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I have officiated at quite a few weddings over the years. There have been 53 years!

What I have noticed is all the stress of the preparations for the actual wedding. Some brides hire a wedding planner. Most have a big notebook that they keep everything in. As the big day approaches, the pressure ratchets up. Stress levels increase.

And then the wedding is over. The service itself usually lasts about half an hour. All the planning, the posing for photos, the dresses, the tuxes, the effort that has been concentrated, is done in thirty minutes. And there are thirty minutes where the key participants are so nervous and tired from the build-up that often they hardly remember the moment once it is past.

And when the wedding is past the marriage begins. As the pastor officiating at these events you hope and pray that the couple realizes that part.

Everything changes, or at least it should after the wedding. There are few jobs more difficult than blending the lives of two people into a new entity—husband and wife. The married couple is supposed to become more than just the sum of its parts, a man and a woman.

All of this talk about wedding preparation is because Lent, the forty

Reverend
Cliff

While I'm On My Feet!

days leading up to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord, is intended to be a time of preparation. Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and all the days in between are supposed to be days of preparation and reflection, getting us ready not just for Easter morning, but for the impact that Easter morning should have on every day that follows it. It's just a thought, but often the Church puts so much effort into the preparations being made for a sunrise breakfast, or a Holy Week Service, or the Prayer Vigil, or Easter Sunday morning Worship, that there is a letdown on the day following. Some even refer to the Sunday after Easter as "Low Sunday." Maybe that's because everyone is worn out from the big build-up. I don't think that's the way God intended. We need to make a big deal of Easter because it IS a big deal. But it is a big deal because it makes everything that comes after it different. Eternal life becomes not just a possibility, but a reality because of Easter. New life is not something to be anticipated in the "sweet bye and bye," but something to be lived and enjoyed in the here and now. Hope is no longer wistful dreaming, it can be realized from this moment forward.

Let's make a big deal out of Lent. But let's make a bigger deal out of what it can and should mean first to those who believe and then to those who need to hear about it and who need to see the change exemplified in our lives. *If you would like to follow along with Pastor Cliff for the Scriptures each week they are...* March 4th "A Time to Get Angry" **John 2:13-22** (Reader Ethan Overton). March 11th "You are God's Handiwork" **Ephesians 2:10** (Reader Becky Rees). March 18th "A Law Written on Our Hearts" **Jeremiah 31:31-34** (Reader Becca Miller). March 25th (Palm Sunday) "About Donkeys and True Greatness" **Mark 11:1-10** (Reader Ethan Overton).



CARLISLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS...



“As the season of Lent Begins, we will have a Bible Study beginning on Fat Tuesday (Feb. 13th) And continuing each Tuesday at 6:30 pm until March 27th. Our Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14th) Service is at 6:00 pm. The Community Good Friday Service (March 30th) this Year is at Middle River Friends Church at 7:00 pm”



“The Worship Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 21st at 6:00 pm this month due to Ash Wednesday. You are invited to attend this meeting if you have ideas to share or would like to learn about the new Video Screen System.”

THANK YOU

In December, after 7 trips to the E.R. for extremely high blood pressure, I was finally admitted to the hospital for observation and evaluation. The diagnosis was that diseased kidneys are causing the high blood pressure. At present both are being controlled with medication. Being on a heart-healthy (no salt) and a no potassium (no chocolate, fruit, potatoes, and only ¼ cup of dairy per day) diet certainly limited my food intake...one way to lose weight!

I want to thank you all for your cards, visits from Joe and Pastor Cliff, but especially for your prayers for both Kay and me. I believe that it was answered prayers that made it possible for Kay to pick me up from the hospital/rehab and take me to Mississippi in time to surprise the grandkids for Christmas. We called it our Christmas miracle. Thanks again for your love and prayers. – **Greg Tilton**

BLESSING JARS

Our “Blessing Jars” that were distributed in the fall totaled \$761.00. Thank you to everyone for your contributions!

We have many blessings to be thankful for! – **Kayla Price, CWF Treasurer**

SENIOR LADIES CHRISTMAS PARTY

Twenty-one ladies gathered for the annual CWF Senior Ladies Christmas Party in December. As always, there was plenty of laughter and plenty of delicious treats. The BINGO game always proves to be entertaining and although the prizes do tend to travel around the table, everyone always goes home with a prize! It was a great afternoon! –**Kayla**

MITTEN TREE

Thank you for donating to our annual “MITTEN TREE.” 85 pairs of gloves, 70 stocking caps, 10 scarves, and a variety of socks were delivered to the Carlisle Community School Guidance Office.

