



# THE UPDATE

September 2022

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## The Pastor's Pen



Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago, I journeyed up to Lynchburg, VA to conduct the graveside service for Bob Spencer, along with Billy Padgett. The drive up was beautiful and a real treat for me because I had never been there before. Lots of rolling hills, and I must say Liberty University has a beautiful world-class college campus. The cemetery that Bob was laid to rest in was right next to the school. While there, we also stopped for lunch at Moore's World-Famous Hotdogs. What I learned on that visit is that JB's is not the only hotdog restaurant that is world-famous. I think all hotdog joints think of themselves in that way! Ha! Back to the subject.

The service for Bob was beautiful. The American Legion conducted the military rites of the service and it was very moving. Rada had placed a bouquet of flowers at the graveside and then after the service, as we were talking, a stunningly beautiful butterfly gently landed on the flowers. Rada joyfully exclaimed, "Bob is here! He is letting us know that he is ok!"

The butterfly is a symbol of the resurrection unto eternal life in the Christian faith because of the of the transformation that takes place from the caterpillar to the cocoon, and then to the new transfiguration into a butterfly from the old dead shell. This reminds us of the physical life of Christ, his crucifixion unto a real death, his being laid in a tomb, his subsequent bodily resurrection, and then finally, his ascension into heaven to sit again at the right hand of the Father.

The Lord is good to give to his children who are stricken with grief the gift of the butterfly. Death does not get the final word. Consider what Paul wrote in I Corinthians 15:51-57,

**Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."**

**"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"**

**The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

I believe Rada was right. In the gift of that butterfly, God was reminding her that Bob is ok. He is now in the arms of his loving Heavenly Father, as he awaits that final step of his glorification, the very redemption of his body, when Christ returns to consummate the Kingdom of God and establish the new heavens and new earth!

As I think about this special moment, I am reminded of what Solomon wrote in the book of Ecclesiastes. **"He makes all things beautiful in his time."** (Eccles. 3:11) How gracious it is was of God to make His presence known to Rada and the family in their time of sorrow and loss.

Blessings,

Pastor Scott

### **SEPTEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE: A YEAR IN THE BIBLE**

**Sept 2- II Timothy 4:1-8, "Biblical Legacy"**

**Sept 11- Esther 4:1-17, "For Such a Time as This"**

**Sept 18- Job 1:1-22, "The Lord Gives and the Lord Takes Away"**

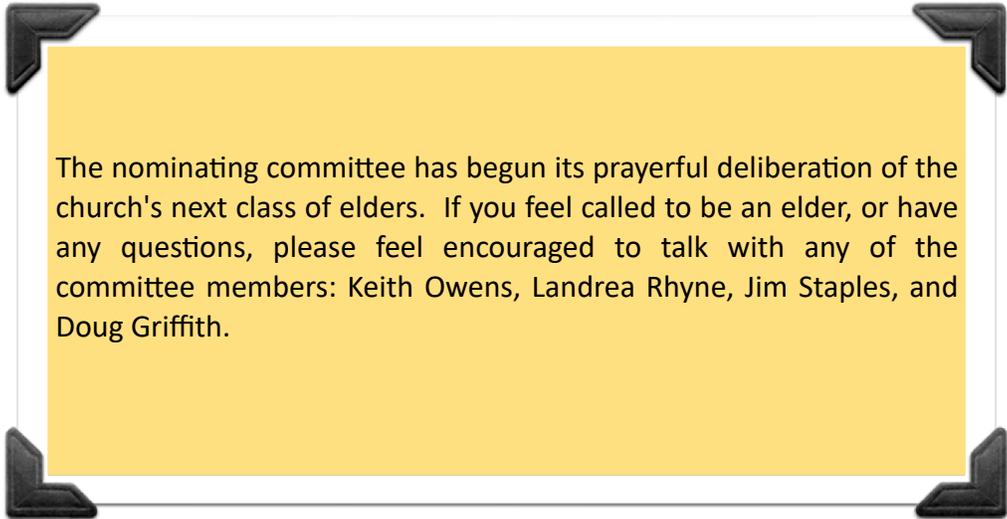
**Sept 25- Jeremiah 1:1-19, "I Have Put My Words in Your Mouth"**

#### **Online**

<https://www.forestparkpres.org> Check it out! Forest Park Presbyterian Church website. Up to date information online. Links to past Sunday sermons and Weekly Word of Encouragement. This online mission is a work in progress!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ6HozKk70sDOHljSMJg14g/featured>

Forest Park Presbyterian Church channel on youtube.com Our Sunday services are available to see online and live streaming. They are archived and you can go back to watch our services at your convenience. You can also subscribe to the channel.

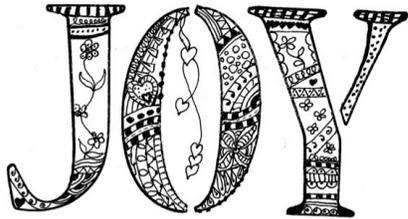


The nominating committee has begun its prayerful deliberation of the church's next class of elders. If you feel called to be an elder, or have any questions, please feel encouraged to talk with any of the committee members: Keith Owens, Landrea Rhyne, Jim Staples, and Doug Griffith.

