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**“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”**

by Dr. Foster C. Dryden, Jr.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.... John 3.16*

I'm sure by now you have taken note of the three crosses on the front lawn of the Community Ministry Center with the message *Love That Will Not Let Me Go!* The title and the first line of the hymn from which it comes – *O Love* - are a fitting starting place to explore our relationship with God in Christ, for it is the love of God in Christ that is the beginning, the middle and the end of that relationship!

The love of Christ comes to us from the rich heritage of the Old Testament in which the saints celebrated God's love with the confession, *O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever!* The Hebrew word *hesed* translated *steadfast love* does not have an English equivalent so scholars have come up with *steadfast love*. I like to use the word “stuckedness”, which is not really a word, but conveys this idea of God's covenant commitment to His people. We can't get God to turn His back on us, even when we turn our backs on Him. An ancient Hebrew saint revealed that he got this when he wrote:

*When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart,*

*I was stupid and ignorant; I was like a brute beast toward You.*

*Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold my right hand. Psalm 73.21.23*

Regardless of his behavior he came to know that God continued to hold his right hand; God was “stuck” on him!

The fullness of God's *hesed* has finally been revealed in the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If God's “stuckedness” was true for the Old Testament saints, how much more for those in Christ Jesus. The Apostle Paul wrote:

*If God is for us who can be against us? He Who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?*

Romans 8:31-32

As we celebrate Palm Sunday, the events of Holy Week, and Easter Sunday, let's not forget what it all means: *O love that will not let me go!*

In Christ's Love,  
Bud

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**Lenten Series**  
Every Wednesday,  
February 14—March 28  
6:45 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

**Easter  
Worship Services**

Palm Sunday  
March 25, 9:30 a.m.

Good Friday Service  
March 30, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday  
Resurrection Service  
April 1, 9:30 a.m.



### Prayer Requests

The gift of prayer enables us to join with one another in consecrating our world, our lives, and our ministries to God.

Please lift in prayer:

Morgan, Sloane, Joanie, Melissa, Jerry, Jim, Cindy, Vickie, Ron Klenk, Bukalos Family, Kathy, Pat, shut-ins, the homeless, elderly, youth, the hungry, our nation, CCC, Presbytery of Philadelphia, General Assembly.

## men's group

March 17

April—TBD

Time: 8:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Location: Bud's House



### Church Mouse

March 9 and 10

April 13 and 14

9:30 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.

DON'T FORGET.....

**MARCH 11**

Set your clock one hour forward



### CONNECT BY NIGHT CONTRIBUTIONS

The Kimberly-Clark Corp. has generously responded to our request for a contribution to our Connect by Night efforts at Christ's Community Church. They have donated 10 cases of toilet tissue, paper towels and Kleenex tissues for use at the church when our guests are with us during the months of January and March.

Thanks to Jannie Sirkin for bringing this contribution opportunity to our attention, and to Kimberly-Clark for partnering with us in our work with people in need.

We also want to thank Giant Food Stores for responding with their \$25 gift cards, donated for our use in buying and preparing snacks and lunches for our Connect guests.

Community participation is a welcome and huge help to us, and we appreciate their enthusiastic gifts in answer to our requests for assistance.

### Website

#### New Website to be Launched in March

The new website will be launched in early March. Webmaster, Mike DeHaven, Kim Rankin and Deb Engell have been working through the process of reinvigorating the church's website. The year-long task is incorporating the latest technology including the ability to make pledge contributions on the site through the Google mobile app. Watch for an email in your inboxes in March.

Information and photos should be sent to Deb Engell @info@ccchurch.co.

#### Lenten Series

**Every Wednesday, February 14 through March 28**

**6:45 PM—8:00 PM**

The Lenten Series continues to focus on the hymn *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*. Join us and discover the rich heritage we have in this hymn aiding us in our spiritual journey!

Gratitude to Chris Stephano and Deb Engell for constructing the sign.





