A WORD FROM THE INTERIM

Just As

Easter proclaims that God has brought new life to the world.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

(1 Corinthians 15:20-22)

In a recent article in Baptist News Global (March 21, 2017) Baptist pastor Amy Grant wrote a penetrating opinion piece titled, “When the Irish Were the Immigrants Americans Detested.” She said the size and joy of this year’s St. Patrick’s Day celebration in New York City makes it hard to remember that in the mid-1800’s many Americans reacted strongly against the nearly two million Irish refugees who fled starvation and hopelessness caused by the Potato Famine and English oppression in hopes of finding a new life in America.

Angry Americans, who were ironically just a few generations away from immigrant status themselves, accused the Irish of being criminals and rapists, called them names, and posted signs that read, “Help Wanted: No Irish Need Apply.”

Sound familiar? It should. Many of the same insults and accusations are leveled at our immigrant neighbors today. Our leaders don’t hesitate to vilify immigrants from Mexico, detain American citizens of Middle Eastern descent, and brush off the frightening increase in threats of violence toward Jewish communities. How quickly we forget that the story of the Irish is the story of us all.

Saint Patrick’s Day was yet another reminder that Christians in America are going to have to decide at some point whether or not the teachings of scripture will have an authoritative place in our lives or not, because the command to welcome the stranger is clear and unwavering through our entire holy text. But even if it weren’t, even if we could use clever hermeneutical tricks to side step God’s command, even if the loss of innocent life in the greatest humanitarian crisis of our generation didn’t compel us to open our hearts and homes, there’s one other consideration that should: we find God with the most vulnerable among us. Time and again God’s work is done through the one sold into slavery (Joseph), or exiled by war (Jeremiah), or the refugee fleeing genocide (Jesus). Those of us who turn our backs on the immigrant are turning our backs on God.

Easter Christians remember the poignant words of Jesus:

Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

(Matthew 25:40).

Easter blessings to you, Bill Leathers
Spring has arrived.

Thank goodness!

The blooming flowers, the rising temperatures, and the longer days all make me feel bubbly inside. I love spring—the long awaited season of light and new life that arrives after the darkness and rest of winter. But as the seasons change, it occurs to me that this shift from winter to spring is not always so cut and dry. Not all the days ahead will be warm, and while the daylight hours may be lengthening, on the first days of spring the amount of light and the amount of darkness are nearly equal. There is something peaceful and beautiful to me about that balance.

Throughout the past few months, God has been teaching me a lot about learning to hold together opposites—sadness and joy, darkness and light, death and new life. A fabulous book by Joan Chittister, Between the Darkness and the Daylight: Embracing the Contradictions of Life, has become a conversation partner for me on this journey. Chittister, a Benedictine Sister from Pennsylvania, explores the role of paradox in life and in faith, and I’ve been carrying her insightful and wise words with me throughout Lent.

Lent invites us to wander (and wonder!) in the wilderness, seeking to remove from our lives that which separates us from God’s love, and enter into a new, deeper relationship with our God. It’s sort of a gray season, to be honest—not quite as dark as Advent—and not quite as bright as Epiphany. As Holy Week approaches, though, I’ve been considering the stark contrast between the darkness of Good Friday and the light of Easter morning.

When we worship together on Friday, and then again on Sunday, we experience the contrast between the grief and pain of Good Friday and the hope and praise of Easter... but we get the false sense that the movement from the cross to the empty tomb passes quickly. After all, when we arrive on Easter morning, we recall that we’ve just been here, sitting at the foot of the cross, only a few days before. But what about all those agonizing hours in between? In some traditions, these hours are referred to as "Holy Saturday"—or Black Saturday, or Joyous Saturday, or Saturday of Light. These names alone show us the paradox of this day, of this transition between Jesus’ death and his resurrection. Holy Saturday helps us to hold the space between these two realities: death and resurrection. Holy Saturday helps us to acknowledge that the new life that God stirs out of what is dark and dead—whether in Jesus or in our lives—takes time, takes patience, sometimes means living in, or embracing the paradox, the balance, they gray.

In these first days of spring, as dark and light balance themselves in our days, my prayer is that the darkness and light will also balance themselves in our lives. May we manage to find the capacity and faith to accept both the good and the bad, and hold them together, believing that God is surely at work, stirring in us new life, and working to bring about resurrection.