**Christian Education's Got You Covered!—Join a Sunday School class in September—9:45 a.m. start time!**

- Nursery coordinator for Sunday School and Worship—Kathy Hoover
- Kindergarten to fourth grade class—Dot Ingram, Landrea Rhyne, and Debby Sipe
- Middle/high school class—Judy Kennedy
- Young Adult class— Beth Lail
- “First Door on the Right” adult class—Rob Crawford
- Kathy and Pastor Scott’s adult class—Kathy and Scott Jeffreys
- Women’s Bible Class (Sue Curlee Class)—Nell Shull
- Men’s Sunday School class—Steve Wilson

It has been a while since we have experienced all these classes and are so thankful for all those who are involved in our Christian education program.



The JOY fellowship met August 17. Everyone brought their own lunch. Drinks and chips were provided. Scott blessed the occasion and offered prayers for several of our church family who are experiencing health issues. Music presented by Pastor Scott was enjoyed by all. A lot of us actually remembered the words to some of the songs! Next meeting will be on **September 21** and will be a covered dish lunch. Mark the date on your calendar and come join us for good food and fellowship!

**Calling all Women! Women of the Church Circles starting in September**

Join us for Bible Study, fellowship, and mission. We have three circles that meet different days and times for you to choose from. Or maybe you could try all three! Contact Jill Dotson for more information @ 704 608 6324



***Women's Fellowship***

Circle #1 will meet in the

Fellowship Hall – 6:15 p.m. on September 12. Money for books will be collected \$10 or \$15 for large print. We will be studying – “Celebrating the Sabbath” Accepting God’s Gift of Rest and Delight – by Carol Cheifetz. Joh Steele will be leading the lesson.

**Property Committee News** The Property Management Committee has completed the replacement of the vandalized heat pump on the roof of the Education Building as well as the replacement of a panel in the heat pump for the nursery. The heat pump for the manse was apparently struck by lightning and has been replaced. The new stoop on the west side of the sanctuary has been replaced and the wrought iron work on all railings will be done in about 3

weeks. There will also be a new wrought iron railing that runs along the sidewalk to the east side of the sanctuary. New security cameras, lights and alarms have been installed around the Education Building and Fellowship Hall. All exterior doors in the sanctuary and Education Building are being replaced and have been measured and ordered.

### **Reminder—Information for Sponsor letters from Mwandu School Staff**



Don't forget the impact you are making when you pour your heart and soul into a letter. Sometimes you may receive a disappointing response. It's natural to feel discouraged or wonder if your support is even making a difference. While the letters you receive back may not always be what you hope for never forget the impact your letters and support are having on both your sponsored child and their family and indeed the wider community. If you would like to write to your sponsored child please put your letter into an envelope and even add some stickers or postcard or photos. Keep it flat. Please do not use any of your details – just your name. Please give your letters to Kathy Hoover to be mailed with all the others.

**The Women's Explorer's Bible Study group** will have our informational meeting on Thursday, Sept. 8, in the fellowship hall. This year's study is a two-parter. The first 14-week session is Wise Answers and is a study of Job and Ecclesiastes. The second session, Wise Living, is a study of Proverbs and Song of Solomon. We are excited to begin our fourth year of exploring God's word. We welcome all women who would like to attend. Our group meets Thursday mornings from 10-11:30 a.m. We invite you to come and bring a friend!

If you would like to know more, contact Beth Lail (704-929-2131) or Debby Sipe (704-880-5122).

