

# "THE MEADOWS MESSENGER"

Ann Dietz, Publisher

April 2016 Edition



## February and March Financial Reports

We hope that you find this information helpful as you pray for this congregation and evaluate your giving and participation in the worship, work and mission of this part of the Body of Christ. Sincerely, the Session and Pastor

Tithes and Offerings needed for each week of this year = \$1,702.00. This figure is based on a total 2016 budget of \$88,504.00 which was approved by the Session on December 27, 2015.

### FEBRUARY

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (4 weeks)	\$6,808.00
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (4 weeks)	\$6,336.00
This results in a budget <b>shortage</b> for this month	(\$472.00)
Total Expenses (4 weeks) resulting in an <b>overage</b> for the month	\$6,017.54 \$318.46

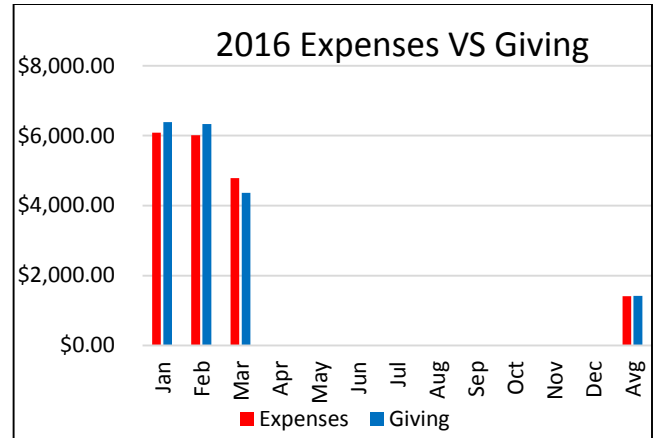
### MARCH

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (3 of 4 weeks)	\$5,106.00
Actual Tithes and Offerings received (3 of 4 weeks)	\$4,371.00
This results in a budget <b>shortage</b> for this month	(\$735.00)
Total Expenses (3 of 4 weeks) resulting in a <b>shortage</b> for the month	\$4,789.36 (\$1,490.36)

### YEAR-TO-DATE

Total Tithes and Offerings needed (12 weeks)	\$20,424.00
Actual Tithes and Offerings (12 weeks) received	\$17,096.00
This results in a budget <b>shortage</b> to this point	(\$3,328.00)
Total Expenses (12 weeks)	\$16,897.98
This results in an <b>overage</b> to expenses for the year	\$198.02

For those of you who understand a chart better than a bunch of numbers, below is the 'picture' of our YTD finances for March 2016 (through week 3):



\*\*\*\*\*

### Session Highlights February 28<sup>th</sup>

The Session approved:

- The January financial report
- A request brought by Doris Whisnant, on behalf of her siblings, to place an angel in our cemetery in honor of their mother.

The Session discussed what security actions we need to take in response to the information we received in January from the presentation by Sheriff Whisenant. They decided to have one of our men stand watch over the property during the Sunday school hour and during worship, beginning on March 06<sup>th</sup>. This will allow us to have some warning if someone comes on our property to cause harm while we are holding a worship service, funeral, wedding, etc.

### March 20<sup>th</sup>

The Session:

- Approved the February financial report.
- Approved use of the new fellowship hall by the Board of Elections for an additional primary election on Tuesday, June 07<sup>th</sup>.
- Approved a request from Randy Caudill to take the wood and sand remaining from the construction of the new building for his use.

## Session Highlights – March 20<sup>th</sup> continued

- Approved the initial content for the church's website. This information will be forwarded to John Pea who will develop the website for us. We hope that it will be up and running within 2 months.
- Approved the following calendar items submitted by Circle # 2:
  - Saturday, April 02<sup>nd</sup> – Rent-a-Table Yard Sale from 7 am to noon
  - Saturday, June 04 – Rent-a-Table Yard Sale from 7 am to noon
  - Sunday, August 07<sup>th</sup> – Teacher Appreciation Luncheon following worship
  - Saturday, October 01<sup>st</sup> – Chicken Pie/Country Ham Dinner from 4-7 pm
  - Sunday, October 09<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Appreciation Luncheon following worship

Additionally, the Session voted to close all the bank accounts we currently have at TD Bank and BB&T Bank. Those account are: The Million Pennies Fund, The Henry Harney Scholarship Fund, The Minister's Discretionary Fund and The Reserve Account. There are several reasons for this change: 1) we are paying banking fees on accounts which do not contain a lot of money and do not draw much interest, and 2) the customer service, our treasurer has received from these banks, has been poor. The money from all of these accounts will be transferred to Morganton Federal and kept as separate line items in our accounting system and on the financial statements so that all the money given to these accounts will be used as intended.