We hope you will join us for Holy Week! The many services and activities we have planned are intended to help us deepen our experience of the primary symbol and celebration of our faith: the cross and the resurrection.
HOLY WEEK

The week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday is one of the most important and meaningful seasons of the Christian year. During these seven days we reflect on the final moments of Jesus’ life. This Holy Week, we are offering opportunities for worship and reflection. We believe that our experience of the resurrected Jesus on Easter is magnified when we have journeyed with him from the Mount of Olives, to his arrest, to his crucifixion at Golgatha. We invite you to join us in this worship journey on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. On Maundy Thursday we will gather for the Fellowship Meal followed by a service of worship and communion. On Good Friday we will remember Jesus’ sacrifice through worship, meditation, and reflection. It is our hope that these Holy Week services will enable you to experience anew the power of worshipping a God whose love is so big, he died on a cross to make possible the salvation of the world.

Holy Week Schedule

PALM SUNDAY
April 9
8:45 am & 11 am

MAUNDY THURSDAY *
April 13
Dinner 5:30 pm/Worship 6:30 pm
*The Fellowship Meal will be held Thursday, April 13.
RSVP by Sunday, April 9
(No activities Wednesday, April 12)

GOOD FRIDAY
April 14
Lunch 11:45 am/Worship 12:25 pm
Real Creations soup/sandwich, $5. RSVP by Sun, April 9

EASTER SUNDAY
April 16
8:45 am & 11 am

Sabbath Week:

We will observe a Sabbath Week beginning on Monday, April 17. There will be no Wednesday activities (April 19) and all teams and groups are encouraged to not schedule meetings during this time.
There is still time to sign up for one of our summer trips. All students are invited to join us for Unidiversity July 17-22 at The University of Tennessee. Cost is $350/person and scholarships are available. Students who have completed 8th Grade and older are invited to join us for C.L.U.E Camp in New York City August 4-12. If you would like to go or want more information contact a member of the Student Ministry Team at emerywoodstudents@gmail.com

Need a night of Fun, Food and Games? Join us Friday April 28th from 5:30PM – 9:30AM for our Student Ministry All Nighter. There will be special trips, games, food, inflatables and even a few surprises. Sign-up by emailing a member of the Student Ministry Team at emerywoodstudents@gmail.com Cost is $15/person or $10/each if you bring a friend.

Come one Come all! Whether you are 7 or 77 (or older) join the Student Ministry for a one of a kind night of Fellowship, bonding and connecting to the youthful side in all of us. Games are a great way to bond with one another and feed our healthy competitive spirit. Join together for an unforgettable night of all your favorite childhood games, and a few new ones too. The cost is free and dinner is provided (the lock-in follows). Join us April 28 at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall!
All are invited to come for play and fun time with friends and then a great time hunting for Easter Eggs in the yard. Bring your basket. Rain or shine!

Be a Child of the Light,

Mrs. Kelley Kennedy

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EASTER LILIES

Beautiful white lilies will be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 16. Plants may be reserved for $12 each in honor or remembrance of a loved one. Please return the pink order forms and payment to the church office by Wednesday, April 5. The flowers may be picked up following the 11:00 am Worship Service. Any that remain will be delivered to our homebound members.

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SUPPLIES FOR NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

The Adult III/IV Classes invites everyone to lend a hand with school supplies at Northwood. Drop off the following items at the office or monetary donations will be accepted and class members will shop. (Make checks to: ADULT III/IV SUNDAY SCHOOL) Thank you for helping us contribute to a successful school experience for these students and neighbors.

Requested: spiral notebooks (one subject 70 page, regular or wide ruled); notebook paper (regular); children's scissors (safety tip); tissues (Kleenex, etc.); colored pencils; glue sticks
Join us Saturday May 6th for a church wide mission emphasis day as we work together with the Highland Mills Community Association to join generations together from across our city to build community and housing solutions. To sign-up email Caleb Foust @ calebsfoust@gmail.com or Cathy Purvis @ cpurvis48@gmail.com and find out how you can help. Childcare will be provided.

Feeling called to serve a community that is often overlooked and ignored? Then join us this August in our first intergenerational mission trip in partnership with 2nd Baptist Church of Richmond Virginia and Metro Baptist Church in New York City as we provide a day camp for children in Brooklyn and Manhattan. The trip is open to anyone 8th grade and above and is a wonderful opportunity to serve together in a community at risk. For more information or to sign up email Caleb at calebsfoust@gmail.com

We are headed to Zambia! The Students will be leading a church mission trip to Zambia next summer (2018) but that means planning has already begun. Join us in the Summer of 2018 as we embark on a mission immersion experience as we work with the Emert family and Poetic International. Costs are still being finalized but preliminary sign ups have begun. If you would like to go email Caleb @ calebsfoust@gmail.com
We are sure you have noticed and probably welcomed the many visitors during the last month. Several individuals and families have completed visitor cards. We are careful that a Project Connect member and staff member makes a contact. However the most effective step has been to ask one or two members of the congregation that might have similarities to simply make a call so the visitor and the member can know more about each other and if an invitation is accepted, join together in a church activity. Really great is to see both meet each other in person and to see how much more comfortable it is for the visitor to meet others when a member is able to introduce them.