### Community Donation of Medical Equipment



In the recent month, a Delaware County community family has donated several pieces of durable medical equipment to be used for member's family that may require either a temporary or permanent use.

When health issues strike a family, it can be difficult to acquire or locate such equipment like a walker or wheelchair. Understandably, this community family has realized the stress it can cause the caregiver and family members.

The church has acquired a wheelchair with chair pad, walker, and commodes. There are some smaller medical items that a caregiver may use for bed-bound family members.



If anyone in Christ's Community Church has an interest in such equipment, please inquire at the church office.

Donna Kerr

### Property Update



To bring everyone up to speed, we lost power in Fellowship Hall in January. It was bad timing as we had to send the homeless elsewhere for the last few days of their January stay with us. Fortunately, it was just two intermittent circuit breakers we had to replace. Even better, Lan-erch Presbyterian Church, our partner in serving the homeless, has offered to help us to pay for the cost. Our thanks go to Chris Stephano and Woody Johnson for troubleshooting the problem.

Looking ahead, we have several projects in work. We are planning to replace the stove in the downstairs kitchen with a modern and easy to use version. We are evaluating our options for flooring as we continue to see tiles disintegrate with age. Finally, we are going to install a new church sign on Garrett Road. We are presently working the waiver process to get a sign of the size we want.

Holton Falk,  
Property Committee

### Session Corner



**Book:** Session finished reading and discussing chapter 3 of "A Man in Christ, The Vital Elements of St. Paul's Religion" by James Stewart. Chapter 3 talks about "Disillusionment and Discovery". For example, do you practice "righteousness by the law", fighting the world and the devil by your own strength (disillusionment), or do you believe that "no man can save himself" and "that salvation is of the Lord" (discovery pg. 84-85)? Is "flesh" evil

or is it the misuse of flesh that is evil?

**Membership:** Chawezi Mwantembe and Stephen Flomo joined Session after installation/ordination in January; Holton assumed the office of Property Team Leader; Kim (Corporate Chair), Chawezi and Stephen (Mission) are doing a fantastic job managing our finances; Bea also stepped into her new role as Corporate President and Clerk of Session. We are grateful for the services of Linda Martin and Heidi Hamilton whose terms expired at the end of 2017. Our Website will soon be up and running better than ever, thanks to Debbie working tirelessly with Mike the computer guy. Sermon Podcast/Videos would soon be possible. Rob Eyre, Associate Pastor for Missional Outreach, seeks to discern a path for future outreach ministry – "Journey in the Wilderness".

**Budget:** Corporate and Mission budgets were presented to the congregation on Feb. 4, 2018.

**Seekers Class:** Seekers (3) class is still going strong under the leadership of Stephen and Chawezi. Bud assists every now and then to answer some theologically deep questions. The group is now reading "The Good and Beautiful Life", by James Bryan Smith – the second of 3 books. A few members had to drop out due to conflicts with work schedules.

**Lenten Series:** All are invited to the Lenten Series beginning on Wednesday February 14, 2018 at 6:30pm.

**Seven Great Traditions:** Session is currently revisiting the Seven Great Traditions, exploring where we are, what we have to work with and other related questions.

As always, Session meetings began and ended with prayer.  
Bea





We would like to thank everyone for your cards,  
gifts and anniversary wishes.  
In Christ's Love,  
Bud & Paula





### Camp Deborah Update



Camp Deborah is in Zambia Africa, and is outside the capital city of Lusaka. It started as merely a piece of land, purchased by the Women's Guild of the Presbyterian Church in Zambia. They had a dream and a vision of what the piece of land would become, and they are tirelessly working to that end. The first thing they did was have a bore hole drilled (a shallow well, basically a hollow pipe driven into the ground until it reached the water table). There is a hand pump at the top of the pipe, and it gives them a source of clean and safe water.

Next, they started a chicken-raising venture. They had a small building built, with a chicken run outside the building. They bought baby chicks, raised them, and then sold them to a supermarket in the area. With their profits, they continue to buy, raise, sell and reinvest their profits.



