



The Williams Bell

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

Vol. 56

September/October 2018

No.9/10

133rd HOMECOMING **September 30, 2018**

Worship Service 11:00 AM

Covered Dish Luncheon to follow in the Fellowship Hall

Please invite your family and friends to join us.

Schedule of Events

1. Saturday, September 22nd at 9:00am – Spruce Up Day – All are welcomed
2. Sunday, September 30th at 9:30 – Come to the choir room, if you will sing in the choir for the Glory of God
3. Sunday, September 30th – by 10:45, if you are able, bring food to share to the fellowship hall
4. Sunday, September 30th – 11:00am – Service in the sanctuary. Bring a friend
5. Sunday, September 30th – 12:30pm – Lunch in the fellowship hall
6. Sunday, September 30th - Fellowship

We look forward to seeing you!!!

The List

Paul the Apostle gives us a useful—and I believe life-changing—list on how to live an authentic and purposeful Christian life. His proposal provides not a scientific, but a spiritual methodology to roughen the texture of our moral and spiritual skin so that the filth rolls off, unable to adhere and thereby alter the Christian's appearance. He gives us a top ten list:

1. Deal in honesty. We are to stop lying and tell the truth (v. 25). Paul links this to our new spirit natures as members of the same body. We would no more lie to one another than we would slap ourselves in the face. A lie hurts both the one lied to and the one who lies.
2. Get angry at injustice. It's permissible to express anger within limits (v. 26). Ethics without passion is Stoicism, not Christianity. Jesus himself astonished people with his anger, reminding us not to let the dirt of injustice stay on our petals. But the anger of the Christian should not lapse into self-indulgence and should be directed against those parties and institutions who perpetuate injustice.
3. Be civil in disagreements. "***Do not let the sun go down on your anger,***" the apostle says (v. 26). The word "***anger***" that Paul uses appears only here in the New Testament. It is better translated "***provocation***" and reinforces the justifiable anger one may have on occasion. Righteous anger is provoked, yet even it must be dismissed before the day's end, i.e., turned over to God. Such a practice is a reminder that we are merely instruments in these battles and need not be personally antagonistic or hateful.
4. Thwart evil wherever it is. Don't make room for the Devil (v. 27). When the Devil knocks, don't answer. He will devour you.
5. Be gainfully employed. Idle hands are the Devil's workshop. "***Thieves must give up stealing***" and get a job (v. 28). Paul here warns Christians not to return to their former way of life. In Christianity there is such a thing as "***Right Livelihood***." Stealing is not one of them. Okay, there are many people who, for whatever reason, lack an education or training or health or ability who find it difficult to find gainful employment. I think we should avoid judging them. As Christians, we can joyfully help them or direct them to organizations which can help them. Nevertheless, and always "***Thieves must give up stealing!***"
6. Recognize the power of words to affirm and encourage. Christians are not trash talkers but treasure talkers. That is, their words affirm and build up others (v. 29).
7. Value spiritual life. Don't grieve the Holy Spirit (v. 30). This highly anthropopathic expression reminds us that by nurturing our spiritual lives (telling the truth, expressing righteous anger, encouraging others), we can bring joy rather than sorrow to the Holy Spirit, who mediates the presence of Jesus Christ to us.
8. Avoid the evil six: bitterness, wrath, anger, wrangling, slander, malice. Here is yet another reminder of the power of words and passion to injure others. In school, jocks tease the nerds, and the geeks plot revenge. Who hasn't been bullied? But it's much worse than that. Teens are cyberbullied and trolled online to the point that some have committed suicide. Gossip and slander rip at the fabric of our communal life.

Such lowbrow conversation has no place in the life of a Christian.

9. Remember the importance of neighborly kindness. Be kind, tenderhearted and forgiving (v. 32). These contrast starkly with the behavior mentioned in verse 31: kindness rather than wrath and anger; tenderheartedness rather than bitterness and wrangling; forgiveness rather than malice.
10. Regard love as the ultimate virtue governing our behavior (5.2). Love is the reality in which the Christian lives. Enough said.

The application of this list creates in us a "**self-cleaning**" exterior that sanctifies, beautifies and sanitizes our souls. It's much more effective than the self-cleaning paint at Lowe's, Home Depot, or True Value. Paul returns to the theme he expressed in 4:24. When we pattern our lives described in this list, we begin to bear the likeness of God. In 5:1, at the end of this discussion of self-cleaning spiritual morphology, he refers to it again. Only now, he says, can we be "**imitators of God.**"

Rev. John-Nelson Pope

Psalms

We certainly are singing a lot of Psalms these days, aren't we? Many thanks to John-Nelson for encouraging us to live into our tradition as Reformed Christians, by incorporating the Psalms into morning worship. Our newly revised *Book of Common Worship* provides responsive readings of the psalms, suggestions for hymn settings of the texts, and prayers to focus our thoughts on the Christian implications of each psalm's message. As we read and sing each Sunday's psalm, and then pray the psalm prayer together, we reflect on the other readings from Hebrew and Christian scripture suggested in the Revised Common Lectionary.

Your trivia for the day – Did you know that there are 150 settings of the Psalms in our hymnal - *Glory to God*? That's not one hymn setting of every Psalm, but it is at least one setting of every Psalm included in the three-year cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary.

We deeply appreciate Don Fisher volunteering to work with Billie McConnell to teach and lead so many of these Psalms – some familiar and some new to us. Thanks, Don for your talent, your perseverance, your patience, and your effort!

Fun and Fellowship will meet at 12 Noon on Tuesday, September 11 at the home of Dolly Windle – 11200 Johnson Davis Road. Lunch will be provided.

(From Neck Road –Johnson Davis Road is the 3rd paved road on left. Dolly's home will be on your left.) Hope to see you there!!

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 Nov/Dec Bell submissions by October 21st.

September Birthdays

Sept 1 *Lindsay Fisher* Sept 27 *Billie McConnell*

October Birthdays

Oct 3 *Janet Hubbard* Oct 26 *Bobbie Reid*

Memorials Received:

In Memory of Sarah Puckett from Fleta Wendell

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

Volunteers & Helpers for 2018

USHERS

September: Nathaniel Jones, Mark Auten October: Earl & Mary Leatherwood
November: Marilyn Earnhardt, Alex Leatherwood December: Ty Leatherwood, Jon Leatherwood

COLLECTION TABULATORS

September: Mark Auten, Kevin Auten October: Edith Morgan, Amy Auten
November: Bobbie Reid, Lisa Fisher December: Don Fisher, Mark Auten

COMMUNION SERVERS

September: Sarah Kiser October: Ted Auten
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 Keever, Don Parker, Nancy Skipper, James Watson, 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; 4006 West Lane Ave, Tampa, Fla 33616
Justin Jackson CMR-415 Box 7854 APO-AE-09114

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September/October 2018

Phone 704 392-8816

E-mail 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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*Amy Auten – Editor Secretary*

*Wendy Leatherwood – Financial Secretary*