

Family Life

Bulletin of the Church of Christ in Falls Church, Virginia

Volume 48, Number 17

May 5, 2013



Tune's Notes

Two Psalms appear to be written from the perspective of older people: Psalm 37 and 71. In Psalm 37 we have this thought: "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread." In Psalm

71, the writer speaks twice of old age. The first time is verse nine: "Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone." The second time is in verse eighteen: "Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come."

Significant for Psalm 71 are the thoughts of a writer who has lived long enough to experience many mercies of God. He has much to say, and *wants* to say it, and it's all about God's care. More than that though, the writer's trust and confidence in God has been rewarded so many times that people look to his life as a sign of God's existence, favor and what can happen when a person believes. That's what he means when he writes he has been a "portent" to many (vs. 7). This person finds confidence in God easier because he is practiced at it. As the writer confesses the difficulties he is now in, his confidence in God abounds and asks simply that he be allowed to live long enough to declare God's power to the next generation.

The next generation, of course, needs to hear the story, and it needs to hear it from a generation old enough and practiced enough in the life of faith to speak authoritatively and convincingly. It needs to hear from people of faith whose very lives are open enough and shared enough that hearers know their message is true. Think about that the next time you are asked to teach a Bible class. Do understand that the next generation, whether your children or those of others, is depending on you to share a faith story? The story will never seem so real or inviting coming from the lips of the inexperienced.

Love you all
Mike



I am the True Vine

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

- Jesus (John 15:1-4 NIV)

What kind of life do you want to live? Do you want to live a small life - focusing on the small and temporary things of the here and now? The small life centers around getting everything you can grab here and now! The slow car on the highway. The latest pair of shoes. The newest iPhone. Getting invited to a party. Meeting the right boy or girl. All these things are small and temporary. The iPhone will be replaced with a newer one in about 6 months. The right boy or girl will prove to be the wrong boy or girl and you will have to start searching again. The slow car on the highway will only delay you a short time.

The alternative is the big life! The big life is lived in connection with the True Vine. Instead of grabbing and taking what we want, the True Vine provides what we need. We become happy with the shoes we have and give away our extras to someone who needs them. We are happy with our mobile device because it does everything we need it to. Instead of worrying about being invited to a party, we invite to our own party all those who are also left out. The big life is about finding who we were created to be by connecting with the creator.

If you give into the small life desire to get everything you can in the here in now, then that is all you will get. If you surrender to the big life, you will store up treasures in heaven and you will have all you need forever!

GRACE + PEACE
AHLB

2nd Sunday Fellowship for May Moved to Today, May 5; No Evening Assembly

The 2nd Sunday Fellowship for May has been moved up a week to today, **May 5**. This is to avoid conflicts with Mother's Day observations next Sunday.

As is our custom, after the fellowship we will dismiss for the day. THERE WILL BE NO EVENING ASSEMBLY,

However, the MISSIONS COMMITTEE WILL MEET after the luncheon.

This will be a traditional potluck meal which will take place in the fellowship hall following the morning assembly.



Agape Groups 2 & 5 (Potomac Heights & Burke Springs Lakes) are the "duty" groups for this event. If you do not know/remember your Agape Group, please consult the list on the member board in the lobby.

Since this is a potluck, each family is asked to bring the following:

- ☘ a main dish
- PLUS** two of the following three items:
- ☘ a side dish (green beans, corn, potatoes...)
- ☘ a salad (leafy green, gelatin, pasta or veggie or fruit tray with or without dips
- OR**
- ☘ a dessert (no description necessary)

Two of our Elders are available after the morning assembly, in room 221 on the main level, to meet with anyone who would like prayer for special concerns.

M.S. Pledges Needed by May 5

Pledges for the 2013 Multiple Sclerosis Walk, held April 13, are requested by Sunday, May 5. Checks should be made to "N.M.S.S.," but cash is acceptable as well. N.M.S.S. stands for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, which sponsors the event to raise funds for research and treatment of M.S. The M.S.Keteers team includes captain and longtime veteran **Kevin Thie**; his daughter **Candace Thie**; and fellow walkers **Dorothy Eckert** and **James Bickle**.



Prospective New Deacons Are Announced; Congregation Urged to Continue Praying

Several weeks ago, we began the process of selecting additional men to serve as deacons of the Falls Church congregation. The elders wish to express their appreciation to you for your participation in this important aspect of our church life.

On April 21, we placed before the congregation the names of six men whom we seek to appoint as deacons: **Brian Collins, Brandon Durant, John Reagan, Wilfredo Reyes, Hal Swetnam and Jonah Shumate**. Each of these men has indicated his willingness to serve as a deacon.

Today marks the end of a two-week period during which we have solicited your prayers about the leadership needs of this church, especially about these six men and their prospective service as deacons. We also encouraged you during this time to share with the elders any special concerns you may have. Again, that time period closes today.

We as a congregation are truly blessed with opportunities to serve the Lord. We are likewise blessed to have among our members so many who possess servant hearts and stand ready to serve. We pray that God will grant us wisdom as we proceed in our consideration of these men and the important roles they will fulfill as leaders in the days to come.

