

God is love and love lives here!



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Rev. Tommy Odum

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Sunday, February 11, 2024

Hey church! Below are some final thoughts as we complete our series on the Apostles Creed. I've received a lot of great feedback about this series and have enjoyed it immensely. Next week we begin a new series called Miracles where we focus on specific miracles of Jesus leading up to the resurrection. Each one carries a special story and has a special place within the context of the Gospels. I'm looking forward to seeing you all this Sunday!

Westminster School of Theology

There has been a good deal of confusion about the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Some see the Spirit as some sort of vague force that inspires people to certain heights of artistic expression or particular giftedness. Some in the church see the Spirit as the dispenser of spectacular gifts.

The first thing that the Apostles' Creed affirms is that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. Cornelis Venema points out that any study of the Creed's teaching on the Holy Spirit must begin "by emphasizing that the Creed confesses the Holy Spirit to be one of the three Persons of the Trinity." [1]

The structure of the Creed shows that the church is confessing the divinity of the Holy Spirit. As J. I. Packer points out, "From the creating work of the Father and the rescue work of the Son [the Creed] turns to the re-creating work of the Spirit." [2]

The divinity of the Holy Spirit is evident from the divine attributes that he shares with the Father and the Son. First, the Holy Spirit is eternal. Hebrews 9:14 says that Christ "through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God."

Second, the Holy Spirit is everywhere present. Psalm 139:7 says, "Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?"

Third, the Holy Spirit knows all things. This is stated in 1 Corinthians 2:10: "For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God."

Fourth, the Holy Spirit is all-powerful. In Luke 1:35, the angel tells Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."

Fifth, the Spirit is holy. Romans 1:4 says that Christ "was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead."

An examination of the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles shows that the Holy Spirit was active during Jesus earthly ministry and in the early church, but what is he doing now?

Most importantly, the Holy Spirit has a key role in the redemption of God's people. It is the Spirit who brings life. When Nicodemus came to see Jesus, he was given an interesting answer when he asked how he could see the kingdom of God. Jesus told him, "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). The key phrase here is that we must be born again by the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit also brings about holiness or sanctification in the lives of God's people. The Spirit is actively purifying us and making us more like Christ.

As the Spirit brings about renewal in our lives, something very positive is taking place. Just as the Spirit helps us to fight against sin, so also the Spirit works his fruit into our lives: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control," the attributes that constitute godly character (Gal. 5:22-23).

The Bible also speaks of the Spirit of adoption: "You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' " (Rom. 8:15). There are two elements here. First, believers are able to call God their father because of the indwelling of the Spirit. Second, the Spirit assures us that we are children of God.

The Holy Spirit also is the guarantee of everything that we receive in Christ. Ephesians 1:13-14 says that we "were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

The Holy Spirit is also a comforting presence as Christ's people experience trials. In John 16:1-15, Jesus warns his disciples that they should expect persecution, but as they face it they will not be on their own. Jesus will send the Holy Spirit to dwell in the

Scripture and Sermon:
John 2:1-11
"Miracles:
Water into Wine"

New Concerns
Patricia Dietsch
Elaine Shierling
Family of Roger Cothren

Continue Prayers for:
Family of Warren McvDow
Family of Jon Love
Don & Sharron Schall
Carol Graham
Kitty Barfield

Christa Avret
Michael & Jennie Walston
Betty Byrd
Leon Hudson
Mary Prater
Jim & Mary Leary
Virginia Eadie
Bill Reedy
Sarah Mayer
Cary Martin
Mac McNeal
James McNeal
Our Country, Leaders, Military

Finance Report for February 4

Operating Budget.....	\$19,251.60
Music Ministry.....	60.00
Food Pantry.....	167.80
Total.....	\$19,479.60

Worship Attendance
146

Sunday School
45

hearts of his disciples. The Spirit will also convict the world of its sin. This gives hope to those who are being persecuted that their persecutors may recognize their sin and turn to God in repentance and faith. Above all, the Spirit will guide Jesus' followers into all truth.

The Holy Spirit also gives gifts to God's people, so that they may serve God in the church and the world. Paul writes: "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.... To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (1 Cor. 12:4, 7).

Much confusion has been caused by people focusing on the more spectacular gifts of the Holy Spirit that were given to the early church to confirm the apostle's ministry. Some continue to seek after these, but Paul stresses that all gifts of the Spirit are given for the common good, not to create spiritual superstars.

Finally, we must never forget that the gospel is to be preached in the power of the Spirit. It is not by our strength or our programs that the church will be built, but only through the power of the Spirit of God.

