**Pastor’s Walk**

By middle school, I had grown to a height of six foot with a pants inseam measurement of thirty-six inches…you could easily say that I was all legs! I stopped growing…upward…when I reached six foot two inches. I have lived my entire life being one of the tallest kids in the classroom. For most of my life, I have looked at the world from a rather tall vantage point and I have ordered my surroundings to reflect this six-foot height with another two-to-three-foot arm span.

And this has been all well and good for us in the Kurt household…for the most part. Robert who is six foot and growing has no problems with everything set-up for a tall person. Even Sandy at five feet six inches has learned to adapt to where things are, and she can reach most things with a stool…or she just calls on me or Robert to get the crock-pot down. Rebecca, at only five foot four inches has had a bit more trouble and often complains about how things always seem to be just out of reach for her. She also doesn’t like it when I sing the “Short people” song that was popular in the 1970’s either.

This summer, when Rebecca got married and she and her new wife, Olivia, came to live with us post-graduation and while they waited out the pandemic; for the first time we had an adult living in our household who measured under five feet tall. It has been an adjustment for us because at four feet eleven inches, Olivia, could not reach a lot of things in our house. To be good hosts and because who knows when all this pandemic stuff will ease up, we have had to move things lower. And I for one have been amazed to see-through Olivia’s eyes just what it is like to go through this life not with a tall vantage point but one that is much, much lower. I have come to realize that in this life…at four foot eleven…there is a great deal out there that is just out of reach or impossible to reach even with a stool.

As a six-foot two individual, I would not like living that low…having that much out of reach…being so dependent on others to get stuff down or make something lower or just help me get through the day. Living low would be very uncomfortable for me.

Patience gave me a great Advent devotional written by Pastor John Pavlovitz and it is entitled “Low an Honest Advent Devotional.” In this devotional, Pavlovitz reminds the reader that Jesus…King of Kings…Emanuel…God with us…did not come in pomp and splendor. Jesus came into this world as a low and lowly baby…born to people of, really, no consequence…in a small town…and without much fanfare.

Jesus was low and humble and dependent and as a baby, Jesus needed others just to survive. If you stop and think about this fact for more than a minute, you will realize just what a huge gamble this was for God. For God to put God’s incarnate self in the hands of God’s own creation…in the arms of a child…in the midst of ruling empire who would rather God/Jesus be dead than alive. Jesus was low and yet…

It is in this lowly Jesus…this baby born to a virgin Mary that we find so much hope and love. It is in these lowly and low places that Jesus will begin and find followers and establish his is ministry. It is in low places that Jesus will do the most ministry. It is from this lowness that something miraculous will happen in this world and this low born ministry miracle is still morphing and changing our world today.

So often, we want to take this faith…this belief…this religion…this church we have been given in Jesus and lift it up high. We want it to become something folks must reach high for to obtain…climb up to become worthy…seek out the proper help to fully understand and be a part of. The truth is…Jesus never did any of this. Jesus never elevated himself or the love he came to give-up from out of the “low” places of life. In truth, Jesus worked very hard to keep himself and the love he came to give firmly planted in the “low” places of life…with the people who needed it most…with folks who would best understand that it wasn’t about them or the values they constructed or the rules and traditions that spoke only of exclusivity or even of Jesus…it was about God and living in a Kingdom that has come but has not yet fully been realized here on earth. A kingdom that will not be for the high and exalted but for the low. It was and is about being low and understanding that we, as God’s children could reach for so much more if we strove to always be low…

*He called a little child to him and placed the child among them. And he said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18)*

Grace,

Rev. Steve Kurt



**Church Services suspended for January**

*Commonwealth Family,*

*In an over abundance of caution, I am going to suspend in-person and parking lot worship for January. Hopefully, with the vaccine beginning to be distributed and holiday traveling slowing, we will see the COVID numbers in Mecklenburg begin to decline in the coming month.*

*I will continue to produce and distribute videos on YouTube. I pray that you are all well and continuing to stay safe.*

*Grace,*

*Rev. Steve Kurt*





*CUMC Family,*

*Thank-you for your generous staff gift this Christmas. I know that this year has been very long and trying at times and I also thank-you for your continued support for our church. I am missing you all very much but I know that very soon we will be able to gather together again as one.*

*Grace,*

*Rev. Steve Kurt*

**Thank You**

To our Friends at Commonwealth,

Thank you so much for our generous Christmas staff gift. We both love being a part of the Commonwealth Church family as Secretary and Treasurer. We appreciate your friendship and kindness.

Many blessings,

Margie and Ron

**Congratulations Mary Pearre**

Mary Pearre become a Great, great, grandmother December 15, 2020:

Mary Parker Pearre,

Shelia Pearre Sanford,

Lonnie T Sanford (Sandy)

Sarah Sanford Howell

Rowan Jackson Howell......

all are well!

**Wednesday is Day of Prayer**

Remember to pray for those in need.

Prayer box located in the Narthex

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**Our Prayer List**

Jerline Bender (sister of Alice Shepherd), Jack Harwell (brother of Ruby Agnew), Nancy Hoy (sister-in-law of Margie Medure) Alma Horne, Pat Inman (sister of Jackie Samuels), Maxine Kincaid, Rosemary Lands, Martha Lee, Rick Morrison, Carol Painter, Donna Pruitt, Jean Stoneman

**Church Monthly calendar:**

With church being closed and all church activities being canceled until further notice, there is nothing to add to the church calendar at this time. We have decided to suspend printing the monthly calendars and will start again when the church activities resume. Sorry for any inconvenience or confusion this may cause individuals.

**Fellowship Hall**

Until further notice, Fellowship Hall will remain closed to all church activities and outside group meetings until the we can resolve the asbestos issues.

**December 31st New Year’s Eve**

**Church Office Closed**

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Happy New Year 2021



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**January Birthdays**

1 Leonard Laye

1 Esther Pakala

7 Leigh Beaver

8 Jack Parrish

30 Glen Garlick





**1st New Year’s Day**

*In-person and parking lot worship*

*suspended for January*



**2nd Groundhog Day**



**14th Valentine’s Day**



**26th Ash Wednesday**





**November 29, 2020**

Church Attendance

In person/virtual - 36

Offering - $2,287.00

**December 6, 2020**

Church Attendance

Virtual - 57

Offering - N/A

**December 13, 2020**

Church Attendance

Virtual - 40

Offering - $1,280.00

**December 20, 2020**

Church Attendance

Virtual - 49

Offering - $740.00

**December 24, 2020**

Christmas Eve Service

Virtual - 30

**December 27, 2020**

Church Attendance

Virtual - N/A

Offering - $957.00



**Honorarium**

In Honor of: Commonwealth Family

By: Ron and Margie Medure



**Thank You**

Rick and I both would like to thank you for your many prayers, calls, emails and uplifting cards. They have meant so much during his treatments. He did well with his surgery the end of September and has finished his 6 1/2 weeks of radiation/oral chemo and will start chemo infusions right before Christmas and that will last for four months. Hopefully all will continue to go well. We feel so very blessed. God is good and so are our prayer warriors. Blessed be the tie that binds...

Sue Morrison



Commonwealth

United Methodist Church

2434 Commonwealth Ave.

Charlotte, NC 28205-5132

704-376-4924



January - 2021

*Steve Kurt* - Pastor

*Patience Brumley* - Pastoral Care

Office Hours

Mon. - Thurs. 9am to 1pm