



The Centenarian

From the Pastor's Desk

Centenary UMC Family,

Hebrews 10:23 states, "Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."

We are beginning our 4th month of social distancing, self-isolation, wearing masks, and not gathering as a church for in person activities. It is still hard for me to wrap my head and heart around this matter, but I must face reality. It is hard, because I miss our Sunday morning routine for Sunday School and worship, our gathering for in person Bible Study, our differing business meeting which must occur, our mission activities such as the Community Breakfast/Clothes Closet and the UMAR dinners. Community is so very vital, and I miss seeing each of you, offering a hug or a handshake, sharing a laugh or a prayer, and simply being in one another's presence.

It makes the journey even more difficult to know that once we gather again, the handshakes and hugs are off limits, we will need to be 6 feet apart, and the recommendation by those who are offering in person worship is that there should not be hymn singing. I know how difficult this will be, especially as hymns and music are such an important aspect of worship for so many people. Maybe we can hum?

The world has changed, and we cannot do anything about it. We must now place ourselves out there and do as it is said, change with the time, the circumstances, the day. This is not easy, but very trying for each person. I know that my instinct when I see someone is to offer my hand in greeting, or to embrace someone in grief. I will have to check myself.

On June 18, the Clergy Session of the Western North Carolina Conference met over a Zoom conference call. It was very different. I was not at the beautiful Lake Junaluska, surrounded by the mountains which I love, sitting with my colleagues, and honestly, complaining about the heat of Stuart Auditorium. The things we take for granted, the good and the not so good, are now the things for which we yearn.

The scripture from Hebrews is a verse which reminds us that daily we must wake up and grab on to the hope in Christ, which we profess, and know that Jesus is faithful in every circumstance.

We must remember that throughout history there have been challenges. Christ is with us through them, and always will be until establishing God's Kingdom for eternity.

I thank each of you for continuing to be faithful to God's mission and ministry – for being conduits of hope every day. I have so appreciated Betty, Lisa, Lori, Faye, and Anita as they have been a lifeline in offering our recorded worship services for you. They have unselfishly given of their time, talents, gifts, service, and witness to Jesus. I cannot thank them enough for their dedication to be a part of the worship experience for Centenary UMC.

Thank you to all the Bible Study participants and Book Club members who have used the computer to participate in the differing gatherings. It can be a challenge to pay attention

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and be fully present through the visual of the computer or by calling in on the phone and listening, but the Holy Spirit has led us to be faithful to that which we have committed.

The Leadership of Centenary UMC has also been dedicated and faithful to the course, meeting through Zoom. It was not an easy decision not to meet again for in person worship during July, but with 5 medical personnel on the Ad Council, we listened to their advice for the safety and demographics of our congregation, and the consensus was made. The Ad council will meet again on July 12 at 4:00 PM via zoom to evaluate for the coming months of worship.

Our hope is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. Our hope is in the Lord.

The changes which the Covid-19 pandemic have brought on are challenging enough, but the unrest within our nation is difficult.

The United Methodist Church has sent our many articles, statements, and resources regarding the Racial Relations. I have included in this *Centenarian* the letter from the Southeastern Jurisdiction of Bishops. There is a lot of information to be gleaned from our Conference Webpage at www.wnccumc.net. I encourage you to go to that site for information as to how the Church is taking a hard look at itself and standing against racism.

I believe that everyday God gifts us with the opportunity to love God, love neighbors, do good. In these differing days, I am trying to be intentional in my praying, worshipping, talking, learning, and thinking. We have all been gifted opportunity to place our hope in Christ, then listen through prayer, and act in ways which the Holy Spirit leads.

I am currently reading a book which has been recommended by many in understanding white privilege and racism. Our daughter, Meredith, was invited by her Wesley Foundation to read it before coming back to campus in the Fall. The book is, *So You Want to Talk about Race*, by Ijeoma Oluo. I ordered it off Amazon. I feel that it is important that we as a faith community engage in conversation together. I would like to invite you to get this book and read it, and then in September, we will have some offerings for round table discussions. I encourage you to read the book and to be challenged by its contents. Let us learn together through discernment, prayer, and conversation. This does not necessarily mean agreement, but the ability to sit across the table from one another in conversation is certainly a step in the right direction for both personal and communal growth. Silence is almost a louder response than a verbal response. Let us not be silent.

As you read the rest of the *Centenarian*, please look for the new Bible Study offerings for the Book of Romans which will begin in August as well as the new Book Club selection which will also take place in August.

We will continue our sermon series on Hope through the month of July. We have studied hope through the Psalms and Hope through the Prophets. I pray that you will continue to worship in the Spirit of hope as you are able.