Packer states:

What then are the signs that Christ's self-effacing Spirit is at work? Not mystical raptures, nor visions and supposed revelations, nor even healings, tongues, and apparent miracles; for Satan, playing on our psychosomatic complexity and our fallenness, can produce all these things. The only sure signs are that the Christ of the Bible is acknowledged, trusted, loved for his grace, and served for his glory and that believers actually turn from sin to the life of holiness that is Christ's image in his people.[3]

Next time we will conclude our study by looking at the last part of the Creed, which shows how God is at work in the world through his church, and finally what hope we have for the future.

<https://faculty.wts.edu/posts/the-apostles-creed-part-3-i-believe-in-the-holy-spirit/>

Keep The Faith,
Pastor Tommy

Gifts Given to the Glory of God

- 🌸 *In memory of Sonny Watson by Kenneth & Erin Kitchens, Betsy Phillips, Joyce Wyatt*
- 🌸 *In memory of Betty Estep by Joyce Wyatt*
- 🌸 *In memory of Ann Stafford by Betsy Phillips*
- 🌸 *In memory of Warren McDow by Margaret Henley, Eric & Gloria Nelson, Jim & Barbara Hilliard, Joyce Wyatt*
- 🌸 *In memory of Faye Burkhardt by Betsy Phillips*
- 🌸 *In memory of Roger Cothren by Joyce Wyatt*

Volunteers Needed, Please!

Come on yall! If you love to hold babies, teach toddlers and children, please let Katie know so she can hug your neck and sign you up. You will be blessed!



Thank You

"We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts cards, food, condolences, love and support during this most difficult season in our lives. We love our church and church family!"

~~ Don & Sharron Schall and Kim Schall Cothren ~~

Church-Wide Clean-Up

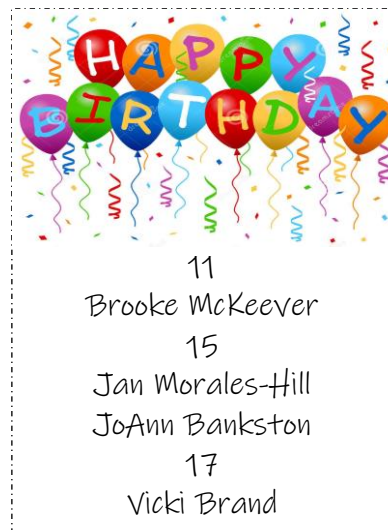
Mark your calendars for the church wide clean up days **March 1 and 2** at 8a- until each day. Come if you can, stay however long you can, any help is appreciated.

Lynn-Pritchett Circle

The decision of our UMW/UWF unit not to join the CMC women's organization has been made. Our own church will have it's own Unit with Ms. Terry's and Criendship Circles continuing. With a saddened heart, I am sorry to note that due to declining attendance, the Lynn-Pritchett Circle is no longer viable and will not be continuing. One may join another circle or become a member At Large or just help out at various functions or contribute to the various minitries and missions that the Unit and Circles have supporting Women and Children. Thank you for all your many years of dedicated service for women and children locally and around the world! You have blessed and have been a blessing for so many. Again, a heartfelt thank you for all you have done through the years! ~~ Debbie Gray ~~



- ✓ 02-14-24- Ash Wednesday Service 6p
- ✓ 02-18-24- First Sunday of Lent
- ✓ 02-19-24- Office Closed
- ✓ 03-01-24- Church-wide Clean-up Day 8a-until
- ✓ 03-02-24- Church-wide clean-up Day 8a until
- ✓ 03-10-24- Daylight savings Time Begins
- ✓ 03-11-24- Finance Committee Meeting 6p
- ✓ 03-11-24- Administrative Council Meeting 630p
- ✓ 03-24-24 Palm Sunday
- ✓ 03-28-24 Maundy Thursday Service 6p
- ✓ 03-28-24 Prayer Vigil 6:30p til noon Friday
- ✓ 03-29-24 Good Friday Service 12 noon
- ✓ 03-31-24- Easter Sunday



Community Missions

- The next Food Pantry is February 14, 2024... come on out and volunteer! You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- Our Clothes Closet is open every Tuesday 9a-12 noon... Closet volunteers for 02-13-24 are Sherry Armour, Jennie Walston, Debbie Herrington
- Thank you for your generosity to the Open Door Clothes Closet. Each week we see more and more clothed and cared for because of your gifts of love. **Winter is here** and we will be in need of several items. If you're cleaning out your own closets or looking to donate items, please consider donating to the Clothes Closet. We also ask you to look for some of the specific items listed below as you are preparing for the change in season. Thank you again for all you do to support our ministry!
Winter clothes/coats/jackets/sweaters/hoodies/pants/shoes/socks/scarves/hats/gloves; linens/sheets/blankets/throws/comforters; towels/washcloths; personal needs items; toys.
- Workers are needed in the Clothes Closet Mondays and Tuesdays from 9a-12 noon.

