positive, mischievous family man more interested in others than himself. Pastor Lynnette offered warm words of comfort and insight and then the whole gathering drew together to sing the "Hymn of Promise."



Homily excerpts

"We come together today to celebrate the life of our brother in Christ, Mac Wallace. We celebrate the day he was born and the life he lived. We celebrate the family and friends who grew up with him and the family he and Debby made together in their long and wonderful marriage. We celebrate a good and faithful servant to God and we celebrate a life well lived."

Galatians 5:22

...but the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

"By all accounts, Mac lived his life as one who understood the preciousness of life, the challenges of life, and the opportunities. He lived doing what he could, as he could. He lived with determination and with a desire to be who God created him to be."

Isaiah 49:13—

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth;
burst into song, you mountains!

For the LORD comforts his people
and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

"May the life of Mac Wallace be one that is remembered well and one that inspires in us the desire to be who God made us to be. May God give us the light and peace and love to live as we are created to live.

May you remember that each of you
is a beloved child of God."

Hymn of Promise

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

--Natalie Sleeth, composer

Talia Petoia



A recent obituary by Pastor Lynn Petoia reads:

On March 10, 2023, Talia Petoia, 27, was killed by a handgun and removed from her family and all the countless others who loved her. Talia was a trusting, loving, energetic young woman with a future that was unfairly removed. Her physical beauty was only surpassed by her vibrant, empathetic, and comforting spirit. She was a healer at heart, had a keen sense of humor, and loved to sing and be around those she loved. She was not only a sister and a daughter but also a great friend to those of us fortunate enough to call her family....

Talia was a child when her family were members of our church. Although we lost touch with her and her family in later years, we had the opportunity to bid her farewell when her mother requested a memorial service here at Tryon United Methodist Church. Those attending her service over-flowed the sanctuary and crowded the fellowship hall, where the service was also broadcast. Others had the opportunity to view it on facebook and the church's website.

Pastor Lynnette's homily will have meaning for many of us, as it surely had for the many young people who flocked to the service. Here are a few excerpts from her remarks.

Homily excerpts....

It was not God's plan for Talia to die as she did. God did not need another angel—although her brother said the sweetest thing about Talia when we met on Thursday—“she was an angel. She still is.” Yes, she is and to think of and remember her in those terms is a beautiful gift that I'm glad that you have of her and can hold tight to.”

“God was with Talia every single moment of her life here, including in those very last and terrible moments. He did not abandon her. She was not alone. God was there with her and held her in every one of those moments. And God holds her now—tenderly, lovingly, gently—as a loving parent would hold a precious child. Talia knows God's love in new and incredible ways in that Next Place we call heaven. God has a place for her and she is there. And, God has a place for each one of us in that Next Place.”

“... if we can manage to find our way to lean into our faith, if we can somehow “will” our devastated and broken-hearted selves to be open to this—then here's what we can be assured of today: God is with us. God is always with us. God grieves with us and knows what is like to have a beloved child die in a terrible and unjust way.”

“... God knows the anger and hurt and woundedness we feel. GOD KNOWS. And God loves us and is with us right now, and will be with us for all of our days, whether we know of or are aware of that presence and love or not.”

“... Talia's life was a reflection of love and peace and goodness and kindness. Not perfection and exactness or flawlessness—but, Talia's life was a reflection of God's love and God's peace, God's goodness and kindness. Talia's life was a reflection of a beautiful and brilliant light—one that shown in ways that warmed the hearts of others and gave hope in dark moments.”

Talia's physical presence with us here is no longer—but she lives in a new way, and she lives on here (in this place) because of love. Her life brought love to the world and to those who knew her. What an extraordinary thing to leave to this world. What an extraordinary gift she gave us with her life.

“And we must remember that while we will never forget her death and the way she died—the way she died does not define her life....

If the only thing we remembered about Jesus was how he died on a cross, then we would miss the most important thing we know about Jesus—his resurrection. Death was not the end of his story. Life is the continuation of that story. And new life in Christ and with Christ is the continuation of this story.

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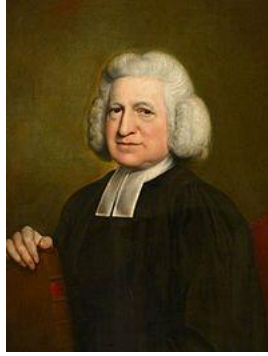
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:45 Lenten Bible Study 11:00-Worship 2:00- Celebration of Mac Wallace's Life	3 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg	4	5 12:00-Walk Stations of Cross 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells Pam McNeil	6 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean 7:00-Maundy Thurs Svc. (TUMC at UCC) Bill McCall, Jr.	7 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-Good Friday Tenebrae Svc Mark McCall Doris C. Williams	8
← Stations of the Cross in Gathering Area →						
9 Easter Sunday 6:30-Sunrise Service at TFAC amphitheater 11:00-Worship	10 Easter Monday Office Closed 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg	11 10:00-Comfort Shawl Richard McKee	12 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells Jimmy & Kay Mullins Mya Larae Palmer	13 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	14 10:00-Qi Gong Becky McCall	15 Kimber Palmer
16 9:45-Men's Bible Study 11:00-Worship	17 10:00-Qi Gong 1:30-Leadership Team 5:30-AA mtg	18 10:30-Staff Parish	19 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	20 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	21 10:00-Qi Gong	22
23 11:00-Worship 12:00-Church Gathering and Pot Luck meal	24 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg	25 10:00-Comfort Shawl	26 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	27 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean Sherry Justiss	28 10:00-Qi Gong	29
30 9:45-Men's Bible Study 11:00-Worship						