I thank the members of the Centenary UMC care team for their calls and cards to our membership.

Do not hesitate to call me at 336-285-5081 or 336-299-9643 should there be a need, a concern, or simply a joy to share. The church wants to be there for you during this time and always.

My Dad's Mom, my Gran, loved to read. Both of my Grandmother's gifted me with the love of reading. Gran was very faithful and committed to her UMW circle at Fletcher UMC. She had devotional books which she would use for circle programs. She liked the poems of Helen Steiner Rice. I want to leave you with one of her poems as a sign of Hope in the Lord:

In the Grace, Peace, and Love of Jesus Christ,

Kelley

Thank You to United Methodist Men

"Thanks for the plant you sent me. I had a stint put in for an aneurysm near my heart. I'm doing good. Thanks for the prayers and concern." —Charles Gordon

Ad Council Meeting

All Ad Council members should attend the July 12 meeting at 4:00 PM, via Zoom on your computer or by phone. Contact Kelley Groce kgroce@wnccumc.net for details.

THIS TOO SHALL PASS by Helen Steiner Rice.



This Too Shall Pass
by: Helen Steiner Rice

If I can endure for this minute
Whatever is happening to me,
No matter how heavy my heart is
Or how dark the moment may be-
If I can remain calm and quiet
With all the world crashing about me,
Secure in the knowledge God loves me
When everyone else seems to doubt me-
If I can but keep on believing
What I know in my heart to be true,
That darkness will fade with the morning
And that this will pass away, too-

Then nothing in life can defeat me
For as long as this knowledge remains
I can suffer whatever is happening
For I know God will break all of the chains
That are binding me tight in the darkness
And trying to fill me with fear-
For there is no night without dawning
And I know that my morning is near.

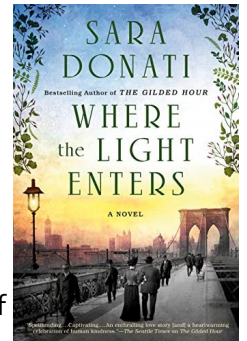
Church Garden

The Boy Scouts have been hard at work. They removed the old fence and repainted all the raised beds. A new crop of vegetables are growing quickly. Please feel free to stop by and check it out. If you see something like a green tomato, please help yourself. The Scouts will be maintaining the garden all summer. The church garden is celebrating its tenth anniversary! It was given to the church from our 100th Eagle Scout back in 2010. His name is Jonathan Ingram, and he visits it all the time. It was made as a community garden for everyone to enjoy it's blessings.

Centenary Starlight Book Club

The Centenary UMC Starlight Book Club will meet on August 20 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. You can participate via phone or computer. Email Kelley to receive your Zoom invitation kgroce@wnccumc.net. Our book discussion for August will be *Where the Light Enters* by Sara Donati (sequel to *The Gilded Hour*)

From the international bestselling author of *The Gilded Hour* comes Sara Donati's enthralling epic about two trail-blazing female doctors in nineteenth-century New York



Obstetrician Dr. Sophie Savard returns home to the achingly familiar rhythms of Manhattan in the early spring of 1884 to rebuild her life after the death of her husband. With the help of Dr. Anna Savard, her dearest friend, cousin, and fellow physician she plans to continue her work aiding the disadvantaged women society would rather forget.

As Sophie sets out to construct a new life for herself, Anna's husband, Detective-Sergeant Jack Mezzanotte calls on them both to consult on two new cases: the wife of a prominent banker has disappeared into thin air, and the corpse of a young woman is found with baffling wounds that suggest a killer is on the loose. In New York it seems that the advancement of women has brought out the worst in some men. Unable to ignore the plight of New York's less fortunate, these intrepid cousins draw on all resources to protect their patients.

All book club participants, please e-mail Kelley at kgroce@wnccumc.net by August 10, the list of recommended books to consider for the months of September, October, November, and December. Kelley will compile the list, send it out to all participants, and ask you to then choose your top four, which will then be shared on August 20.



July Birthdays

1st	Paul Jones and Addison Snider
2nd	Caroline Phillips
3rd	Bruce Harkins
4th	Mark Snider
5th	Steven Hennings and Noel VonGlahn
8th	Mary VonGlahn
9th	Hazel Perritt and R. David Blackman
10th	Sara Jones and Emily Lawing
11th	Rives Deuterman
13th	Mona Sartin
14th	Jim John
15th	Joann Martin
16th	Leith Singletary
18th	Louise Woods and Juli Hurin
19th	Hermann Daiber
23rd	Barbara Albright and Sonny Robinson
24th	Fran Williams
25th	Joel Phipps and Betty Shephard
26th	Maddie Clark
28th	Bonnie Bradham
29th	Brad Cauley
31st	Thomas Lile and Douglass Gilbert

If you, or a loved one, have been left off the birthday list, please contact Lisa Bunch at 336-299-9643.