Bill Kincaid, Elder

Announcement of April 21, 2013

Congregational Prayer Request for the week of May 5

Pray for all of those who were faithful to this congregation over the years but are unable to meet with the assembly.

Agape Groups 3 & 4 Plan Joint Bowling Event on May 11

Agape Groups **Westfield Woods** (Group 3) and **River Town Mews** (Group 4) are planning a **Combined Bowling Event** on Saturday, May 11, from 3 to 5 pm, at the AMF Bowling Lanes, 445 Markham St., Annandale, VA 22003.

Cost per person is \$17, which includes shoes (\$4.57) and unlimited play between 3 and 5 pm (game rate of \$5.45). The cost for ONE GAME ONLY is \$10.02.



The leaders of Group 3 are Rachel & Richard Bowles, while the coordinators are Ann Ford, John & Linda Reagan and Beni & Amanda Venkatesan. The leaders of Group 4 are Jenna & Caleb Mayfield, with coordinators Dick & Genia Deibler and Mulloy Robertson.

Agape Group Potomac Acres (Group 6) has changed its neighbor lunch on May 19 to a breakfast or brunch on May 18. Further details will be provided at a later date.

VBS Volunteer Meeting Coming Up on May 19

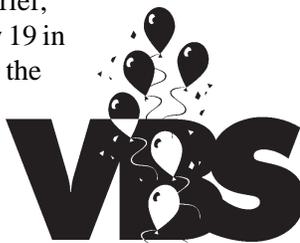
Anyone who is interested in helping with **Vacation Bible School** is invited to a brief, informational meeting on May 19 in R. 121, immediately following the morning assembly.

Kelly Shumate and **Jenna Mayfield** are directing this year's gala, scheduled for Aug. 9 & 10.

The theme for 2013 is "God's Backyard Bible Camp - Where Kids Have a Blast Serving Jesus!"

VBS is one activity which needs a lot of "hands on" help. "There are many jobs available," Kelly says, "so come and learn more about what you can do to help." A VBS table is set up in the lobby, so if you have any questions, stop by.

If you already know you'd like to help, but you can't attend this meeting, stop by the table or call Jenna or Kelly.



Congregational Retreat Medical Release Waiver Forms Are Overdue

Anyone who plans to participate in the Adventure Activities at the **Congregational retreat** must **complete and turn in a medical release form which is now past due. Each participant MUST HAVE his or her own form.**

Please obtain a form from **Melissa Collins** or **Lesya Yeatman** or from the board in the lobby, **then complete one form for each person**, and return to Melissa or Lesya **ASAP.**

On the top corner of each form, please list the activities in which you want to participate. The choices are: low ropes course, tree climb, archery, zip line.

Also, due to staff scheduling, the high ropes course has been cancelled and all persons who signed up for that activity will be moved to the low ropes course unless you indicate otherwise.

If you have any questions, please speak with Melissa or Lesya.

Prayer Sisters Reveal Tea Set for May 19

A "Reveal Tea" in which you learn the identity of your **Prayer Sister** is planned:

Date: May 19, 2013

Time: 4 pm

Place: Fellowship Hall

Please bring a small gift for your Sister with **HER NAME** clearly marked on the **OUTSIDE** and **YOUR NAME** marked on the **INSIDE**. (Remember, cost should be under \$5.00).

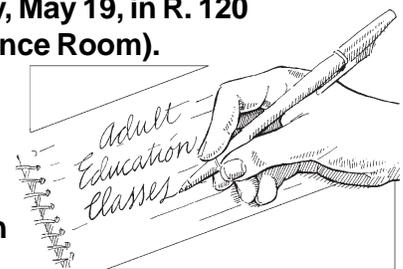
This is the opportunity to open gifts and spend time with the Prayer Sister who has been praying for you over the last few months. Please plan to attend this wonderful and encouraging fellowship.

If you are unable to attend, please contact **Monica Tune** and give her your gift in advance so she can present it to your Prayer Sister.

If you have any questions, contact Diana Kuhn.

The Adult Education Ministry will meet at noon on Sunday, May 19, in R. 120 (Elders Conference Room).

Lunch will be provided. Questions should be directed to John Waterston.



Habtu Zemech Plans May Trip to Ethiopia; Will Take Clothes for Children and for Preaching Students

Habtu Zemech will leave on Wednesday, May 22, for Ethiopia and for what is now his semi-annual visit to his homeland. A former missionary John Thomas and his son Andrew will accompany him on this trip.

For this visit, he plans to take clothing for children as well as shirts/ties/slacks/sport coats to the young men in the preaching school.

If you would like to provide clothing for this ministry, please fold it and place it in heavy duty bags. If at all possible, please take the bags to his home, but he welcomes contributions brought to this building.

While Habtu enjoys visiting the country, it is still a working trip, as he travels from the capital city of Addis Ababa to the preaching school, the orphanages, the schools at Shone and Jajura, the different congregations, and the myriads of ministries - to the elderly, to the deaf, to the children with physical ailments.