### **Thank You**

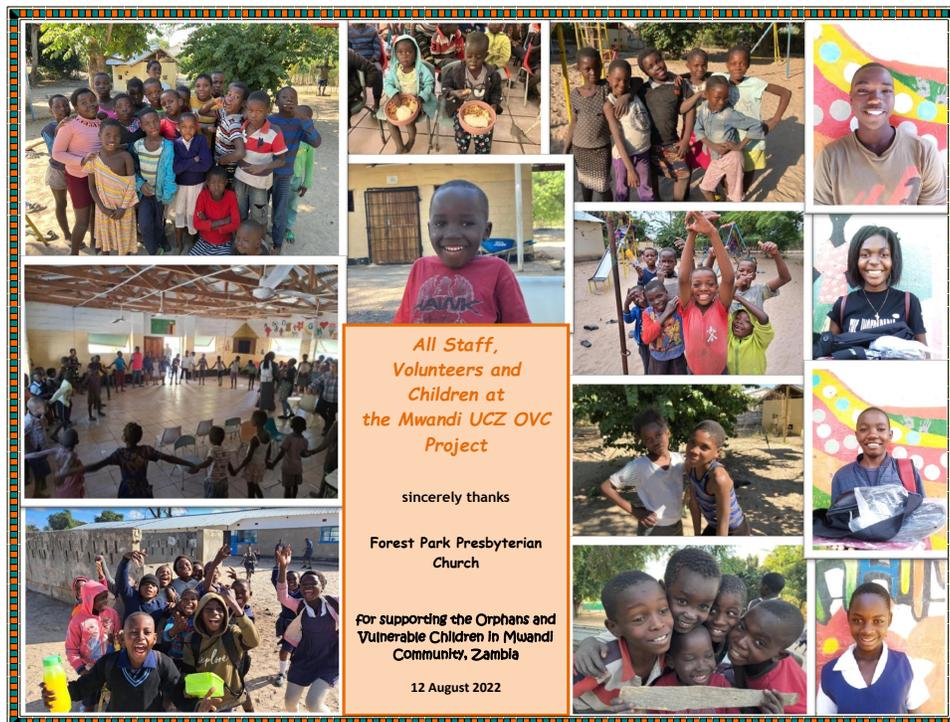
♥ Dear Christian friends and members of Forest Park Presbyterian Church, I sincerely appreciate each of your prayers, telephone calls, and sympathy cards with personal words of comfort to me during this difficult time in my life! I appreciate that so many members honored Bob by attending his memorial service on July 30. Further, Pastor Scott, Ann, Brad, Sarah and Doug lifted my spirits prior to and during that service as they shared their God-given gifts to praise our God and celebrate Bob's extraordinary life. I continue to seek your prayers in the days and weeks ahead! Since Bob and I moved our membership to Forest Park, we have felt welcomed through your Christian love and fellowship!

The church of Forest Park lives out the words of our Lord by being "rooted in Christ, growing in faith, and loving our neighbor" through each of its ministries. During Bob's earthly life, we witnessed these ministries, and I, Bob's daughters, their families, Bob's other relatives, my sister and her large family became the recipients of the kindest, most

generous and unexpected services in Christ's Name from any church family: preparing and serving us a delicious lunch following Bob's memorial service. I extend my gratitude to the funeral food team: Kathy Hoover, leader, Debbie Sipe, Pam Wilson, Laura Thompson and Lucille Harwell for sharing their extraordinary gifts! We enjoyed the luncheon and our quiet time of fellowship as a family!

Again, thank you for uplifting me in Christ's Name,  
Rada Spencer

- ♥ Thank you to Forest Park Family for hosting a "Neighbor Night" in August. Neighbors and members enjoyed wonderful music, fellowship, food and fun. We also had our neighborhood watch police officer and one of our fire department's truck and crew join us. If you would be interested in helping to plan the next "Neighbor Night", please contact Laurel Andrews @ 704 880 3406.
- ♥ Hi from Mwand, We wish to sincerely thank you for the love, care and support you give to the Mwand UCZ OVC Project. We really appreciate it so much. God Bless you, All the Staff, Volunteers and Children



## **August Session In Brief**

The youth met recently at Laura Thompson's home for a pool party. After swimming, Laura provided a delicious meal, and Pastor Scott outlined plans for the year. The group will meet on the first and third Sundays of each month. On the first Sunday, all youth, preschool - high school age, will meet together for a fun activity. On the third Sunday, the middle-high school group will meet at the home of a host family for a meal and Bible study.

Property Report (Johnny Hoover): Since the June meeting, several AC units have been replaced or repaired. The steps to the sanctuary have been replaced, and the wrought iron railings are being repaired; an additional railing will be placed up the hill from the parking lot on the east side of the sanctuary. All doors in the sanctuary, as well as the front and back doors to the educational building, will be replaced with steel doors. The decorative molding around the educational building has been repaired. Additional lighting and cameras have been placed under the breezeway and in the back of the church. More lighting and cameras will be added around the fellowship hall when the Wi-Fi is set up.

Nominating Report (Keith Owens): The Nominating Committee is making calls to develop a slate of officers.

New Business: Pastor Scott requested vacation on Sept. 3 and Dec. 17. The request was approved. There was also discussion about replacing the water fountains in the sanctuary and the educational building with new systems.

Old Business: The Session approved spending \$1,800 to purchase the IT equipment for the fellowship hall Wi-Fi and to expand Wi-Fi to the educational building for additional cameras.

Upcoming events in ECO:

1. The Fall Gathering is scheduled for Oct. 22, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. It will be held at Second Presbyterian Church in Kannapolis. Guest speaker John Terech will give a presentation entitled "Church Budgets in a Post-Pandemic World."
2. The 2023 National Gathering will be held Jan. 30-Feb. 2 at St. Andrews Presbyterian in Newport Beach, CA. Registration opens Sept. 1.
3. A group from the Presbytery of N.C. is going to Egypt Nov. 1-12, 2022. The land cost is \$2,795; airfare is not included. The Presbytery is offering \$1,000 scholarships. Those interested can contact Jason Sentas at [jason@moorevillefpc.org](mailto:jason@moorevillefpc.org) for more information.