The Session also discussed the unexpectedly high power bills for the new building which we received in January and February. A decision was made to turn off the heating and air conditioning system when we are not using the building and to double check after the building

is used to make sure the system is off.

## We Have a New Resident in Our Cemetery



This angel was placed in our cemetery, during the month of March, in honor of Estelle Freeman Smith by her ten children. Estelle was a quiet, loving person – very much a homebody but a good neighbor and friend to everyone. As a Mom, she was firm and very straight forward. Even though she said what she meant and meant what she said, her children always knew that they were protected and cared for by her strong will and love.

Estelle was also a strong believer in God and Jesus, as her Savior. She attended Quaker Meadows Presbyterian for many years along with many members of her Freeman family: Elsie Freeman (her mother), John Freeman (her brother), and her grandparents on her mother's side (John and Harriet Hoyle).

Estelle's presence is still being felt in our congregation through the lives of some present members: Mae Smith and Doris Whisnant (her daughters), Kathy Staton (her granddaughter), Austin Staton (her great grandson), Destiny Estelle Good and Kira Good (her great great granddaughters) and Gladys Ross and Carolyn Patton (her nieces)

Estelle's children hope that everyone who visits our cemetery and church will be blessed by this angel and the God she represents.

### MOTHER'S DAY CARD PROJECT



Individuals and congregations are invited to honor important women on Mother's Day by giving to the *Guatemala Microloan Project*. In exchange for a monetary donation, a card will be made available explaining how the gift in their honor helps Guatemalan women grow in self-esteem, hope and freedom and to help them develop sources of economic income for themselves and their families. For further information, instructions, and to order cards contact: *Debby Vial* at *debby.vial@gmail.com* or 502-407-7402.

\*\*\*\*\*

### The Pastor's Ponderings

I have been thinking a lot recently about daily devotionals. My Alabama friend and I have had several conversations about devotional resources and recently she encouraged me (even challenged me) to write some devotional material for ordinary time. As I was pondering what to write for this newsletter, it occurred to me that a few devotional reflections for the time in between Easter and Pentecost might be fun to write and helpful to us all in continuing our journey with Jesus through the Easter season. I did not have time to write enough for each day, but there are enough for a couple meditations each week. So, let us begin with

the question: What did Jesus do after his resurrection and what might it all mean?

### Encounters with Jesus after His Resurrection Some Devotional Meditations

#### Appearance 1

#### Read Luke 24:13-35

Notice verse 17. When Jesus asked the two on the road to Emmaus what they were discussing with each other, they stopped walking. They just stopped, right where they were. When you are recovering from a painful experience, spinning over the loss of a loved one, trying to figure out what to do next, what can help you stop. What can bring you peace in the middle of the chaos which enters your life? For me it sometimes is the voice of a person I trust, the voice of a person who cares about me and is willing to help me. I wonder if somewhere in their subconscious minds these two on the road to Emmaus actually recognized Jesus' voice and it caused them to stop their activity long enough so that they might focus on what this 'fellow traveler' would say to them.

What are you struggling with today? What troubles have you spinning around in circles or just 'doing things' so you don't have to feel or think? Imagine that Jesus has come to walk with you today and be at peace in his presence.

#### Appearance 1 (continued)

#### Read Luke 24:13-35

Notice that the eyes of the two on the road to Emmaus were opened when they sat at the table with Jesus and saw him bless and break the bread. I wonder if these people might have been in the upper room with Jesus just a few nights before and had seen the way he handled the bread. Or, did Jesus have a special way of breaking bread at every meal which brought these people to the awareness of who he was? Perhaps, but maybe there is something else going on here. I can imagine that as Jesus passed the bread to them, it was the first time they had really looked at his hands. Maybe all along the road these two had looked down or were so busy trying to keep up with what he was saying that

they had not really looked at Jesus. But now, resting at the table, they would have been able to clearly see the fresh scars of the crucifixion nails and they realized the truth of the rumors they had been hearing all day – Jesus was alive! In what ways might you not be seeing Jesus because you are looking down or are preoccupied with some task? Remember, there are times when we all need to rest from our busyness and look up so that we can see Jesus, who might be sitting right in front of us.