Bible Study

Romans: Interpretation Bible Studies - The letter to the Romans is the pinnacle of Paul's writing and thinking. Paul instructs his readers, both then and now, to be transformed from this world into living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God, following the example of Jesus Christ. Our study group will meet on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM beginning August 4. You may order your book from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com), [Christianbook.com](https://www.christianbook.com) or [Cokesbury](https://www.cokesbury.com). Please have the first chapter read by our first meeting day. Call the church, or e-mail Kelley kgroce@wnccumc.net to let her know if you are going to participate

Coming into the Church

If you need to enter the church building, to pick something up or drop something off, we ask that you please wear a mask and use hand sanitizer or antibacterial wipes on door knobs and surfaces that you touch. The building remains closed to outside meetings & groups through July. If you have any questions call the church office at 336-299-9643 and leave a message for Lisa Bunch.

Homemade Food—Delivered!

Alex and Julie Hurin have been busy in the church kitchen with some new creations! They have been making and delivering Brunswick Stew, Chicken Tetrazzini, Chicken Pot Pie, Shepherd's Pie, Cheesy Beefy Noodle Bake, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Chicken Penne Bake, Peach Dump Cake, Apple Crisp, Chocolate Brownies, and Peanut Butter Brownies with Chocolate to members of the congregation and the community. Each delicious entrée is a suggested donation of \$6, baked desserts are \$4, and brownies are \$1.50. If you would like to have one delivered to your door, contact Alex at 336-457-0130 or email him at a2lman@aol.com

The Upper Room

Centenary UMC has copies of the July/August *Upper Room* available in regular or large print. If you would like to have one delivered or mailed to you, please tell your Congregational Care Team member when they call, or leave a message with the church at 336-299-9643.

Wednesday Prayer Group

If you would like to be a part of the prayer group by phone or Zoom meeting on the computer – please call Kelley at 336-285-5081 or e-mail at kgroce@wnccumc.net. The group convenes each Wednesday from 5:00-5:30 PM in a time of prayer for church. All are welcome. Prayer is our lifeline. Join in the effort.

Financial Update

Year-to-Date Giving/Expenses—Ending 6/30/2020

Revenues	\$ 171,548
Expenses	\$ 172,359
Profit or (Loss) for 6 months	\$ (811)
Unrestricted cash available for operations:	\$111,149
SBA PPP Loan \$38,700 received. Of that amount,	\$28,565 has been spent on salaries and utilities, so far.

Titus 2:13-14

D S W P R A I L U C E P F
 E U O S P E O P L E P O H
 S O R U N T O Z H A M H E
 S I K S S T E T P E I V U
 E R S E Y A A P H M A S S
 L O Q J L T E E S G A I P
 B L D O M A I E R V I G U
 E G U B R E L U I G O M R
 I S D I M F E O Q O I O I
 H N N B I F U D D I D F F
 C G T S I R H C E O N X Y
 N G N I K O O L G R J I A

“**LOOKING** for that **BLESSED HOPE**, and the **GLORIOUS APPEARING** of the **GREAT GOD** and our **SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**; Who **GAVE HIMSELF** for us, that he **MIGHT REDEEM** us from all **INIQUITY**, and **PURIFY UNTO** himself a **PECULIAR PEOPLE**, **ZEALOUS** of **GOOD WORKS.**”

Courtesy of wordsearchrus.com

Note: We used the King James Bible to produce this word search, which is the public domain.

Prayer Concerns

Linda and Harold Billings daughter, Laura Gardner, and grandson, Jack Gardner, who have tested positive for COVID-19 *without* symptoms, and for their granddaughter, Abby Gardner, who tested positive *with* symptoms of cough and headache. All are doing well now. Abbie Samuel, Jean Brincefield, Charles Gordon, Dot Frye, Robert Hemphill, Frank York, Trudy Sillmon, Sally Goin, and Bianca York’s mother, Rachel Flores. Pray for Barbara Grey, Teresa John’s mom. Pat Gunn had surgery on June 25. Pray for Kim Self, Larry Swindell’s niece, she has a blood clot in her brain. Also pray for Margaret Turnage’s brother, Hugh Burton, and Becky Ensign’s father-in-law, Chuck Sartore, who is improving. Pat Stevenson is scheduled for hip surgery on August 5, please keep her in your prayers. Prayers for Julie Hurin’s cousin, Sherri Nebe, who had surgery on July 2 for possible cancer, and for Kelley’s friend’s nephew, Dillion, who is a young person with COVID-19 and is in respiratory distress. Prayers for Mandy Durham, Betty Durham’s daughter, and for the family & friends of Dave Frazier. Fay Elliott asks for prayer for her friend, Michael. Praise that Lisa Bunch’s COVID test was negative, but it did cause the delay in getting the *Centenarian* published.

