



Light From The Hill

MARCH, 2017...The Pastor's Corner...Rev. Norman L. Ramsey, III

Dear Laurel Hill:

I suppose it's a sign of the times. When I went to look up the meaning of Lent I was asked to complete a survey on shopping and buying stuff first. Needless, to say, I still haven't read the article about the meaning of Lent because I abstained from completing the survey. Maybe I learned something without having to read the article itself.

What is the one thing I can do that will best personify God is at work to simplify and clarify my witness during Lent? I'm sure it doesn't include shopping for more stuff. What do I choose to do with my time? What are the things that concern me? Let's make this Lenten season a time when we ask the Lord for a renewed zeal to call and show compassion to those who have become the prodigal.

Our month's sermon theme is "Come Home". That's the invitation we want to give to people. It's also the invitation that governs our attitude and attention with people. How can our demeanor and deeds, our conversations and conduct be an appeal from God through us for each person we meet to come home to the Lord?

I remember the agonizing tears, the turmoil in my stomach, and the pull back and forth on my will. What should I do? I didn't stand at a crossroads. I stood at the end of the road or, at least, the end of the driveway. Should I leave home and run away to something else? I was twelve years old. I had all of my essential belongings tied up in my knapsack. My shoes were on my feet and I was just one step away from hitting the road.

But, thankfully I never ran away any further than that, though I considered it many times. I dread to think how difficult the journey back would be unless I knew I would be welcome and I could somehow make up for or overcome going away in the first place.

This one thing I know: God's invitation to us is "come home"! Come, all who are weary and heavy laden down and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11: 28) Come, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow. (Isaiah 1: 18) Come, though you have wandered far, far away, I will lead you home. I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you. (John 14: 18)

Love you very much,

Norman Ramsey

Thanks again for everyone's prayers for healing and help! We look forward to all the special ways God will work during the month of March: our Mission Dinner & Auction, Girl Scout Sunday, the Kean University Choir, and the Virginia Choristers, just to name a few ways we will be blessed.



BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH: Billy Wendel, Tabitha Godsey, Harvey Wilson, Tracy Abbot, Thomas Gardner, Ann Ragland, Rebecca Brokenbrough, Patti Kaloski, Kimberly Davis, Susan Nowell, Kirby Miller



8:45am – Praise & Worship
9:45am – Sunday School
11:00am – Traditional Worship

March 1, 2017: Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 PM @ Laurel Hill

March 5, 2017: Coming to Our Senses (Luke 15: 11 - 32)
(Men's Breakfast at 8:00 AM & Luncheon after 11:00 AM Service)

March 11, 2017: "Shamrock & Roll" Mission Dinner & Auction 5

March 12, 2017: "Strive to Enter In..." (Luke 13: 24)
(Girl Scout Sunday with Kean University Choir in 11:00 AM Service)

March 19, 2017: The Door Is Open (John 10: 9)
(One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday)

March 26, 2017: Faith Provides the Key (Hebrews 3)
(Virginia Choristers with us, Churchwide Luncheon following Worship, Concert 1:30 PM)

We will be feeding the Choristers and some parents at our Covered Dish Luncheon. Please remember to bring some extra dishes for that Sunday to bless our guests and plan to stay for the concert at 1:30 PM and bring family and friends. The Choristers will present a musical repertoire from HOMELAND from their upcoming summer tour of Whales.

LAY MINISTERS FOR MARCH, 2017

Praise & Worship: 8:45 A.M.-Sunday School: 9:45 A.M.-Worship: 11:00 A.M.

<u>OUR USHERS</u>	
March 5 Kirby Miller, Joe Corley, Randy Welch	
March 12 Stuart Walton, Raymond Stevenson, Buddy Whitlow	
March 19 Bill Robinson, Gene Russell, George Kaloski	
March 26 Craig Pollard, Phil Deane, Ray Alexander	
<u>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</u>	<u>CHILDREN'S MESSAGE</u>
March 5 Roy and Christie Owens	March-Buddy Whitlow
March 12 & 19 Mary Holmes	
March 26 Sheree Gostel	
<u>OUR ACOLYTES</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
March 5 Eliana Horne & Nick Cox	March-Keith and Sheree Gostel
March 12 Nick Cox	
March 19 Eliana Horne	
March 26 Nick Cox	
<u>OUR GREETERS</u>	<u>SOUND TECHNICIANS</u>
March 5 Bill and Linda Robinson	March 5 & 12 Bill Robinson
March 12 Doug and Peggy Singlemann	March 19 & 26 Keith Gostel
March 19 Barbara and Billy Wendel	
March 26 Lois and Kirby Miller	
<u>TELLERS</u>	
March 5 Lois Miller and Pam Wilson	
March 12 Jenny Nelson and Judy & Billy Walker	
March 19 Randy Welch and Phil Deane	
March 26 Linda Kinsey and Chris Ragland	