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 9:45-Men's Bible Study 11:00-Worship Lynnette Sills Gordon Davidson	3 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg	4 Jolie McKinney	5 12:00 Stations of the Cross 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	6 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	7 10:00-Qi Gong	8
9 11:00-Worship	10 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg Wallace & Pat Patrick	11 10:00-Comfort Shawl	12 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	13 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	14 10:00-Qi Gong Eilidh Coull	15
16 9:45-Men's Bible Study 11:00-Worship	17 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg	18 Dee Bunn	19 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	20 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	21 10:00-Qi Gong	22
23 11:00-Worship	24 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg Mike & Sherry Justiss	25 10:00-Comfort Shawl	26 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	27 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean Alice Palmer	28 10:00-Qi Gong	29
30 11:00-Worship						

Christ the Lord is Risen Today!

Charles Wesley, the co-founder of the Methodist movement, wrote "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" in 1739 where it was initially titled "Hymn for Easter Day". The new hymn was first performed at the first service at The Foundery Meeting House after Wesley had adapted it into the first Methodist chapel.[2] Following this, Wesley published it in the *Hymns and Sacred Poems* hymnal of 1739...



The lyrics of "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" draw inspiration from a number of Biblical texts. The overall focus of the hymn is drawn from Matthew 28:5–6 where Mary Magdalene and the other Mary is told by an angel of Jesus' resurrection.[3] The wording as well as the "Alleluias" are drawn from the Book of Psalms with a number of Psalms being used.... It also alludes to Revelation 19 where "Alleluia" sings out from Heaven.

In 1989, the United Methodist Church's *United Methodist Hymnal* altered the second line of the first verse from "Sons of men and angels say" to "Earth and Heaven in chorus say". The change was one of many gender-neutralizing lyrical alterations the hymnal made in a professed effort to make the hymns more inclusive. This altered version has since been adopted by some other Christian denominations.

Amplified text and references may be found at:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christ_the_Lord_Is_Risen_Today



1740 at The Foundery in London.

Prior to this hymn being published, church music had maintained a similar style of dynamics to music and chants from the Biblical period. "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" was written as a more uplifting style of worship expressing personal feelings to God that eventually became the bedrock of Christian music into the modern era.[2]

The original composition of "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" originally consisted of eleven verses of four lines, which were later reduced to six,[8] and early in the 19th century "Alleluia" was added to the end of each line.[8] This results in "Alleluia" appearing twenty-four times in the hymn. It is not known why this was done, but it is speculated by hymn analysts that it was to ensure that the hymn fit the "Easter Hymn" tune.[4] The hymn led to a more popular awareness of Alleluia being used for Easter to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.[4]

Beyond Methodism and Anglicanism, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" has been adopted by other Christian denominations; Baptists have adopted the hymn.[10] Likewise, Presbyterians have been singing the hymn since at least the 19th century where it was also included in hymnals used for missionary work in the colonies of the British Empire.[11] The hymn is also used by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; however the church's hymnals only contain three verses of the hymn and have an altered text for them.



**Don't forget our Quarterly Gathering on April 23 after worship
in the Fellowship Hall!**

Please bring side dishes and desserts.

The church will provide a main dish and beverages.



"At start of spring I open a trench
In the ground. I put into it
The winter's accumulation of paper,
Pages I do not want to read



**In-person worship is held
each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
in our Sanctuary.**

In addition, you can view our
recorded worship service on
our website at
www.tryonumc.org.

Use the drop-down menu and
select "Worship Video."

Recorded services are also
available on our Facebook page
at
www.facebook.com/tumctryon.
Click the menu item "video".

Support the Ministries at Tryon UMC

Your offering and gifts to Tryon UMC make it possible for us to do the work and ministry God calls us to do in our community, as well as continue the day-to-day operations of the church. You can give in person during Sunday worship services, you can drop off your offering in our locked mailbox outside the church office, or you can give on-line with your credit card through our website at www.tryonumc.org. Click on the "giving" link to make your offering.

Regular Gatherings

Men's Group meets in the library on the first and third Sundays. Contact Jim Holly (803-221-4276).

Comfort Shawls meets the second and fourth Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. If you don't know how to knit or loom, someone will be happy to show you. Contact Jane Armstrong if you have questions.

Living Clean: Meets on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

AA Meetings: Meets on Monday evenings at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Qi Gong: Meets on Mondays and Fridays at 10:00 a.m.