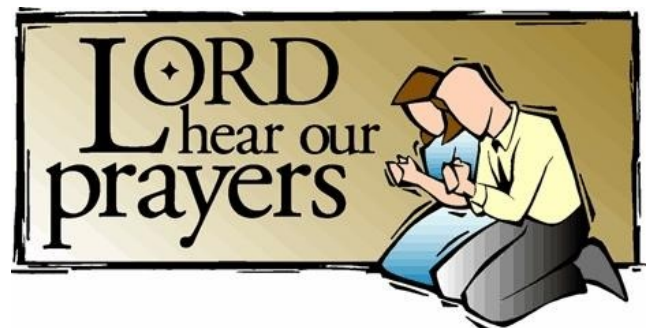
Congratulations!



Bill & Celia Eller will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on July 23, and Jim & Diane Stanley will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on July 30, 2020.

Missions & Outreach

- ◆ **Out of the Garden Project**—Centenary will continue to collect monetary donations in honor or in memory of a loved one during the month of July with proceeds going to Out of the Garden Project and recognitions in the *August Centenarian*. Make your check payable to Centenary UMC and put “OTGP” in the memo line. Out of the Garden Project feeds 1,900 students and families every week. Centenary members contributed \$495 in June!
- ◆ **Greensboro Urban Ministry** Please continue to support Greensboro Urban Ministry with your donations of non-perishable food items, because they have increased the number of times a year a family can receive assistance. You will need to take donations to their Food Pantry Loading dock (drop off location) is 1002 S. Eugene Street, Greensboro, NC, 27406. Donations may be dropped off Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM—5:00 PM .



Brothers and Sisters:

As president of the **Southeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops** my heart rejoices over the bold, courageous, and compassionate offering of confession, lament, and call to action by our white brothers and sisters of the SEJ College and the gracious acceptance of this act of truth telling as we journey toward the Beloved Community. It is our belief that such actions enhance our work and witness to a hurting community seeking moral leadership in this time of racial upheaval.

We see this statement as a reversal of the sentiments of the letter sent to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by a group of clergymen that caused him to write the eloquent and brutally honest "Letter From a Birmingham Jail."

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/letter-birmingham-jail>

We have longed for white voices of power and influence to stand with us. It is an amazing gift to hear and work with colleagues joining voices in solidarity with African Americans who have been both prophet and victim. It is only when the privileged who have benefited from the evils of racism take a stand that real change happens. It is our prayer that the church, the nation, and our world will no longer place the burden on the oppressed to liberate themselves. It is impossible to free yourself when the power of systemic injustice has its knee on your neck.

We pray that what follows will serve as a model for our brothers and sisters who have lived a life of white privilege to speak a gracious yet painful word of truth as we journey together toward real transformation, hope, and love in this racially charged atmosphere. We share this work of solidarity with these words from our fellow White Bishops with thanksgiving and hope that others will join us.

Bishop Leonard Fairley

We, the White Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, call upon all United Methodists to stand with and see our Black brothers and sisters.

As White American Bishops, we stand up and stand with our Black Bishops in the Church who have consistently named and called out the systemic and sinful practice of discrimination that has been pervasive in the United States since the first slaves walked the shores of this land. For our failure to join our sisters and brothers we ask forgiveness.

As White American Bishops, we stand up and stand with the Black Communities across our Episcopal Areas recognizing that we who have been in positions of power and privilege have been silent. In our silence we have and do sin. We implore all United Methodists across the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church to exercise influence and power to be agents of repentance, reconciliation, reformation, and restoration in a system that has failed to bring hope to all God's children of color.

As White American Bishops, we stand up and stand with all persons who live in fear of the very systems designed to protect them.

As White American Bishops, we stand up and stand with all persons whose anger has reached the point of intolerance due to failure after failure to change systemic racial injustice which has created the climate where black lives can be snuffed out without consequence.

As White American Bishops, we stand up, stand with, and stand against any systems of injustice that treat people differently because of the color of their skin. We call on the people called Methodist to live fully into our baptismal vows to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin.