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY...Laurel Hill Church is looking for part-time cleaning help. \$8.00 per hour. Maximum of 10 hours per week. Set your own hours. If interested contact Ann Hechler at 737-3052 or call the church office 795-2772. Also, the Weekday School is looking for part-time teachers, helpers and bus driver (no CDL required), call Margo Keeles at 795-2772. The Weekday School salaries will be based on amount of experience.

MISSION KITS...It's time to be packing our Mission Kits to be taken to the Virginia Annual Conference in June, 2017. Eighty Eight School Kits and 8 Infant Kits have been assembled and boxed. Our aim is to complete 30 Health Kits and 30 Infant Kits. Many items have already been donated. Those needed are the following:

HEALTH KIT	INFANT KIT
12 Large Combs	107 Cloth Diapers
17 Hand Towels	19 Onesies (shirts)
8 Hand Nail Clippers	16 Baby washcloths
30 One Gallon Plastic Bags	6 Diaper Pins
\$1 For Toothpaste	7 Boys Sweaters
	4 Sleepers
	Flannel Cloth for Blankets

Copies of what is needed for each kit are in the basket opposite the stairs beside the elevator. Donated items can be placed in that basket. Money donations will also be accepted and we will shop for you where the best bargains are found. Thank you for your support of this ministry.



Missions and Ministries- We are in Motion!

Join us for a delicious dinner featuring Chicken Cordon Bleu and a great evening of great fun and fellowship at *ShamROCK for Missions and Ministries*. Our annual dinner/auction/craft sale is March 11th and tickets are now on sale Sunday mornings or through Marsha Williams. Reach out and invite friends and family to join us for a great evening as we help support LHUMC's ministries and those in need near and far through missions. The more the merrier and remember to Bring Your Green!

**Please share a few hours of your time on Friday, March 10th, at 6pm, in the church kitchen and help us pound the chicken, think of all the stress this will relieve, ☺. Bring your own meat mallet, please. Thanks, Peggy Singlemann



A NEW ADVENTURE IN MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES AT LHUMC

“...through missions, we want to build and support relationships that create change; change in you by building your relationship with Jesus and change in our ministry partners by supporting them and the work they are doing.”* Are you ready for a Virginia mission trip? Partnering with Project Crossroads we will be assisting with a home repair the weekend of April 21st. We drive there on Friday, spend Saturday working together in mission and drive home Sunday. Project Crossroads is an outreach ministry of the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church. Based in Marion, VA, Project Crossroads serves seven surrounding counties providing habitation improvements for disadvantaged families. Lodging is provided. Prayerfully consider joining in this initial mission trip then contact Peggy and Doug Singlemann or Norman.

*website of Crossroads Church, MN



CLEAN OUT THE CLOSETS AND THE GARAGE, THE ANNUAL SPRING YARD SALE IS COMING!!!!

The annual yard sale will be **May 5th & 6th** at Laurel Hill UMC. You can start donating items after Easter Sunday, April 16th. Please place them in the back third of the fellowship hall, aka the usual place. Share this with your friends and neighbors to spread the word for a great turn out! If you need assistance transporting large items please contact Peggy Singlemann.

Thank you for the support of the Mission Outreach of LHUMC. Please help spread the word on social media by liking the church's Facebook page and sharing the postings for the auction/dinner and the yard sale on your page. Help us spread the word to the community!

KATHY RUSSELL AND JUDY WALKER wish to thank their Laurel Hill family for the cards, calls, food, flowers and especially the prayers they received during their recent illness. Please continue to keep them, and their family, in your prayers. Your love and support mean so much. Blessings to all!

PRAISING GOD FOR HEALING and a huge thank you to my church family for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers, and to Norman for prayers and visit before my surgery. I am blessed! Connie Madison