

A photograph of three lanterns sitting on a wooden bench. The lantern on the left is dark metal, while the two on the right are painted blue. They are all glass-enclosed with metal frames. The background is a light-colored wall with horizontal siding.

THE LANTERN

SAINT GILES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MINI NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 4, 2020

Upcoming Events At-A-Glance

Wednesday, November 11
12pm Session Packet Deadline

Monday, November 16
7pm Session Meeting

Monday, November 23
7pm Youth Ministry Meeting

Thursday, November 26th
Thanksgiving Day—Office Closed

Friday, November 27th
Church Office Closed

Where have you seen God in the pandemic?

The world may look different right now, but God is still working!

Where have you seen God?

Let us know by sending us a photo, a sentence, or a word that we can use on our facebook page or in worship.

Message from Rebecca

We missed you at the Zoom coffee hour last Sunday. In the time of Covid, the only way to see your lovely face is through zoom. Remember the days of potlucks? It is the equivalent of the raucous gathering after church, but without hugs and handshakes.

Twelve people showed up on the first Sunday of November zoom. We had SO much fun. We talked about food. I learned that Phil Stiles' favorite cake is Tomato Soup Kick cake, a recipe from World War II when ingredients were limited and cooks were inventive. I would taste it but it absolutely needs a new name! The same era gives us Mayonnaise chocolate cake (ditto on renaming).

At a time when we are locked into our houses and our borders, we consoled ourselves with stories of past trips to Antarctica and mission trips to Nicaragua. I hear there's a 50th Anniversary church pamphlet somewhere (your intrepid pastor will dig it up) that tells these stories too.

My cousin, a psychologist, told me that it is important for us to have people who "hold our stories." It is why Thanksgiving meals, family reunions and our dearest, oldest friends are gold mines for our hearts. I have always loved the famed German theologian Jurgen Moltmann's description for eternity. He says "we are held in the memory of God."

St. Giles longs to hold your story. We hope to see you on Sunday, December 7 at 10:30 am. You can find the zoom link in the mini-newsletter. If you don't have a computer, you can also join us by phone.

If you have never "zoomed" in your life, and are a little anxious about technology, we can find a tech-caregiver. He or she will walk you through the steps. Call the church office anytime between now and December 6 for your lesson.

Don't stay alone and out of touch in your little spaceship; we look forward to your stories.

Blessings,
Rebecca

Call for photographs!

If you have any photos of events, worship, Sunday School, or other fun activities at or with Saint Giles within the last year, please email them to Emmie in the office! We are looking for lots of good pictures of life at Saint Giles. Please submit all items to Emmie ASAP! If you'd rather text a picture, please call the church office and ask Emmie for her cell number. Thank you!

Volunteers Needed!

We are delighted to have one volunteer—we need at least one more! Each week on Thursday, we need one or two volunteers to print and assemble the weekly mailing of the worship bulletin and newsletter for the 25 church members without a computer. Emmie can help give directions and answer questions via text or telephone from home. She is available for an in-person training if you would like it.

To volunteer or receive more details, please contact Emmie in the church office.

Stewardship

The letter sent out with the Stewardship packet contained some brief thoughts on the parable of the rich man. Jesus ends the parable by saying: “for God all things are possible.” So why is it difficult for the rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven? The problem is that there is an awful lot that people with riches can do that distract them from their faith journey. You don’t have to be rich to fall into that trap. My association with the people of Saint Giles is that they don’t seem to have trouble staying on a faith journey. But... these are pandemic times.

Let us go through a mental exercise. Think about what you do with the resources at your disposal. After you take care of basic needs: shelter, food, and transportation, what do you do with the rest? Ask yourself this question: “Does this use of my disposable cash help me or does it distract me from my faith journey?” Think about it. The church has an answer: tithe. The rich man tithes and still has a lot of wealth that distracts him from his faith journey. For a person of God, riches are a curse, not a blessing.

I have heard it said that if you want to know the true measure of a person, follow their credit card. Rebecca, in her sermon on October 18, talked about a pastor who put magic markers in the pews one Sunday and instructed the congregation to take out their credit cards and mark them with a cross so that whenever they used the card to buy something, they would reflect on whether this purchase aligns with their identity as a person of God. That is a great idea. You can find the video link for the sermon on SaintGiles.org.

These are pandemic times. What can Saint Giles do to help you on your faith journey during these times? Let us know. Prayerfully consider your estimate for giving for the coming year.

With Prayer,

John Tracy, Chair, Finance & Stewardship Ministry

St. Giles and Habitat for Humanity's *Presbyterian Build 2020*

Our work with local Presbyterian churches and Habitat for Humanity to build a new home is underway! We're supporting homebuilder/homebuyer Tenina Kennedy and her family. Tenina has worked in Wake County for 17 years, is a manager at Walmart, and has three children: Tyieyana, Levi, and Michael. While Habitat Wake cannot use our volunteer labor yet, the church donated \$2,000 toward this affordable housing project! Here are two more ways you can help with more to come:

1) **Shop at or donate to Habitat ReStores:** The ReStores accept donations of gently used household items, furniture, cabinets, appliances and more. Proceeds support building affordable homes! There's a store in our neighborhood (8009 Glenwood Avenue) accepting donations Mon-Fri 10:00-5:00 and Sat 9:00-4:00 pm). If your item is big, Habitat will come get it! Just call 919-744-2420 to arrange a pick-up).

2) **Please pray** for the building workers and new family.

Contact Tom Augspurger (jillandtom@aol.com, 919-744-8510) if you have questions or would like to be more deeply involved.