Snowy days mean lots of wet mittens – so dry mittens/gloves are always appreciated!

–**Kayla Price, Evangelism Chair**

CCA SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Eighty-three families were part of the “2017 CCA SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PROGRAM,” making it our largest Christmas project ever. Our church assisted four families this year. Your generous hearts make this program possible. Thank you again for making Christmas special for these families. –**Kayla Price, CCA Chair**

VALENTINE BOXES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Evangelism Committee will once again be sending Care Packages to our two college students. Ideas include – hot chocolate packets, popcorn, candy, gum, granola bars, nuts, chips, microwave soups, microwave macaroni & cheese. No fruit please – it is heavy and crushes the other items. Thank you! –**Kayla**

ETHAN IN “TRUTH & CONSEQUENCES”

Our own **Ethan Overton** will act in the play “Truth & Consequences” at the **Randleman House the last weekend in February and first weekend in March.** Tickets are \$10.00!

CONGRATULATIONS RANDY ROTHFUS

Rodger & Laura Rothfus’ son Randy and his sister-in-law Jennifer Brick-Sullivan earned a \$400,000 deal on the T.V. show “Shark Tank” for their “Guzzle Buddy” invention. Randy and Jennifer’s invention was accepted on the **Sunday, January 21st** airing of the show in which people present their ideas for businesses to a panel of judges who are successful businessmen and women.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS!



“CONGRATULATIONS TO MARCI & FRED PALAR CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF MARRIAGE MARCH 1ST!”

Happy Anniversary!
Fred & Marci Palar
(March 1st)
Steve & DeDe Warner
(March 16th)
Butch & Marilyn Hayes
(March 18th)
Ed & Sherril Owens
(March 31st)

“The Bible Study continues Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm through Lent. Easter lily orders are due Monday, March 26th. The Easter Prayer Vigil starts at 5:00 pm Maundy Thursday, March 29th and ends at 5:00 pm Good Friday, March 30th.



<u>March 4th</u> Donna Hall	<u>March 12th</u> Maddox Winter	<u>March 23rd</u> Amanda McMaster
<u>March 5th</u> Louanna Pezzetti	<u>March 13th</u> Becky Rees	<u>March 25th</u> Larry McKeever
<u>March 6th</u> Don Baker	<u>March 15th</u> Sharon Bittner	<u>March 27th</u> Evan Bittner
<u>March 6th</u> Julie Thompson	<u>March 15th</u> Steve Miller	<u>March 27th</u> Jeannie McKeever
<u>March 8th</u> Gabe Hall	<u>March 15th</u> Emmry Winter	<u>March 28th</u> Laura Rothfus
<u>March 10th</u> Morgan Anderson	<u>March 21st</u> Emma Watkins	

Please keep in your prayers

Joanie Comer & Family	Twyla Cooper	<i>Niklas Polson</i>
Dixie Quinn Delaet	Katie Hakes	<i>Joshua Wesner</i>
Colleen Flaws Family	Jerry Mayes	<i>Tara Wesner</i>
Joan Mills	Arthur Rees	Beverly Ross
Blayze Theesfeld	Leslie Thompson	Greg Tilton
Dave Walker	Max Warren	De Wilbur

In the military

Deacons

Elders

Team 1: Gerry Baker, Jim Watkins, Marilyn Hayes, Judy Watkins. **Team 2:** Marci Palar, Laura Rothfus, Rodger Rothfus, Mike Killen. **Team 3:** Bob Stuyvesant, Gloria Graham, Steve Thompson, Andrea Hamm. **Team 4:** Shirley Patterson, Louanna Pezzetti, Sherril Owens, Patsy Overton. **Team 5:** Cindy Berg, Craig Price, Diana Prall, Kayla Price.
Alternates: Berenice Chastain (848-3465) or Becky Rickabaugh (989-2014)

March 4th : Team 3
March 11th : Team 4
March 18th : Team 5
March 25th : Team 1

March 4th:
Joan Mills & Sharon Bittner
March 11th:
Justin Chastain & Joe Lang
March 18th:
Dan Crum & Kathy Betzer
March 25th (Palm Sunday):
Sharon Bittner & Joan Mills