They have recently planted a number of fruit trees, the beginnings of an orchard and farm that is part of the plan. They are currently starting a multi-purpose building, which will be used as a worship center and a conference center. They have erected the steel framework and are saving to buy roofing materials. They hire local unemployed men to help with the work and are thus already making an impact on their area.

Their ultimate goal is to also build a dormitory, to house students who will attend a school there. This is a very bold and faith-driven venture on the part of these women. We help support their work through a line item in our annual mission budget, and they are supporting our church through prayer - for God's work that we are doing here.

Please pray for the Christ-driven work these women have undertaken at Camp Deborah, and that God will continue to guide and sustain them.





**To know Christ and make Him known!**

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Community Center

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**Sunday worship**

9:30 a.m.

*Informal Worship Service*  
Nursery available

**Fellowship Time**

11:00 a.m.

**Youth & Adult Bible Studies**

11:00a.m.

**MARCH**

- 3 Claire Jones
- 4 Vero Saylee
- 5 Donna Kerr
- 6 Jessica Parker
- 9 Charlie Dur
- 10 Colleen McDevitt
- 14 Ian McCoyd
- 21 Lisa Jeffries & Joseph Kariuki
- 26 Emmanuel Saylee
- 27 Tom Kocher
- 28 Hope Howley & Brent Kerr
- 29 Tony Falk
- 31 Peggy Long



**APRIL**

- 1 Brent McDevitt
- 2 Sir Elliott Saylee
- 6 Debbie Engell
- 10 Colleen Teti
- 17 Nathan Johnson
- 20 Cecilia Kihiu
- 23 Edith Crawford
- 24 Ryan McCoyd
- 29 Jerry Parker
- 30 Debbie Falk
- 31 Adele Battista

*The Viewpoint* is a publication of  
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Dr. Foster C. Dryden, Jr., pastor;  
The Rev. Robert Eyre, associate pastor for  
missional outreach;  
Linda Evans, editor

**March/April Calendar**

**Weekly/Monthly Meetings**

Sunday	9:30 a.m., Informal Worship in the Chapel
	11:00 a.m., Seekers Class 3 / Children's Ministry
Monday	9:30 a.m., Al-Anon in the Parlor
Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Al-Anon in the Parlor
Wednesday	7:00 p.m., NA in Fellowship Hall

**March**

March 1—31	Connect By Night
March 1, Thursday	12:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
March 7, Wednesday	6:45 p.m., Lenten Bible Study
March 8, Thursday	6:00 p.m., Drexel Hill Raiders Meeting
March 9 and 10	9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m., Church Mouse
March 11, Sunday	<b>Daylight Saving Time Begins</b>
	4:00 p.m., Session Meet
	7:00 p.m., Praise Team Meet
March 13, Tuesday	6:45 p.m., Lenten Bible Study
March 14, Wednesday	12:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
March 15, Thursday	8:30 a.m., Men's Group Meet at Bud's House
March 17, Saturday	March Birthday Celebration
March 18, Sunday	Spring Begins
March 20, Tuesday	6:45 p.m., Lenten Bible Study
March 21, Wednesday	12:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
March 22, Thursday	Palm Sunday
March 25, Sunday	7:00 p.m., Praise Team Meet
March 27, Tuesday	6:45 p.m., Lenten Bible Study
March 28, Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Good Friday Service
March 30, Friday	Office Closed
March 31, Saturday	<b>Life Center Meal</b>

**More information to follow**



**April**

April 1, Sunday	9:30 a.m., Easter Sunday Service of Resurrection
April 8, Sunday	4:00 p.m., Session Meet
April 10, Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Praise Team Meet
April 12, Thursday	12:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal
	6:00 p.m., Drexel Hill Raiders Meeting
April 13 and 14	9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m., Church Mouse
April 15, Sunday	April Birthday Celebration
	Deadline for May/June Viewpoint
April 20-21	Session Retreat
April 24, Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Praise Team Meet
April 26, Thursday	12:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal

