

Pastor's Corner

*“God has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD
require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?”*
Micah 6:8

“Be nice!” My mother commanded. My cousins and I were fighting again. We pretty much lived together in the summer time and we knew each other's most vulnerable weaknesses. We could, if we wanted, draw blood with our words. All my mother wanted was for us to be kind to each other. Something about my mother's command must have made an imprint for when it came to be my turn to dispense parental guidance I found myself parroting my mother's refrain to my own children: “Be nice!” I commanded my children. All I wanted was for them to be kind to each other, kind to themselves and to practice kindness toward others. “Look for nice!” was amongst my most frequent refrains. I beseeched my children to marry people who were nice and regularly practiced kindness (and thanks be to God they seemed to have listened!)

Kindness is an humble word. Courage, creativity, wisdom, wit, beauty, and boldness are all more flashy and exciting. Jesus commands us to love each other as He loved us. Love is bold and daring. Kindness is soft and quiet. Kindness seems flimsy compared to love. We often see kindness as unsophisticated and too weak to make a true difference in anyone's life. Yet, kindness is underrated. The Hebrew word “*hesed*,” used most often to describe God's love, also means mercy, goodness, and kindness. The King James Version often translates “*hesed*” as “kindness.” It is a strong, fierce and loyal love with which God loves us. Kindness is a powerful attribute of God. In the New Testament kindness is listed as one of the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Kindness is a gift of God, it is a gift of

the Holy Spirit, and it is a mark of Christian discipleship.

It seems a little easier to ask someone to be kind to another than to ask that they love another. It may simply be the cultural meanings attached to the words themselves, but somehow being kind sounds more doable. If we cannot truly and genuinely love someone, we can at least be kind to them.

In the Buddhist tradition, kindness is considered a great force for healing. Kindness connects us to one another as we relate to each other's sufferings and joys, hopes and dreams. When we do not connect to one another in kindness and compassion, it is all too easy to fall into competition, exploitation, fear and abuse of the other. The Dali Lama has been quoted as saying, “My religion is kindness.”

In our nation today, we have set our sights as low as simply trying to be civil to one another. We advocate tolerance and forbearance. What about kindness? With political polarization seeming to be more and more acute is it possible that, even though we disagree with another, we can do so in a non-contentious and kind fashion? With the ever increasing scourge of drug dependency seemingly on our very doorstep can we move to assist rather than to merely condemn? Can we practice being kind to one another? The fruit it bears I suspect will surprise us. Yes, the challenges which beset us may seem sore and beyond the pale of tolerance, they may seem to be well out of our individual comfort zones; but, at the end of the day, I suspect that Jesus would proclaim that to be a good thing. For practicing simple kindness will put us in the path of love, the path of life that leads to the kingdom of God. Will you make an effort to regularly practice kindness and bring the Kingdom of God a bit closer to Earth?

God Bless
Always,
Chris





May Birthdays

- 3 - Terri Chambers
Mary Stephenson
- 6 - Kay Wildman
Bodie Baire
- 13 - Paul Foard
- 14 - Ann Harris
- 16 - Dru Frazier
- 17 - Devonna Taylor
- 26 - Marilyn Lilly
- 29 - Betty Foard
- 30 - Brett Harris
- 31 - Evan Goetz
Ingrid Olson
Mary Lou Pratt

*Come and Celebrate
the Birthday of the Church!!
on **Pentecost Sunday**
May 20, 11:00 a.m. Worship*



Remember to WEAR RED!!

On Pentecost Sunday, come rejoice and be filled with the Spirit. Don't miss this special day of wind, fire and the Holy Spirit.

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*Happy Mother's Day!  
Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>*



*The Annual  
"Birthday Offering"  
of Presbyterian Women,  
"LILIES"*

will be collected  
on **Sunday,**  
**May 20<sup>th</sup>**  
in worship  
during the  
regular offertory.  
Please see the  
attachment or  
separate page  
"Welcome to This  
Place" for details.





*Every Sunday Morning*  
**10:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

- May 6 – Jane & Rod Jones
- May 13 – Susan & David Fabry
- May 20 – *(Pentecost)* **Host Needed**
- May 27 – **Host Needed**

**If you would like to volunteer to host a Coffee Fellowship, the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Donaldson Room or call the church office: 304-523-9920**



Coffee, creamer, sugar, cups, plates & napkins are all provided. You only need to bring juice, home-baked or store-bought baked goods, and fruit if you would like. Make it simple!

Thank you so very much from the Fellowship Team and your Church Family, and thank you especially from the Children!!

**Enslow Park Hope Chest**

Our Hope Chest "Items of the Month" for **MAY** are **SIVERWARE & SERVING UTENSILS.**



Please leave your donations in the Donaldson Room. The Hope Chest items are distributed to Huntington City Mission, Cridlin Food & Clothing Pantry, and Harmony House. All donations are greatly appreciated.

*New Addresses*



Andrea Cunningham  
 6 Mill Park Lane  
 Marlton, NJ 08053  
 Andrea's new email:  
[andreacunningham2017@gmail.com](mailto:andreacunningham2017@gmail.com)

Frank & Laura Gilliam  
 6781 Community Drive  
 Pensacola, FL 32526  
 Laura's new email: [tarheelsfl@gmail.com](mailto:tarheelsfl@gmail.com)

**Food & Clothing Pantry**

Christian Associates' Cridlin Food & Clothing Pantry has asked EPPC to contribute:

**36 cans of "Beef Stew" in May.**



If you would like to be a volunteer at the Cridlin Food & Clothing Pantry, which is located in the Trinity Episcopal Church, you can go Monday, Wednesday or Friday, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. and Mondays 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**They in desperate need of SPRING/SUMMER BOY'S & GIRL'S CLOTHING, SIZES 6 - 9 MONTHS and MEN'S Med. BOXERS**



Our Mission:

*"We exalt God through joyful worship, loving care for others, and service to our community and world."*



*On April 29, 2018  
Nine of the Harris Children  
were Baptised*



- Logan Eric Harris* b. 11/2/05
- Maxwell Cole Harris* b. 11/28/06
- Myrriandah Michelle Harris* b. 6/5/08
- Mallory Violet Harris* b. 10/2/09
- Lafe Jacob Harris* b. 12/18/10
- Sydney Hazel Harris* b. 2/18/12
- Luke Gary Harris* b. 2/13/13
- Sawyer Liam Harris* b. 1/25/15
- Sparrow Alease Harris* b. 12/26/16

The Children's Parents are Brett & Kim Harris, Grandparents are Rocky & Ann Harris, Aunts and Uncles are Jaclyn & Kris Pyles, and Brandon & Stacy Harris. The Children's older brothers and sisters are Kathryn Harris, Tyler, Bodie, Tabatha, Raven and Kade Baire.

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*You are called
by name to be
a Child of God.*