(1st person listed is Communion Elder)

WEEK OF COMPASSION FOR 2018

How is it that there are enough resources on our planet to feed the entire world, and yet so many hunger? As people of faith, what is our role in a world where the gap between the rich and the poor only seems to widen? How do we ensure that all of God's children get their fair share? When the apostle Paul visited the early churches in Macedonia, they became excited about the ministry opportunities laid before them. These early followers of Jesus couldn't help but get caught up in Paul's zeal for the ways God was working in their midst. They actually pleaded to be a part of the "service to the saints" Paul spoke of while visiting their community—despite their own poverty. This "ministry to the saints," referred to in his second letter to the Corinthians is another name for the offering Paul and the early churches were organizing for those in Jerusalem suffering from a devastating famine. The offering was considered a living out of one's faith, a spiritual calling—a ministry.

To organize a church-wide offering, a relief fund if you will (Week of Compassion is not original!) was not only practical, it was also a visible expression of their Christian unity. This offering was a way for Paul to unite all believers and to provide a way for them to care for one another—even if they did not know each other personally. For the churches in Macedonia and Corinth, many of them would never see or meet the Christians they were helping in Jerusalem. So their ecumenical offering was a concrete representation of the Gospel: that in Christ there truly was no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, rich or poor—no longer separation or division, but unity in Christ.

Everyone, regardless of economic or social location, has a gift to give. God supplies the gifts and resources so that we can give back. After all, none of what the early followers of Jesus gave was really theirs, right? Because all that we have is God's! We're simply giving back to God what is already God's. In giving to God, we give to others. Our gifts will be part of transforming a life, a community, and indeed, the whole world.

"For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus the Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9). This is what God has given; through our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ the Good News has been shared with us so that we never doubt that we have all we need, and in turn ensure that others get what they need. "For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance" (2 Cor 8:12-13).

Our abundance becomes their need and their need becomes our abundance. Have you ever thought of it this way? We could achieve a fair balance across the globe by sharing what we have, out of our abundance. "It is not with your own wealth that you give alms to the poor," asserted St. Ambrose, "But with a fraction of their own which you give back; for you are usurping for yourself something meant for the common good of all. The earth is for everyone, not only for the rich."

Through Week of Compassion we have the opportunity to act as the body of Christ by giving what we have. This is the offering, the "ministry to the saints" that Paul was promoting.

This is still our ministry, all these centuries later, through Week of Compassion—not only by this church family, but across the country by Christians of many denominations contributing to an ecumenical offering which has shared abundance for the meeting of needs for almost 70 years.

Together, we can make sure that everyone—yes, every single one of God's children, our sisters and brothers—get their fair share, bringing about a world the way God intended it to be. Ready to change the world?

**CARLISLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
NEWSLETTER MARCH 2018**

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Church
(Disciples of Christ)

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DOC



CARE CENTER

Pastor Cliff, Marci Palar, and Justin Chastain will be at the Carlisle Care Center on Sunday, March 18th at 3:30 pm for the Worship Service. Anyone who would like to come along is welcome!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all those who prepared and/or attended the **Free Community Dinner** held on February 22nd at the Community Center! The chili dogs were delicious!

Our next Free Community Dinner will be held on **Thursday, March 22nd from 5:00 until 7:00 pm.** Please come along and bring a friend!

BOARD MEETING

There will be an Official Board Meeting of the Church Board on **Sunday, March 4th** right after the Worship Service.

CHURCH CAMP 2018

FOR ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO, OR KNOWS SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND CHURCH CAMP, **PLEASE LET BECCA MILLER (641-990-0427) OR THE CHURCH OFFICE (515-989-0176) KNOW!**

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Cliff's Bible Study for the season of Lent continues on **Tuesdays beginning at 6:30 PM throughout March.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MILLERS!

Steve and Becca announced that they are expecting! A new sister or brother for Charlotte and Lauren! ☺

EASTER PRAYER VIGIL

Please sign up at the front bulletin board for the 24 hour Prayer Vigil for Easter! Consider taking more than one half-hour slot (especially during late night hours)!

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Good Friday Service this year is at **7:00 pm at Middle River Friends Church on March 30th.**

**CARLISLE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
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