We hope to have the occasion to call on you with this same request. It is a rewarding and life changing experience.

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SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

**Amazing Grays**
Monday, April 3, 12 pm, Fellowship Hall
Happy Beat Drumming

Happy Beat Drumming – use caution – this program may cause side effects – laughter, extreme happiness, and a really good time! Following a light lunch ($3), join us for a presentation by this interesting and unique group.

**On the Go Gang!**
Thursday, April 6, 11:15 am Carpool, $10
GTCC Culinary Scholl

One of our favorite (and delicious!) outings.... GTCC Culinary School Lunch is planned for early April. We will enjoy French cuisine. All spots are filled, but call to be placed on the waiting list.

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LIFE GROUP

**Update**

Life Group completed the second of our six-week sessions in January and February. We read and discussed a book by Lee Hull Moses called, "More than Enough," which talked about living as Christians in a world of excess. This was a very thought provoking book and we had the pleasure of having the author lead one of our sessions.

The Group is currently participating in the Lenten Study, "Renegade Gospel," led by Mary Beth Foust and Bill Guy. This gives us a great opportunity to interact with all age groups as we break up for discussion.

We look forward to our next group study session that will begin sometime toward the end of April. Watch for the dates for this shortly. Each session of Life Group is independent of all others, so if you are thinking about joining us, please let me know and we will add you to our email list to keep you informed of our plans.

Blessings!
Judy Patterson
8xgranna@gmail.com

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SPAGHETTI LUNCH

Sunday, April 30
11 am – 2 pm, Fellowship Hall

Let's support Boy Scout Troop 2 and enjoy an easy and delicious lunch. Take outs available. $7
The Phase 1 Team would like to express an overwhelming “Thank You” to those who attended our first Congregational Conversation on Wednesday, March 8. A great cross-section of our congregation was represented and the cooperative spirit and lively conversations will continue to mold and shape our church profile. All shared in a warm, affirming, and realistic view of the past, present, and future of EBC.

Please mark your calendar for our next Congregational Conversation on Sunday, May 7, 9 – 10:40 am, in the Fellowship Hall. The Men’s Ministry will serve a home-style breakfast from 8:15 - 8:45 am. RSVP for the meal by Sunday, April 30.

Suggested donation: $3 per person/$10 family max/Ages 3 yrs & under no charge
The Congregational Conversation begins promptly at 9 am and following, we gather for worship together at 11 am in one service.

Dr. Bill Wilson will be the guest minister for this special service. We look forward to your contribution to this vital conversation and experience in the life of our church.

Blessings and peace,
Michelle Bednarek and Brandon Blair, Phase I Team Co-Chairs

We covet your prayers for the Phase I Team, our staff, and fellow congregants during this time. Phase I Team: Grant Almond, Michelle Bednarek, Brandon Blair, Warren Gallemore, Ginger Michaud, Nancy Wallace, Danneal Whitton, Chris Wynne

Prayer from the Team commissioning on February 26: Lord, bless the Phase 1 Team with courage, trust, and compassion. Help us to undergird them with our prayers, thoughts, and encouragement. Please guide Emerywood Baptist Church through this discernment and calling process, so that we will move closer toward being the church you have saved us, are calling us, and will empower us to be. We ask, Lord, that you will live your life in us and love the world through us. In the name of Jesus, Amen.
WORKERS IN THE ‘WOOD

“I desire to do your will, my God; Your law is within my heart.”
Psalm 40:8

WEST END MINISTRIES MEAL
Coordinator – Michelle Loyd

April 6
Life Group

May 4
Missions Team

June 1
Men’s Ministry

ADULT SPECIAL CLASS
April
02  Don or Margie Boyd
09  Corinne King
16  Billy & Linda Cox
23  Ginger Michaud
30  Rick Bednarek

May
07  Ron or Rachel Young
14  Corinne King

HOSPITAL VISITATION
April
07  Phyllis McCoy
14 & 21  Mary Carroll
28  Royce Gillis

May
05  Royce Gillis
12 & 19  Louise Stanley
Janis Stephenson
26  Mary Carroll

HOMEBOUND VISITATION
April
Lorraine Griffin

May
Linda Welch

DEACON IN SERVICE
Awakening – 8:45 am
April
02  Mallory Griffin
09  Whitney Aiken
16  Alan Patterson
23  Kim Bauman
30  Ben Partin
May
07  Combined Worship at 11 am
14  John Setchfield

