



# The Williams Bell

Williams Memorial Presbyterian Church  
4700 Beatties Ford Road  
Charlotte, NC 28216-2845

Vol. 56

*July/August 2018*

No.7/8

## HOMEcomings 2018

**Sunday, September 30, 2018**

**Mark your calendars now!**

We celebrate our 133<sup>rd</sup> anniversary as a congregation at  
Homecoming on **Sunday, September 30, 2018!**

If you haven't met our new pastor, the Rev. John-Nelson Pope, now is a great time to do that. We will also welcome the Rev. Jan Edmiston, newly installed General Presbyter of Charlotte Presbytery and Co-Moderator of the 222<sup>nd</sup> PC(USA) General Assembly (2016-2018) as our guest preacher. William McConnell will be with us as guest organist. All former choir members are invited to sing with us. Rehearsal is at 9:30 in the Choir Room. A covered dish lunch will follow worship in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome! If you are able, please bring food to share. Hope to see you on September 30!

### **When God Laughs**

Is there anything which makes you laugh? Is it a one-liner or a joke that needs to be set-up and delivered just-so? Is it slapstick, irony or sarcasm? Is it going out with friends or at something you read on twitter? Psychologist Robert Provine who has spent His career studying laughter, writes, "Whether overheard in a crowded restaurant, punctuating the enthusiastic chatter of friends, or as the noisy guffaws on a TV laugh track, laughter is a fundamental part of everyday life. It is so common that we forget how strange – and important – it is". He concluded that laughter is primarily a social vocalization which binds people together.

God's sense of humor is not found in the exquisitely timed one-liner of a standup comedian.

I can understand that God's laughter is something which can bind His people to Him. What makes Him laugh—is found in the Bible, specifically (and uniquely) in Psalm 2.

Psalm 2 is a Psalm of David to be read (or sung) at His son Solomon's coronation as king. Nearly a thousand years later, the writer of the Book of Acts tied it to the arrival of the Messiah (Jesus Christ) and the opposition He would encounter by the world's leaders. One can only imagine the powerful impact it had; the words of the beloved deceased king honoring His son as he succeeded His father as king. The Psalm does a beautiful job of honoring Solomon as king of a united monarchy while also looking forward to the King of God's people, Jesus the Christ. It does so with these words:

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?  
The kings of the earth set themselves,  
And the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

These are the kings and rulers—people who have dominion over the lives of those under their authority. And they want nothing to do with the Lord. If this sounds not a little bit like the tyrants today—political, economic, or social—it is no accident. They want God removed from their lives and the lives of the people under them. They prefer overt atheism, agnosticism or a docile deism over the God of Biblical Revelation and the Lord Jesus Christ.

So how does God take to being rejected by the arbiters of modern society? Is He threatened by their rejection? Does their rebellion and faithlessness threaten His rule and reign? Hardly. Here is how God replies to those who rebel against Him: He who sits in the heavens laughs. What makes God laugh is the pitiable attempts of mortals to set themselves in opposition to Him.

I've spoken about this from time to time from the pulpit, but we are living in a time where the influence of Christianity on culture is waning. The norms and values of the people around us do not agree with the way of life we have been called to in Christ. It is popular to mock God. One sees this theme constantly in our entertainment, such as the Handmaiden's Tale on television, to movies, and certainly late-night talk shows. Claiming God does not exist is academically preferable to being a person of faith. More and more, people want nothing to do with God. If God's response to this is to laugh, we should not be frightened, alarmed, or even troubled by it. Instead, we should rejoice in what God has done when "the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain." God's response to rebellion and unbelief is this: "As for me, I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill."

Lutheran pastor, Duncan McLellan says it best:

God says: "My response to your little attempt at rebellion is to send Jesus, my King, who will die on Golgotha, a hill he made holy through the shedding of His blood. Because, you see, the rightful king of creation is not one who rules by naked force, but one who rules in grace and mercy, humility and service. Only Jesus, my son, has the right to reign. I have installed Him and there is nothing you can do about it because you do not have what it takes to arrest the throne from Him."

When it looks like God is not in control, that His enemies are making great gains in our world, remember it is at times like these when God laughs.