### **Appearance 2**

#### **Read Luke 24:36-43**

In this appearance to the disciples in the upper room, Jesus offers two proofs of his identity: first he speaks to them. I wonder if the words ‘peace be with you’ was Jesus’ ordinary way of saying hello and goodbye. If so, just those words would have caused the disciples to become aware of his presence. When Jesus comes to us in prayer, does he come with peace? My experience is ‘yes’ and who better to speak peace to them (and us) than the One who has conquered death so that we might have eternal life? Second, Jesus shows the disciples the fresh nail scars in his hands and his feet. And then, Jesus invites them to touch him! He wanted them to know, without a doubt, that he was fully present with them and not just a ghost. So he invites them to use most of their senses to process his presence: hearing his voice, seeing his scars, touching his hands and feet and eating (tasting) some broiled fish with him. It is more difficult for the mind to doubt when the body is a witness to the reality of God’s presence.

When and where have you had a ‘full bodied’ experience of Jesus? In other words, in what ways do you see God, hear God, touch God, taste God’s blessings and smell God in your daily life?

### **Appearance 2 (another version)**

#### **Read John 20:19-25**

Notice the differences between this version of Jesus’ appearance to the disciples in the upper room and the version in Luke, above. First, Jesus

gives the disciples a commission: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” Given the events which have happened in the previous week, I can imagine that the disciples were a little anxious about being sent out into the world to carry on Jesus’ mission. We do not have a record of their response to this commissioning, but it would not have been surprising to hear them say things like: ‘Lord, the powers of Rome and the Sanhedrin just killed you. Are you asking us to go out into the world to die also?’ Second, as if expecting such a concern from the disciples, Jesus breathes on them and says “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Jesus knew that to send the disciples into the world without the Spirit would truly be like sending them out like sheep to the slaughter. But with the power of the Holy Spirit, who had raised Jesus from the dead, he knew they would be able to ‘turn the world upside down’.

What commissioning has God given you in your life? In other words, what has God called you to do with your life as a follower of Jesus? And, how has God prepared you with his gifts and empowered you with the Holy Spirit to fulfill that commission/calling?

### **Appearance 3**

#### **Read John 20:24-29**

Thomas was absent when Jesus appeared to the disciples in the upper room the first time. How difficult it must have been for him to hear the story of Jesus’ appearing over and over again, knowing that he had missed it. This story tells us that it was eight days later before Jesus appears to the disciples again in the upper room. So, Thomas had to endure a week’s worth of regret and disappointment. In the parable of the lost sheep, Jesus tells us that the shepherd left the ninety nine to seek out the one lost sheep. Could it be that Thomas represents the ‘lost’ sheep? Maybe he was so confused and overwhelmed by the death (and resurrection) of Jesus that he just had to be doing something, instead of sitting with the other disciples. Perhaps, he was not in the room when Jesus appeared because he was out wondering the streets of Jerusalem, lost in

his own thoughts and emotions. But Jesus did not allow him to be completely left out as an eyewitness, and appears a second time in the upper room, when Thomas was present, to give him the same blessing and opportunity to ‘touch and see’ as the rest of the disciples. I wonder if part of the lesson of this story for us is that God will not allow any of us to miss out on an encounter with him, no matter how long it takes.

None of us are eyewitnesses to Jesus and his resurrection, but Jesus blesses us anyway because we believe even though we have not seen, first-hand. Why do you believe in Jesus and his resurrection? In what ways have you experienced other ‘evidence’ of Jesus’ reality?