Morning Worship – 11 am
April
02  Ron Young
09  Ed Lefler
16  TR Hendrix
23  Al Purvis
30  Susan Morris
May
07  Combined Worship at 11 am
14  Ed McCoy

May 7 – Combined at 11 am
Warren Gallemore, John Setchfield,
Debbie Gallemore, Doug Michaud

DEACON MEETING
Sunday, April 9, 5 pm

FACTS & FIGURES
January
Month to date
Income  $ 38,795
Expenses  60,405
(21,610)

Year to date
Income  $ 38,795
Expenses  60,405
(21,610)
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
01 Mary Lou Ennis
01 Danneal Whitton
02 Sandy Meisky
03 Kathryn Griffin
04 Vicki Davis
04 Kent Crawford
07 John Foster
08 Marion Winebarger
15 Cara Kiser
16 Faye Hedrick
16 Nolan Patterson
17 Lynn Crawford
21 Al Purvis
22 Hugh Wallace, Sr.
23 Mickey Watkins
24 Jackson Kiser
25 Chuck Miller
28 Karen Tucker
30 Tricia Bauman

REMEMBER IN PRAYER
Sallie Edwards
Heather Cross
Jordan Joyce Harris
Lora Nugent
Sarah Gordon
Kris Patseavouras Andrews
Marie Burnette

INTERCESSIONARY PRAYER
The Intercessory Prayer Group meets each Wednesday at 11:15 am to remember the joys and concerns of our Family of Faith and to pray for those included on the prayer list. If you have a special request, you may call the church office to include it. All are encouraged to gather in Room 122 to be part of this vital ministry in our church. If you are unable to attend, please pray on your own at this designated time.

OUR SYMPATHY TO
The Family of Ann Latta on her death.
Al Purvis and Sarah Foster on the death of their brother and uncle, Mike Purvis.
Faye & Norm Hedrick on the death of Faye’s mother, Dorothy Simerson and Von Hedrick on the death of his grandmother.
Doris Towers (former Church Administrator) on the death of her brother, Kenny Hess.

ANNIVERSARY WISHES
02 Bill & Edna Rose Guy
06 Pat & Sandy Meisky
22 Warren & Debbie Gallemore

CONGRATULATIONS
Dean & Elaine McBrayer on the arrival of a granddaughter, Madeline Cary. Parents are Tommy and Laura McBrayer. Cary and big sister is Elizabeth.

Linda & Tom Chafin on the arrival of Linda’s granddaughter, Lily Faye English.

APRIL
02 Children’s Easter Egg Hunt, 2 pm
03 Amazing Grays, 12 pm
03 Lenten Book Study, 7:30 pm
05 Women’s Book Club, 10 am
06 West End Meal, 4:15 pm
09 Palm Sunday, 8:45 am & 11 am
09 Diaconate meeting, 5 pm
10 Lenten Book Study, 7:30 pm
12 Men’s Book Club, 10 am
12 No Wednesday activities
13 Maundy Thursday
14 Good Friday
16 Easter Sunday, 8:45 am & 11 am
17 Church office closed
28 Mobile Meals delivery, 9:30 am
30 Boy Scout Spaghetti Lunch, 11 am – 2 pm

SCHEDULE
Wednesdays
5:30 pm Fellowship Meal
6:30 pm Programs for the family
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir

Sundays
8:45 am Awakening Worship
9:45 am Bible Study
11 am Morning Worship
6 pm Student Vespers (as scheduled)

ON CALL MINISTER
To reach the “On Call Minister” after office hours, please call the church office at 336-885-6016 and select option #4.

HOLIDAY CLOSING
The church office is closed Monday, April 17, in observance of the Easter Monday Holiday.
**WEDNESDAYS IN THE ‘WOOD**

April 5 – Renegade Gospel  
April 13 – Maundy Thursday  
April 19 – Sabbath Week – no meal or activities

**Schedule:**  
Meal service begins:  5:30 pm  
Programs for all:  6:30 pm  
Sanctuary Choir:  7:15 pm

**April menus & servers**  
05  Taco Bar  
12  No meal – moved to Thursday  
13  BBQ Chicken, broccoli, mac & cheese  
19  Sabbath Week – no meal or activities  
26  Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans

Volunteer servers needed in April! Call the office!  
*Reservations due by 9 am Tuesdays. Payment is requested for no-shows.*

**Meal cost:**  
Adult/youth meal:  $5 per person  
Child (ages 3 – 10):  $3 per child  
Family max charge:  $15