**Rev. John-Nelson Pope**

## July 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Hot Dog Party

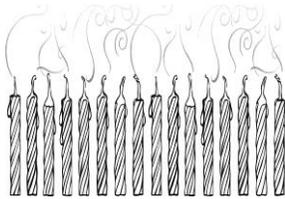
Hosted by Jean and Merlin Fidler  
When: Wednesday July 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:30  
Where: Our place on the lake

Message from host: Please join us for a fun time of eating and socializing.  
Bring a salad dish and/or a dessert and we are good to go!

**Thank You** To all those that assisted with the air conditioner repairs in the fellowship hall - including our quick transition back to the sanctuary while the repairs were being made. We appreciate all things that get done behind the scenes.

**Williams Bell Deadlines** Our goal is to make the Bell available on the last Sunday of the month. In order to make that deadline please provide Sept/October Bell submissions by August 19<sup>th</sup>.

### July Birthdays



July 5	<i>Yvette Hubbard</i>	July 19	<i>Fred Brown</i> <i>Zachary Jordan</i>
July 9	<i>Lisa Fisher</i>	July 22	<i>Ruth Burnett</i> <i>Nancy Lewis</i>
July 11	<i>Corey Sosa</i>	July 29	<i>Doris Goodwin</i>
July 16	<i>Alex Leatherwood</i>	July 29	<i>Mary Leatherwood</i>
July 18	<i>James Watson</i>		

### August Birthdays



Aug 11	<i>Amy Auten</i>	Aug 21	<i>Sarah Kiser</i>
Aug 13	<i>Lydia Pope</i>	Aug 23	<i>Cody Baker</i>
Aug 16	<i>Carol Hassell</i>	Aug 30	<i>Ken Bennett</i>

### Memorials Received:

In Memory of Ruth Reynolds: Larry & Marie Bruce                      Manuel & Donna Moriz  
In Memory of Robert Brett Eatman: Robert & Janice Bearden

**In the event of an emergency or a phone tree request** please contact Pastor John, Cell 941.704.0561 or [john-nelson.pope@montreat.edu](mailto:john-nelson.pope@montreat.edu)

## **Volunteers & Helpers for 2018**

### **USHERS**

July: Nancy Lewis, Amy Auten

August: Lisa Fisher, Edith Morgan

October: Earl & Mary Leatherwood

September: Nathaniel Jones, Sarah Kiser

November: Marilyn Earnhardt, Alex Leatherwood

December: Ty Leatherwood, Jon Leatherwood

### **COLLECTION TABULATORS**

July: Marc Leatherwood, Edith Morgan

August: Don Fisher, Mark Auten

October: Edith Morgan, Amy Auten

September: Nancy Lewis, Kevin Auten

November: Bobbie Reid, Lisa Fisher

December: Don Fisher, Mark Auten

### **COMMUNION SERVERS**

July: Amy Auten

August: Lisa Fisher

October: Ted Auten

September: Sarah Kiser

November: Fred Hunter

December: Jon Leatherwood

### **Prayer Request for:**

**Members and Friends...***Florence Alexander, Roy Baker, Hunter Davis, Andy Hassell, Dot Hoover, Janet Hubbard, Virgil Hubbard, Diane Kever, Don Parker, Nancy Skipper, James Watson, Bill Craig and Rev. Phillip Williams.*

**Members in the extended community ...***Doris Goodwin (Asbury Care Center), Dean Hall (Heritage of Cedar Rock, Mocksville), Mary Penninger (The Laurels), Minnie Hamilton, Lydia Pope.*

### **Those in military service**

US Army –*Sam Caldwell, Justin Jackson*

US Army Reserve – *Benjamin Glover*

US Army National Guard – *Cody Baker*

US Coast Guard – *Matthew Baker*

### **Addresses of loved ones in the military:**

*SPC Samuel Caldwell; 433 N.E. 21<sup>st</sup> Terrace; Homestead, FL 33033*

*Justin Jackson CMR-415 Box 7854 APO-AE-09114*

# The Williams Bell

Williams Memorial Presbyterian Church  
4700 Beatties Ford Road  
Charlotte, NC 28216-2845



## July/August 2018

Phone 704 392-8816

E-mail [wmpcsecretary1885@yahoo.com](mailto:wmpcsecretary1885@yahoo.com)

Sunday Schedule

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

### **Church Staff**

*John-Nelson Pope – Pastor*  
*Billie McConnell – Music Director*  
*Ted Auten – Custodian*

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