

Saint Giles Presbyterian Church
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September 15th, 2020

A good life brings many blessings at its close. This past week I've helped to prepare for my mom's "virtual Celebration of Life." I've learned about the hole her departure creates in many people's hearts. Luke, the once pesty little brother of my best friend wrote to say what an important figure she'd been in his childhood. I found a note written by Leroy, her 10 year old student, "Mrs. Kuiken, you are the best teacher I ever had. I will remember you my whole life!"

On the flip side, I also learned a family story from a long lost Dutch relative. Evidently my great-grandfather Cornelius came to America not to avoid the draft but because he'd disliked his new stepmother so much that he shot his father. It is such a delight to have a criminal in the family!

During our lifetimes, you and I are weaving a legacy. Sometimes we are very clear what it shall be – our constant care for a beloved child, or to master a vocation, a talent. But much of the time our life gives "collateral blessings" to others of which we are quite ignorant. They occur as we simply live out of our own unique image of God.

When life is hard, as it is today, where we are weary and stressed by being confined at home; when we are shocked by the new disasters of the fires in the West; and when we are worried whether our beloved church can survive these blows – I would ask you to hold onto the "collateral blessings" of your life and this congregation. You only know in part what the legacy has been and will be.

I have a favorite "go to" Scripture that encourages me. I was touched to discover that my mom asked for it in her memorial service:

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing,
whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:8-9

May your life be rich in "collateral blessings",

Rebecca

Church Hike

The Saint Giles Children's Ministry is inviting the congregation to a hike at Durant Nature Preserve this Sunday, September 20th at 2pm.

To locate the Saint Giles group, please use the North Entrance off Durant Road and park in the lot on Camp Durant Road. The parking lot is not too big, so you should be able to locate the group!

Here is a link to the map:

<https://cityofraleighodrupal.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/drupal-prod/COR24/durant-nature-preserve-map.pdf>

For more information, reach out to Karen Patterson or contact the church office.

Zoom Coffee Hour

Join us for a virtual coffee hour at 10:30am THIS SUNDAY, Sept. 20! You provide your own coffee, we'll provide the opportunity to chat and connect with your St. Giles community. Jennifer Gospodarek will admit people from the "Waiting Room", so please sign on with a name that will be recognized.

Topic: Zoom Coffee Hour

Time: Sep 20, 2020: 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82074270116?pwd=b1hpNjBUK2FRcHlCL1pOSFZuL2I5dz09>

Meeting ID: 820 7427 0116

Passcode: 655358

To join by phone, call +1 646 876 9923 and use Meeting ID: 820 7427 0116

THESE DAYS

If you would like a copy of the These Days devotional mailed to you, please contact the church office and we will gladly send one to you.

Love 'n' Cookies



The Children's Committee has been busy trying to make sure our kids and youth know we haven't forgotten them!

We baked homemade cookies and delivered them to the kids.



It was nice to see everyone, even for a minute! Loving notes are in progress too!

“Theology for Liberal Presbyterians and Other Endangered Species”

St. Giles is partnering with West Raleigh Presbyterian Church for a book group that meets via zoom on the **first and third Wednesdays** at 7:00 pm via zoom. It will be led by Mark Zaineddin. (Christine Zaineddin's son.)

The first session takes place **this Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00 pm via Zoom**. We will be reading and discussing Douglas F. Ottati's *Theology for Liberal Presbyterians and Other Endangered Species* (see below).

If you want to participate, please contact Mark Zaineddin at zaineddin@gmail.com and he will send you the zoom link.

P.S. Don't worry about having purchased the book by Wednesday.

Here's the Amazon summary of the book:

In this witty, accessible, and concise book, theologian Doug Ottati argues that liberal Presbyterians and other liberal Protestants still have much to contribute to the contemporary world. Offering an alternative to evangelical and conservative thought that he believes now pervades the larger culture, Ottati presents what he sees as the foundations of liberal, theological thought. Writing out of the Reformed tradition and a theology of grace, he addresses current issues such as evangelism, the ordination of homosexuals, and the war on terrorism. Most important, this book is a call to liberal Presbyterians and other liberal Protestants to restate, rethink, and revise traditional theologies and beliefs in the face of contemporary knowledge and realities. This book is ideal for individual or group study.

<https://www.amazon.com/Theology-Liberal-Presbyterians-Endangered-Species/dp/066450289X>

Youth Bike Ride

The youth had a fantastic bike ride on Saturday, September 5th, 2020. We met at the Youth Center Parking lot and then headed to the greenway entrance in Oak Park on Lindsay Drive. We had a good group of youth and parents and kept our distance from each other. The ride lasted just over an hour and only had a minor mishap with a spilled smoothie. It was great to see each other in person after such a long time. We look forward to continuing to have bike rides, possibly on a monthly basis. If you feel called to help with the rides or youth please contact James at JamesBrown@saintgiles.org



If you need assistance with shopping or other errands, or can assist with these needs, please contact Emmie (office@saintgiles.org).