#### **Appearance 4**

##### **Read John 21:1-14**

I believe there is a profound spiritual lesson for us in this story. It is this: we all need some ‘down time’ after intense experiences with God. Notice what happens in this story. The disciples have been through all the drama and trauma leading up to the death of Jesus and they have seen their risen Lord. We might expect them to be running around town telling everyone they met about all that they had experienced. Some of that might have happened but this story tells us something else: Peter decides to ‘go fishing’. Fishing was Peter’s life, before Jesus changed everything, and so it was something he could do without much thought. We might say, going fishing was a way for Peter to take some ‘down time’ out on the water; it was a way for him to recharge his emotional and spiritual batteries, away from the crowds and the questions of what he was supposed to do next.

What do you do when you need some ‘down time’? Or maybe a much more important question is do you allow yourself to take some ‘down time’ away from the noise and busyness of life to recharge your emotional and spiritual batteries?

#### **Appearance 4 (continued)**

##### **Read John 21:1-14**

Notice what happens next in this story. Jesus does not appear and scold the disciples for not going door to door with the good news of Easter. Rather he participates in their ‘down time’ activity by helping them find the fish. I wonder if Jesus did this because he understood the importance of balance in our lives. By that I mean, even Jesus was not always teaching and healing and preaching; sometimes he attended wedding parties, visited with friends (Mary, Martha and Lazarus), enjoyed meals with his disciples (like the end of this passage) and spent time with the Father in prayer. This reminds me of the last verse of the hymn “Morning Has Broken”: Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning, Born of the one light, Eden saw play Praise with elation, praise every morning, God’s **recreation** of the new day. -- How should we pronounce the word in bold print? Is it recreation or rec-reation? It seems to me that one leads to the other – when we create something it can be a form of ‘play’ for us, and when we ‘play’ we find renewed energy in our lives. In other words, re-creation and rec-creation are two sides of the same coin and when we do both of them, we have better balance in our lives.

Take some time to play and know that just as the disciples encountered Jesus while they were fishing, you might just encounter Jesus in your ‘play’. What joy it is to know that Jesus might just join us in our ‘down time’ and in our ‘play’.

#### **Appearance 4 (continued)**

##### **Read John 21:15-17**

As I was pondering this passage I shifted my attention to working on a Bible study lesson from Isaiah 42. In that chapter I found this passage which is applied to Jesus: “a bruised reed he will not break and a dimly burning wick he will not quench” (verse 3). David Guzik says in his commentary on this verse: “Jesus sees the value in a bruised reed, even when no one else can. He can make beautiful music come from a bruised reed, as He puts His [breath] in it! Though a smoking flax – used for a wick on an oil lamp – is good for nothing, Jesus knows it is valuable for what it can be when it is refreshed

with oil.” It seems to me that is just what Jesus does here in this passage from John. Peter has been bruised and dimmed by the death of Jesus and the life-altering event of the resurrection. He has gone fishing in an effort to ‘reground himself’ with something familiar and now Jesus has come to send him out into ministry. But before he does, Jesus must breathe new life into the bruised reed of Peter’s spirit and rekindle the wick of Peter’s passion. With this new energy, Peter can truly become the fisher of people that Jesus intended for him to be.

Where is your spirit bruised and how has your life been dimmed by the troubles of the world? When we are struggling, Jesus still comes to us through the Holy Spirit, like he did for Peter, with gentleness and love to breathe new life into us and rekindle us for ministry in his name.

### **Appearance 5**

#### **Read Matthew 28:16-20**

Jesus instructs Mary Magdalene, in his conversation with her in the garden, to tell the disciples they will see him in Galilee. In this passage, they have finally arrived in Galilee. I can imagine that the disciples were very glad to be back home, among people they knew and loved. When Jesus appears to them on this day, they may have felt like everything was now complete, they were all back together again in their home territory. But Jesus was always on the move and this time is no exception. He comes to the disciples with instructions for their part in his continuing ministry: they are to go into the world and make disciples. But that is not all. First, Jesus sends them out with his authority – they will receive the power they need for the journey directly from the one who is sending them. Second, they are told to teach people what they have learned from Jesus, first-hand. And third, they are to remember that without the limitations of a physical body, Jesus can and will be with them always – no matter where they go and no matter what happens to them. Those same truths apply to us as we go about life in the world, witnessing that Jesus is alive and still at work all around us.

How have you shared the good news of Jesus’ resurrection with people in the world around you this past week? What have you learned from Jesus about living that you can share with people which might help them live better lives?