Bible Reading Plan	
Week of February 11 th :	
Sunday.....	Matthew 13
Monday.....	Matthew 14
Tuesday.....	Matthew 15
Wednesday.....	Matthew 16
Thursday.....	Matthew 17
Friday.....	Matthew 18
Saturday.....	Matthew 19

Puzzle Fans!

Your church library has a lot of new puzzles that you may borrow and return OR borrow and not return AND we are very happy to accept your unwanted puzzles, too! We ALWAYS welcome more puzzles to our puzzle table. Also, the Centerville Public Library now has puzzles available to take, trade or drop some off for others on the shelving to the right past the check-out area just beyond the Friends of the Library sale books. (GREAT selection of various genres of sale books is just 50 cents each!)

Garden Flag

No clue where Waldo is now, nor can I find the garden flag pole and flag from the parking lot side entrance (single door). The one at the "office" entrance is still there, but the other one is missing in action. Anyone who brought it in and placed it somewhere safe, please let me (Debbie Gray) or LaWanna know. Thank you!

Wesley Glen Abundant Life Celebration

It's time again for the Abundant Life Celebration benefitting Wesley Glen. Last year the cost was \$50 per person... this year there is no charge, however, a love offering will be appreciated. Everyone had a good time last year and we were able to fill one table. Let's try to fill two tables this year! If we get enough people, we could take the van. Anyone interested in going, please contact Stevie Bowen at 478-954-5938 or steve.bowen1958@gmail.com.

Abundant Life!
A CELEBRATION BENEFITTING WESLEY GLEN

Join us for a fun night of dinner and dancing featuring the Grapevine Band and 13WMAZ Chief Meteorologist, Ben Jones!

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024
5 PM
EDGAR H. WILSON CONVENTION CENTER
220 COLISEUM DR
MACON, GA 31217

SCAN TO REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE TABLE AND BID ON SILENT AUCTION ITEMS.
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.WESLEYGLENMINISTRIES.COM
OR CALL 478-471-3711 EXT 103

Thank you to our sponsors!

grapevineband Emcee, Ben Jones

Water Turned to Wine

John 2:1-10

¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. ³ And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."
⁴ Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."
⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."
⁶ Now there were set there six water pots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the water pots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. ⁹ When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. ¹⁰ And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

Are you Looking for a place to serve? To get involved? We have it!

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday- February 11

Ushers

10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Roy Carter
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen
Joy Fleming, Sherrie Shell
9:15a Sunday School
10:30a Worship



Greeters

10:30a Sherrie Shell, Sharon Morrison

Communion Servers

Gary & Kathy Rutke
Eric & Gloria Nelson

Finance Stewards

Nancy Hudson, Amber Gamble, Joy Fleming

Assisting with Children

Sunday- February 11

Nursery- Marie Davis, Dawn, Laura

Children- Amber Gamble

Sunday- February 18

Nursery- Sherrie Shell, Dawn

Children- Brenda Crow

Monday- February 12

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday- February 13

9a-12n Open Door Mission Closet

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'

10:00a Partners in Prayer

10:00a Yoga

6:00p Life Group III "LG3"

Wednesday- February 14

Valentine's Day

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast

11a Food Pantry

6:00p Ash Wednesday Service

6:30p Choir Practice

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday- February 15

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'

10:00a Yoga

6:30p Handbells

6:00p SPRC Meeting

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday- February 16

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday- February 17

7:30p . .Narcotics Anonymous



Women of the Well



9a-12n Open Door Mission Closet

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'

10:00a Partners in Prayer

10:00a Yoga

6:00p Life Group III "LG3"

Wednesday- February 14

Valentine's Day

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11a Food Pantry

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7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Friday- February 16

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday- February 17

7:30p . .Narcotics Anonymous



Sunday School at 9:15a

Are you looking to get involved in Sunday School? We have a great line up of classes to explore! Maybe you've been attending Sunday School regularly but see a topic you're interested in – it's okay to move around and try different classes – let's learn and grow together!

Sunday School Class

Seekers

Issues & Answers

New Beginnings

Christian Fellowship

Youth

Pilgrims

Studies

Rob Bell

Matthew

Revelation

2 Corinthians

Fruitful Growth in Faith

On Hiatus

Teacher

LaWanna Porter

Katie Odum

Nancy Hudson

Don Schall

Eric & Gloria Nelson

Kathy Blanchard

cooked

Easter Hams

**Now on sale by The Men
Pick up Saturday, March 30th
10a and 2p**

**See J.O., Mel, Jim, Stevie or come by the
office for your ticket(s)**

Remember, they freeze well!



\$40



ASH

WEDNESDAY

Come get ashed!