

Saint Giles Presbyterian Church
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May 20th, 2020

Friends -

Have you heard the word “earworm”? An “earworm” is a song or tune that “gets stuck” in your head. Wikipedia defines “earworm” as a “catching piece of music that continually repeats through a person’s mind after it is no longer playing.”¹ In my experience, “earworms” are most often annoying and tedious.

But sometimes, “earworms” can serve as reminders. My most recent “earworm” has been a song/melody that I sang in a children’s church choir many, many years ago. Here are the words:

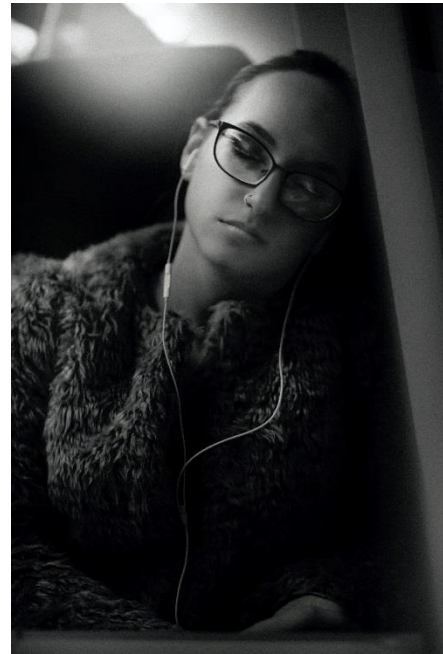
Everywhere I go the Lord is near me.
If I call upon him, he will hear me.
Never will I fear, for the Lord is near,
everywhere I go.²

Moving beyond the tune makes a difference. Remembering, writing and reading the lyrics makes a difference. Because doing those things propels me to the important reminder: I am not alone. You are not alone. We are not alone.

Peace to you and yours,
Katherine

Here’s the tune, if you wish to listen. Try to “hear” this as if a gaggle of elementary-aged kids were singing. And remember: you’ve been warned!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19YJYrEEPOs>



Photos by Zoltan Tasi on Unsplash

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earworm>

² “Everywhere I Go” (Natalie Sleeth) Choristers Guild, 1975; <https://www.choristersguild.org/PDF-samples/CGA171.pdf>

Graduation Recognition

Please join all of us at Saint Giles in wishing heartfelt congratulations to all of these graduates!

Carol Pope and Andy Overstreet celebrate the graduation of granddaughter Alexa Overstreet, upon her graduation with honors from Western Albemarle High School in Charlottesville, Virginia this spring. She will attend either North Carolina State or the University of Virginia in the fall.

Carol Pope and Andy Overstreet celebrate the graduation of their niece Kathryn Pope, graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill in May with a B.A. in Sociology and Psychology. She is going to UNC-Wilmington for graduate school in social work.

Christine Lee celebrates her son, Justin Do, who will be graduating from U.N.C. Chapel Hill in May, with a B.S. in computer science and B.S. in information science.

John and Carin Iager celebrate their daughter Elizabeth Grace Iager, graduating this spring in the Class of 2020 at Millbrook High School. Elizabeth will be attending East Carolina University in the fall of 2020 to study Business Marketing.

Phill and Elise Stiles celebrate their granddaughter Tina (Phillie) Stiles, who is graduating from Mt. Tabor High School in Winston-Salem, NC.

The Morgan family celebrates Matt Morgan, who is graduating from the MBA program at the UNC Kenan-Flagler business school this month.

Marilyn and Wayne Brodd celebrate their granddaughter Bailey Anne Brodd, who is graduating from Broughton High School and attending Appalachian State University in the fall.

The Goble family celebrates their daughter, Maggie Goble, who graduated Cum Laude from High Point University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and minors in Finance and Professional Sales. She will be returning to HPU in the fall to pursue an M.B.A. with a concentration in Healthcare Management.

The Black and Tracy families celebrate their daughter, Mari Black, graduating from North Carolina Virtual Academy in early June. She has also attended classes at Wake Tech for dual credit in the college level. She is very excited to be studying at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, where she plans to study criminology and forensic science.

Janet Wherry celebrates her granddaughter Cadence Molnar, who is graduating from Leesville High School in June 2020. She will attend Wake Tech in the fall.

The Getzoff family celebrates Barent Getzoff, who is graduating Suma Cum Laude from UNC Greensboro with a Bachelors in Consumer Apparel & Retail Studies with a concentration in Retailing and Consumer Studies and a Minor in Business.

If you need assistance with shopping or other errands, please contact Emmie (office@saintgiles.org) or Katherine (katherine@saintgiles.org).

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Giving to Saint Giles

During this time, Saint Giles continues to pay our staff and incur expenses like insurance and utilities. Your giving makes a difference. If you would like to continue your payments, here are three ways:

1. Send a check to the Church office. We are checking mail daily and making deposits.
2. If you would like to pay by credit card, call Dave Gospodarek at 919-880-5618 and he will process your payment.
3. If you already have a Venmo account, you can make donations using "@stgiles" as the place to send your donation. If you do not have a Venmo account, you may want to set one up to make no cost transfers to the Church.

Thank you for your support during these times.

Update regarding the Congregational Nominating Committee

At our Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation in January, we elected our 2020 Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC). We scheduled CNC Orientation and Training for late March and then: COVID. Like so many things, CNC Orientation and Training has been postponed.

The GOOD NEWS is God has not postponed calls to ministry and leadership. God is at-work, calling members of our faith community to all areas of service: as members of ministry teams, as teachers, as musicians, as congregational caregivers, as folks who prefer "behind-the-scenes" roles as well as folks who are comfortable being seen and heard. God is calling strategic visionaries as well as practical managers.

On behalf of the yet-to-be trained CNC, **I invite each of you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to express your discipleship.** The CNC will be asked to identify five Elders (Members of Session). We will likely need two elders to serve in our Roots Division (Administration & Staff and Finance/Stewardship) and three elders to serve in our Tree Division.

The United States Government has passed a range of economic packages designed to support individuals, household and local businesses. One of the items provided is means-based financial incentives. I urge you to consider how you can best utilize these funds.

- Some in our faith community need these funds to provide basic food, shelter and transportation; **if this is YOU, deposit the funds and use them wisely.**
- Some in our faith community need these funds to provide a safety -net or create an emergency fund; **if this is YOU, deposit the funds and save them.**
- Some in our faith community do not need these funds; **if this is YOU, I ask you to prayerfully consider depositing and donating the funds to an organization supporting our neighbors-in-need.** You might consider Interfaith Food Shuttle or Urban Ministries of North Carolina or the Food Bank of North Carolina. You might also consider the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which we use to assist neighbors (in zip code 27612) and members with utilities and food (including baby formula).

All gifts come from God who invites us to be good stewards. Being a "good steward" means different things to different households, especially in times such as these.