### **Appearance 6**

#### **Read Luke 24:50-53 & Acts 1:6-11**

In this last appearance recorded in the gospels, Jesus leads the disciples to Bethany. The choice of this town connects this last appearance to several important truths. Bethany was the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus and so it was the place where Jesus first demonstrated his power over death. Also, Bethany is the place where Jesus begins his final trip to Jerusalem by sending two of his disciples to find a donkey for him to ride into the city. And so it is the place where Jesus’ journey to the cross begins. Once there, Jesus lifts up his hands for all to see. The scars on his hands would have been a reminder for them of the victory Jesus had won. The cross was not the end of him and death could not hold him in its grasp. I wonder if each time the disciples saw those scars they found themselves whispering ‘thank you’ to God. Then, Jesus blessed them. I wonder what he said. Was it the ancient blessing of Aaron we find in Numbers 6:24-26 or was it something just for them? There is no record of it, but what we do know is that it was the last thing he did before he returned to heaven in the clouds.

And so as we come to the end of this series of devotional meditations, I leave you with this charge and blessing (adapted from the Book of Common Worship, Morning Prayer #6): God calls you to go into the world, to adventures of which you cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untaken, through perils unknown. May God continue to give you faith to go out with courage, not knowing where you go, but only that his hand is leading you and his love is supporting you through the power of the our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Pastor Yvonne*

## "A Thank You Note"

As I stated before in a thank you card to our church, this past year has been a rough road to travel for mama and our family, and you have traveled it with us. Thank you again for all of your cards, phone calls and visits with her and us.

Mama died on Tuesday morning, March 22nd (21 days after her 95th birthday). She was so happy to be going home. She told me a few days before she died, "do you know what I'm going to do when I get to heaven", I said no mama, what? She then said that she was going to find her mother and give her the biggest hug that she ever had." I waited for a few minutes, to mostly clear my throat, and I said "mama would you do me a favor too," she said "I sure will." I said would you find Bill and give him a great big hug for me too, and tell him that I love and miss him." Her answer was, "I certainly will." (Our Son, Bill, died 12 years ago)

Her death has almost been a week ago now and I haven't been able to cry for my Mother. I think one of the reasons is because, I know where she is, and she was so happy to be going home, and I am so happy for her.

Mama I love you.  
Your daughter,  
Ann

\*\*\*\*\*

## "A True Story"

"Watch out! You nearly broad sided that earl" My father yelled at me. "Can't you do anything right?" Those words hurt worse than blows. I turned my head toward the elderly man in the seat beside me, daring me to challenge him. A lump rose in my throat as I averted my eyes. I wasn't prepared for another battle.

"I saw the car Dad." "Please don't yell at me when I'm driving." My voice was measured and steady, sounding far calmer than I really felt.

Dad glared at me, then turned away and settled back. At home I left Dad in front of the television and went outside to collect my thoughts ....dark, heavy clouds hung in the air

with a promise of rain. The rumble of distant thunder seemed to echo my inner turmoil. What could I do about him? Dad had been a lumberjack in Washington and Oregon.

He had enjoyed being outdoors and had reveled in pitting his strength against the forces of nature. He had entered grueling lumberjack competitions, and had placed often. The shelves in his house were filled with trophies that attested to his prowess.

The years marched on relentlessly. The first time he couldn't lift a heavy log, he joked about it; but later that same day I saw him outside alone, straining to lift it. He became irritable whenever anyone teased him about his advancing age, or when he couldn't do something he had done as a younger man.

Four days after his sixty-seventh birthday, he had a heart attack. An ambulance sped him to the hospital while a paramedic administered CPR to keep blood and oxygen flowing.

At the hospital, Dad was rushed into an operating room. He was lucky; he survived. But something inside Dad died. His zest for life was gone. He obstinately refused to follow doctor's orders. Suggestions and offers of help were turned aside with sarcasm and insults. The number of visitors thinned, then finally stopped altogether. Dad was left alone.

My husband, Dick, and I asked Dad to come live with us on our small farm. We hoped the fresh air and rustic atmosphere would help him adjust. Within a week after he moved in, I regretted the invitation. It seemed nothing was satisfactory. He criticized everything I did. I became frustrated and moody. Soon I was taking my pent-up anger out on Dick. We began to bicker and argue.

