

February 2020

Hilltop Churchline

Pastor's Letter



Saul Bellow was one of my favorite novelists back in my university days, and I recently stumbled upon something he said at a press conference, in which a reporter asked Bellow, "Mr. Bellow, you are a writer and we are writers. What's the difference between us?" Bellow replied, "As journalists, you are concerned with news of the day. As a novelist, I am concerned with news of eternity." I better understand why I so enjoyed reading his works.

Every now and then a renowned atheist comes out with a book questioning the worth of religion in general and Christianity in particular. Without question, much along these lines amounts to the rant of an adolescent, while others raise profound issues we've all wrestled with at times. Whereas the number of people declaring "no religion" when asked about their religious affiliation was 2.7% in 1957, it is closer to 20% today. More Americans now profess "no religion" than all the Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians and Lutherans combined, and their number has more than doubled since 1990, and in Europe the numbers are even higher.

Philip Yancey, another of my favorite authors, points out that technology manufacturers have a phrase called "the tabletop test." Engineers design wonderful new products from iPhones to MP3 players, but what happens to these shiny new products if they are pushed off a table accidentally or get dropped on a sidewalk? Will the device still work?

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Life offers each one of us plenty of "tabletop tests" when it comes to the realm of faith. Faith has been compared to fire: If the fire is as small as a candle burning, it will likely get snuffed out when face to face with the howling winds of a storm. If the fire is as large as that ravaging Australia more recently, it proceeds to get larger when the winds of the storms rage. One need look no further than the spectacular growth of the Christian Church under the oppressive forces at work in Communist China to confirm the veracity of comparing faith to fire.

Do we mean what we say when all is well in the comfort of our homes? Can we believe the apostle John when he writes, "Greater is He Who is within you than the one who is in the world."? Can we proclaim that truth with confidence to a woman struggling to feed her children without reverting to prostitution? Can we proclaim such to the alcoholic battling lifelong addiction or to an inmate in Iran's worst prison?

We begin our Lenten trek towards Easter with an ecumenical potluck and worship service here on Ash Wednesday, February 26. The potluck begins at 6 pm, followed by the Worship Service at 7 pm. Our Lenten trek will find us exploring the unfailing Promises of our LORD. Invite your skeptical friends who probably choose "no religion" to join us. The food will be great on the 26th, and I invite you to pray hard that the spiritual food we offer up on Sunday mornings will be comprised of the Good News of Eternity - something we all need and something I hope we all desire!

Hoping to meet some of your friends in church!
John



Points of Prayer

February 2020

Lessilie & Lilly

Joe Trummer

Jane Risdon

Barbera Hoogerwerf

Brian Smith's Daughter

Sheila Clouse

Bette Stubbs

James Engelhardt

Marilyn Durham

Lynda Porrett

Earl McCartney

Joann Rhoades

Pat Tyler

Donald Hill

Pattie Bartlet

Judy Rumley

Nate Harrower

Peggy Harris

Carol Seaman

Paul Wade & Family

Scott Storey (Son in law of Irene McElreath)

Darcy Gifford

Jeff Stys

Guy Reed

The Family of Dorothy Wareham

Missionaries

Our Military Men and Women



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			 2020			
March 1 BREAK THE BREAD; DRINK FROM THE CUP	March 2 Share your favorite Bible verse online or email. Ask others to respond with theirs.	March 3 Do one good deed for someone else today.	March 4 Say no to plastic and Styrofoam today.	February 26 ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Day of Prayer and Repentance	February 27 Put your change in a jar each day of Lent. On Easter Sunday, give to someone or an organization that could use it or...bring it for the noisy offering.	February 28 Buy canned goods to bring to the "jack cart" These items will go to the local food pantry.
March 8 GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD!	March 9 Eat less sugar today. Environmental damage results as we keep our sugar addiction going.	March 10 Compliment a stranger.	March 11 Check to make sure your hot water heater is set 120 degrees. Save energy and money.	March 12 Practice being present in the moment. Really give others your attention.	March 13 Send a card to a child today. Tell them what they mean to you.	March 14 Say thank you to someone you see working hard.
March 15 REST IN THE LORD!	March 16 Google St. Patrick's Breastplate Prayer	March 17 Be someone's cheerleader today!	March 18 Has someone been on your mind? Call them today.	March 19 Pray for our Law Enforcement Officers and our Medical Response Teams.	March 20 Spring begins! Plan your garden today. Research local plants.	March 21 Turn off the TV Let your mind have a rest. Read your Bible or favorite devotional.
			TURN THIS PAGE OVER			

<p>March 22 SEEK THE LORD!</p>	<p>March 23 Pray for our church leaders.</p>	<p>March 24 Share with someone an experience where you witnessed God's love.</p>	<p>March 25 Refuse plastic today. Take your own tote bags, cups, straws ,etc.</p>	<p>March 26 Send an encouraging text or email to someone.</p>	<p>March 27 Purchase foods to bring to the "jack cart" at church. We did it last month, but the need is still there.</p>	<p>March 28 Enjoy nature! Take a walk (bundle up!)</p>
<p>March 29 PRAISE THE LORD!</p>	<p>March 30 Have you promised a meal with someone? Call and make it a date.</p>	<p>March 31 There are broken people behind bars today. Pray for prisoners.</p>	<p>April 1 Make someone laugh today, not in a foolish way but in a great joke or story.</p>	<p>April 2 Give a "shout out" to a "shut in" today. Tell them they are remembered by our church.</p>	<p>April 3 Eat a meatless dinner!</p>	<p>April 4 Pray for our military and their families.</p>
<p>April 5 RAISE YOUR PALMS AND CELEBRATE CHRIST THE LORD!</p>	<p>April 6 Do you know someone who have been persistent in prayer? Call them and tell them you are praying with them.</p>	<p>April 7 Going to fill Easter baskets? Look for ways to fill them without plastic.</p>	<p>April 8 Send a card to a "shut in" today.</p>	<p>April 9 Maundy Thursday Remember the Last Supper</p>	<p>April 10 Good Friday! Christ died for us!</p>	<p>April 11 Pray for the church services tomorrow, the Pastor, musicians, etc. Pray for those who are visiting with us on Easter.</p>
<p>April 12 CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY! HALLELUJAH!</p>						<p>Adapted from Creed In Action 2019 Trinity UMC, Southport, NC</p>



Youth Group Schedule**YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE**

February 2nd, Souper Bowl of Caring Ends

February 9th, Youth Group Meeting

6:00pm—7:00pm

February 23rd, Youth Group Meeting

6:00pm—7:00pm

Monthly

February 2020

February 6th, Craft Night at 6:00pm

February 10th, at 6:00pm Bell practice is at FUMC for Good Friday Service.

February 13th, at 6:00pm Choir rehearsal is at Holy Family for Good Friday Service.

February 18th, Edward Jones Meeting at 9:00am

February 20th, Craft Night at 6:00pm

February 26th, Ecumenical Potluck and Worship Service here at SCFUMC on Ash Wednesday. The potluck begins at 6:00pm, followed by the worship service at 7:00pm.

Enhance Fitness meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday .

Patty is a certified trainer from the YMCA that teaches the classes.

Monday & Wednesday 2 classes, 9:00am and 10:00am

Friday 1 class
at 9:30am



February 2020

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Fast



Give



Prepare



Pray