His last visit was Nov. 23-Dec. 9 last year. Below are selected photos from that trip. The Bulgeta congregation [upper right] is located about 345 km south of Addis Ababa and is a fairly new congregation established through the Church of Christ water project.

“The condition of the children in the area was unique to me in many ways,” Habtu commented after his first trip. He added, “In addition to their poverty, many of the children in the area were born with the condition called cleft foot, and as a result were excluded from other children.”

He discussed the challenge with friends and that led him to the organization, Doctors Without Borders. That contact has led to many corrective operations, including the one for Demekech, shown below with Habtu. Also shown is one of 21 children on the surgical waiting list pending additional funds. As of now, he has funds for 9 children.



Habtu with Demekech (left). Another child waiting for corrective surgery (right)



Bulgeta Congregation

His work on behalf of the children has yielded unexpected dividends. Demekech’s grandparents donated land for a church building. And the children who have

been brought for treatment are also part of families that have strengthened the congregation. The orphanage in this area



Children pose in new clothing.

receives much of the clothing that Habtu delivers on these trips.

Church members in Ethiopia, despite severe poverty, are extremely generous with their time. Below is a two-room house built for a widow named Workitu. Her late husband was given land by the government to build a home, but a Christian group, My Neighbors, provided the labor. That same group also helped place Bereket and her two children (below) into a rental home in Hawassa, so the children can attend school.



General Information

For Children:

❖ An attended nursery and a nursing mother's room -- located adjacent to the Assembly Center -- are available during our assembly.

❖ For ages 2 through pre-kindergarten year, Children's Worship is conducted in rooms 223 and 221. Children are dismissed after communion.

Recordings: Recordings of sermons at Falls Church are available for no charge on our web site after about four days. Recordings also are available in CD format for \$5.00 and may be ordered by completing a CD order envelope located in the foyer.

Assistive Listening System:

Personal sound receivers are available for hearing enhancement in our Assembly Center. Our ushers will be happy to supply one of these aids for your convenience upon request.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:30 am
Morning Assembly 10:30 am
Evening Assembly 6:00 pm

Tuesday - Ladies Bible Class 10:15 am
(October through April)

Wednesday Bible Classes 7:15 pm

Office Hours 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Contact Information

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Fax: 703-820-1348
Email: administrator@fallschurchcoc.org
Website: www.fallschurchcoc.org

Elders

Steve Dasher Wayne Doran
Bill Kincaid Jim Lane
Oliver McDaniel Joseph Tucker

Deacons

Roberto Alvarez Jose Arevalo
Matt Benschky Ben Bohannon
Ignacio Espinoza Perry May
Joshua McKay Scott Mills
Saul Reyes Kevin Thie
John Waterston Ken Yeatman

Habtu Zemech

Missionaries

Gary & Sue Babcock, Kent County, RI
Pedro & Mireya Batres - Nicaragua
Henry & Rosa Gutierrez - Nicaragua
Gene & Janice Luna - WBI/Guatemala
Deanna Meredith - Concepcion, Chile
Omar & Tana Palafox - Leon, Mexico
Recardo & Monica Reyes - Cuernavaca, Mex.
Don & Esther Roarabaugh - Torrington, CT

Staff

Mike Tune, *Pulpit Minister*
Josh Byrd, *Youth Minister*
Mary Ann Kincaid, *Secretary*

Statistics

Sunday, April 28, 2013

Bible Study 219
Morning Assembly 335
Evening Assembly 137
Contribution \$11,278
YTD Average \$12,666
Budget Goal \$12,597

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Classes & Online 81

Nursery Attendants

May 5, 2013

Morning Staci Shannon
Evening NOSERVICE
Calanthia Tucker

May 12, 2013

Morning Fern Musteen
Evening Levenie Hughes
Kristine & Sydney Spraker

Children's Worship

May 5, 2013

2/3 Amanda Venkatesan, Abby Smith
P-K Wendy Ward, TBA

May 12, 2013

2/3 Heather Roelke, Abby Smith
P-K Misty Marshall, Mandy Scandlen

Worship Today, May 5, 2013

Hymn #140 *Love Divine*

Hymn #770 *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

Prayer Jay Truitt

Hymn #314 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Communion/Collection Jim Bates

Hymn #689 *Be Still, My Soul*

(Children ages 2 through Pre-K dismissed to Children's Worship)

Bible Reading (Proverbs 1:1-7) Brian Collins

Bible Lesson Mike Tune

Hymn #807 *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

Announcements Joseph Tucker

Introduction of Visitors John Reagan

Prayer John Reagan



Song Leader Bill Kincaid

Ushers Jose Arevalo, Kevin Thie

There will be no service this evening.

May servers: Jun Amores, Tre Berry, Brandon Durant,
Joshua McKay, Grant Smith, Robert Spiess

Wednesday, May 8

Prayer - Daniel Williams

Song Leading - Bill Kincaid