Alarmed, Dick sought out our pastor and explained the situation. The clergyman set up weekly counseling appointments for us. At the close of each session he prayed, asking God to soothe Dad's troubled mind.



But the months were on and God was silent. Something had to be done and it was up to me to do it. The next day I sat down with the phone and methodically called each of the mental health clinics listed in the yellow pages. I explained my problem to each of the sympathetic voices that answered in vain. Just when I was giving up hope, one of the voices suddenly exclaimed, "I just read something that might help you!" Let me go get the article."

I listened as she read. The article described a remarkable study done at a nursing home. All of the patients were under treatment for chronic depression. Yet their attitudes had improved dramatically when they were given responsibility for a dog.

I drove to the animal shelter that afternoon. After I filled out a questionnaire, a uniformed officer led me to the kennels. The odor of disinfectant stung my nostrils as I moved down the row of pens. Each contained five to seven dogs. Long-haired dogs, curly-haired dogs, black dogs, spotted dogs all jumped up, trying to reach me. I studied each one but rejected one after the other for various reasons too big, too small, too much hair. As I neared the last pen a dog in the shadows of the far corner struggled to his feet, walked to the front of the run and sat down. It was a pointer, one of the dog world's aristocrats. But this was a caricature of the breed.

Years had etched his face and muzzle with shades of gray. His hip bones jutted out in lopsided triangles. But it was his eyes that caught and held my attention. Calm and clear, they beheld me unwaveringly.

I pointed to the dog. "Can you tell me about him?" The officer looked, then shook his head in puzzlement. "He's a funny one. Appeared out of nowhere and sat in front of the gate. We brought him in, figuring someone would be right down to claim him. That was two weeks ago and we've heard nothing. His time is up tomorrow." He gestured helplessly.

As the words sank in I turned to the man in horror. "You mean you're going to kill him?" Ma'am he said gently, "that's our policy. We don't have room for every unclaimed dog."

I looked at the pointer again. The calm brown eyes awaited my decision. "I'll take him," I said. I drove home with the dog on the front seat beside me. When I reached the house I honked the horn twice. I was helping my prize out of the car when Dad shuffled onto the front porch..."Ta-da! Look what I got for you, Dad!" I said excitedly.

Dad looked, then wrinkled his face in disgust. If I had wanted a dog I would have gotten one. And I would have picked out a better specimen than that bag of bones. Keep it! I don't want it", Dad waved his arm scornfully and turned back toward the house.

Anger rose inside me...it squeezed my throat muscles and pounded into my temples. "You'd better get used to him, Dad. He's staying." Dad ignored me. "Did you hear me, Dad?" I screamed. At those words Dad whirled angrily, his hands clenched at his sides, his eyes narrowed and blazing with hate. We stood glaring at each other like duelists, when suddenly the pointer pulled free from my grasp. He wobbled toward my dad and sat down in front of him. Then slowly, carefully, he raised his paw.

Dad lower jaw trembled as he stared at the uplifted paw confusion replaced the anger in his eyes. The pointer waited patiently. Then Dad was on his knees hugging the animal.

It was the beginning of a warm and intimate friendship. Dad named the pointer Cheyenne. Together he and Cheyenne explored the community. They spent long hours walking down dusty lanes. They spent reflective moments on the banks of streams, angling for tasty trout. They even started to attend Sunday services together. Dad sitting in a pew and Cheyenne lying quietly at his feet.

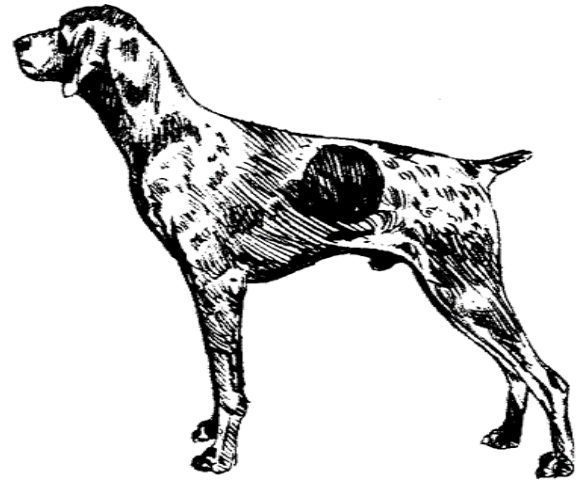
Dad and Cheyenne were inseparable throughout the next three years. Dad's bitterness faded, and he and Cheyenne made many friends. Then late one night I was startled to feel Cheyenne's cold nose burrowing through our bed covers. He had never before come in our bedroom at night. I woke Dick, put on my robe and ran into my father's room. Dad lay in his bed, his face serene. But his spirit had left quietly sometime during the night.

Two days later my shock and grief deepened when I discovered Cheyenne lying dead beside Dad's bed. I wrapped his till form in a rag rug he had slept on. As Dick and I buried him near a favorite fishing hole, I silently thanked the dog for the help he had given me in restoring Dad's peace of mind.

The morning of Dad's funeral dawned overcast and dreary. This day looks like the way I feel, I thought, as I walked down the aisle to the pews reserved for family. I was surprised to see the many friends Dad and Cheyenne had mad filling the church. The pastor began his eulogy. It was a tribute to both Dad and the dog who had changed his life.

And then the pastor turned to Hebrews 13:2. "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it." I've often thanked God for sending that angel, "he said. For me, the past dropped into place, completing a puzzle that I had not seen before: the sympathetic voice that had just read the right article....Cheyenne's unexpected appearance at the animal shelter ...his calm acceptance and complete devotion to my father ...and the proximity of their deaths...and suddenly I understood. I knew that God had answered my prayers after all.

Life is too short for drama or petty things, so laugh hard, love truly and forgive quickly. Live while you are alive. Forgive now, those who made you cry. You might not get a second time. God answers prayers in His time...not ours. Amen.



\*\*\*\*\*

### "Up Date Your Dictionary"

1. Arbitrator: A cook that leaves Arby's to work at McDonald's.
2. Bernadette: The act if torching a mortgage.
3. Burglarize: What a crook sees through.
4. Avoidable: What a bullfighter tries to do.
5. Counterfeiter: People who put together kitchen cabinets.
6. Left Bank: What the bank robbers did when their bag was full of money.
7. Heroes: What a man in a boat does.
8. Parasites: What you see from the Eiffel Tower.
9. Paradox: Two Physicians.
10. Pharmacist: A helper on a farm.
11. Relief: What trees do in the spring.
12. Rubberneck: What you do to relax your wife.
13. Selfish: What the owner of a seafood store does.
14. Sudafed: Brought litigation against a government official.

\*\*\*\*\*

### "Grace"

There once was a man named George Thomas, a pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to the church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit. Eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak....

"I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked, "What do you have there, son?"

"Just some old birds," came the reply.

"What are you going to do with them?" I asked.

"Take them home and have fun with 'em he answered. I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time." "But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later.

What will you do then?"

"Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy, "they like birds. I'll take 'em to them."

The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?" "Huh??!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!" "How much?" the pastor asked again.

The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10.00. The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free.

Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit, and then the pastor began to tell this story: One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting." "Yes sir, I just caught a world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!"

What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked. "Oh, I'll kill 'em," Satan glared proudly. "How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you. You don't want those people!"

"How much?" Jesus asked again.

Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your blood, tears and your life."

Jesus said "DONE!" Then He paid the price. The pastor then picked up the cage and walked from the pulpit.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **What Are You Going to Do?**

I thank god every day for my blessed life. I'm not rich, I'm not all that healthy now, but I do have a roof over my head, clothes on my back, food on my table, a family that loves me, and lifelong friends to get me through.

I'd say I have a lot to be thankful for. AMEN!!

\*\*\*\*\*

A roughneck called as a witness in court was asked, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God? The witness replied coolly. "I'll try anything once."

\*\*\*\*\*

### **"Top 8 Morons of 2014"**

1. "Will the real dummy please stand up?" AT&T fired President John Walter after nine months, saying he lacked intellectual leadership. He received a \$26 million severance package. Perhaps it's not Walter who's lacking intelligence.
2. With a little help from our friends. Police in Oakland, Ca. spent two hours attempting to subdue a gunman who had barricaded himself inside his home. After firing ten tear gas canisters, officers discovered that the man was standing beside them in the police line, shouting, "please come out and give yourself up."
3. What was Plan B? An Illinois man, pretending to have a gun, kidnapped a motorist and forced him to drive to two

different automated teller machines, wherein the kidnapper proceeded to withdraw money from his own bank accounts.

4. The Getaway. A man walked into a Topeka, Kansas Kwik Shop and asked for all the money in the cash drawer. Apparently, the take was too small, so he tied up the store clerk and worked the counter himself for three hours until police showed up and grabbed him.
5. Did I Say That? Police in L.A. had good luck with a robbery suspect who just couldn't control himself during a lineup. When detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat the words: "Give me all your money or I'll shoot," the man shouted, "that's not what I said."
6. Are We Communicating? A man spoke frantically into the phone: "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart". "Is this her first child?" the doctor asked. "No", the man shouted, "this is her husband".
7. Not the Sharpest Tool in the Shed. In Modesta, Ca. Steven Richard King was arrested for trying to hold up a Bank of America branch without a weapon. King used a thumb and a finger to simulate a gun. Unfortunately, he failed to keep his hand in his pocket. (Hellooooooo).
8. "The Grand Finale!" Last summer, down on Lake Isabella, located in the high desert, an hour east of Bakersfield, Ca., some folks, new to boating, were having a problem. No matter how hard they tried, they couldn't get their brand new 22 foot boat going. It was very sluggish in almost every maneuver, no matter how much power they applied. After about an hour of trying to make it go, they putted into a nearby marina thinking someone there may be able to tell them what was wrong. A thorough topside check revealed everything in perfect working condition. The engine ran fine, the out-drive went up and down, and the propeller was the correct size and pitch. So, one of the marina guys jumped in the water to check

underneath. He came up choking on water, he was laughing so hard. Under the boat, still strapped securely in place, was the trailer!

Now remember these are all true stories and these people vote and have children! (Editor's Note: Although these are 2 years old, thought you would still get a kick out of them.)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **The Goings on at Quaker Meadows for April**

Elders on Call: Apr 3-9 – Doris Whisnant; Apr 10-16- Rich Bruder; Apr 17-23- Bennett Ross; Apr 24-30- Ann Dietz

### **Children's Sermons & Monitors**

Apr 3<sup>rd</sup> – Heather Kramer/Betty Williams  
Apr 10<sup>th</sup> – Darleen Caputo/Gladys Ross  
Apr 17<sup>th</sup> – Ruth Pershing-outing w/children  
Apr 24<sup>th</sup> – Heather Kramer/Lelia Bruder

### **Other Things that are Happening this Month**

Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> – Rent-A-Table Yard & Bake Sale 7-12

\*\*\*\*\*

### **The Other Side of Life**

Two hunters had been out for several hours and one of them was growing uneasy. Panic finally overtook him. "We're lost!" he cried to his buddy. "Whatever shall we do?"

"Keep your shirt on!" the other hunter said. "Shoot an extra deer. The game warden will be here in a minute and a half."

\*\*\*\*\*

An angry man stormed into the postmaster's office, waving pieces of mail.

"For weeks I've been pestered with threatening letters," he shouted, "and I want something done about it!"

"I'm sure we can help," the postmaster said soothingly. "That's against the law. Have you any idea who is sending; you these letters?"

"I certainly do," the man snapped. "It's those darned income tax people!"

\*\*\*\*\*

A Foursome of senior golfers hit the course with waning enthusiasm for the sport.

"These fairways seem to be getting longer and longer", one said.

"And these hills are getting steeper and steeper as the years go by," another complained.

"You know, the sand traps seem to be bigger than I remember them too," the third said.

After hearing enough from his buddies, the oldest and wisest of the four men piped up and said, "Oh. Just be thankful we're still on this side of the grass."

\*\*\*\*\*

### **"KEY LIME PIE"**

1. 6 egg yolks
2. 2 (14 oz) cans sweetened condensed milk
3. 1cup Realime lime juice from concentrate
4. Green food coloring (optional)

Combine and beat above ingredients. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake at 325 for 40 minutes. Cool and chill in refrigerator before serving.