We believe that the soul of our nation needs to be examined which means that each person, individually, needs to engage in self-examination. Self-examination includes educating oneself about the roots of racism from slavery to lynching to racial segregation and Jim Crow to contemporary presumptions of guilt, incarceration, and police violence. Self-examination means scrutinizing one's beliefs, attitudes, and actions. A **beginning** place is for each of us to read "Letter From a Birmingham Jail" written by Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1963. [See link above.]

God calls us individually and collectively to take action.

In our Baptism we are called to accept the freedom and power given by God to resist evil, injustice, and oppression however, wherever, and whenever they are present.

We, the White American Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Church, cry out to the people of The United Methodist Church to unite our hearts, our minds, our souls, and our strength now to step into this present brokenness by seeing those we have chosen not to see. We do so believing that out of the pain of the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner, Philando Castile, Trayvon Martin, and countless others whose names have faded, that these senseless killings will stop and healing can begin.

Let us now, this day, stand up and stand with our Black brothers and sisters so that we will be united as one body in Christ, redeemed by his blood. May we be one in Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world until Christ comes in final victory.

This is our deepest prayer.

The Holy Work Before Us

We now ask you to join us in recommitting ourselves to non-violently exposing and opposing injustice, racism, and violence even when it resides in our own hearts. We must not allow our righteous indignation and prophetic calls for justice to become spiritually hollow with no moral integrity to speak into a world that is in desperate need of the fresh bread of hope.

We hear and see it in the protests. The world grows weary of injustice where the marginalized become voiceless and invisible living at the mercy of power. If we are unwilling to walk the path of Jesus Christ and truly acknowledge white privilege, then all our statements simply become high sounding pontificated documents joining other statements gathering dust on the shelves of empty promises.

With your prayers and actions joined with ours, we can answer the cries we hear in the midst of protests—cries of injustice, fear, and anger, that when gone unanswered turn violent. If Jesus is indeed the answer let us dare to see one another as beloved children of the living God deserving of love, mercy, and justice.

We offer our example to the church. In the name of Jesus Christ this is our work and we dare not abandon it or the world because we desire privilege and power over what the Lord requires of us.

Please join us in this holy work of dismantling racism in its subtle and overt forms. If not us, who? If not now, when?

Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

Bishop Lawson Bryan	Bishop Kenneth L. Carder	Bishop Kenneth H. Carter
Bishop Ray Chamberlain	Bishop Young Jin Cho	Bishop Charles Crutchfield
Bishop Lindsey Davis	Bishop Leonard Fairley	Bishop Bob Fannin
Bishop David Graves	Bishop Larry Goodpaster	Bishop Al Gwinn
Bishop Jonathan Holston	Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson	Bishop Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr.
Bishop Charlene Kammerer	Bishop James King	Bishop Clay Lee
Bishop Paul Leeland	Bishop Sharma Lewis	Bishop Richard Looney
Bishop William T. McAlilly	Bishop Lawrence McCleskey	Bishop Jack Meadors
Bishop C. P. Minnick, Jr.	Bishop Joe Pannel	Bishop Bob Spain
Bishop Thomas B. Stockton	Bishop James Swanson	Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett	Bishop Hope Morgan Ward	Bishop Mike Watson
Bishop William Willimon	Bishop Dick Wills	

The Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church

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WORSHIP with us online!

<https://www.CentenaryUMCGreensboro.org/>



Our Mission:

To experience God's life changing love and take God's love into the world.

Our Vision:

To be a church where everyone is involved in ministry.

Gifts for the Budget: May 27—June 29

June Gifts for Out of the Garden Project

David & Trudy Sillmon

Sally Goin

In Memory Anita Trumpler-Rich's parents,

Alfred and Jean Parker Trumpler

In Honor of Emily Lawing's dad, Randy Wagoner

In Honor of Emily Lawing's father-in-law, Jim Lawing

In Honor of Emily Lawing's father-in-law, Marc White

In Memory of Emily Lawing's papa, Bob Wagoner

In Honor of Meredith Groce's dad, David Groce

In Honor of Kelley Groce's dad, Steve Greene

In Honor of David Groce's dad, Edwin R. Groce

In Memory of Kelley Groce's papa, Shufford William Wall

In Honor of Paul Long, by Dawn Long

In Memory of Dawn Long's dad, Denny Denton

In Memory of Paul Long's dad, Roy Long

In Honor of Kelley Groce's birthday, by Paul & Dawn Long

In Honor of Duilla Harkin's birthday, by Paul & Dawn Long

In Memory of Edwin F. Puckett, by Duilla Harkins

In Memory of Paul D. Harkins, by Duilla Harkins

In Memory of Joseph E. Harkins, by Duilla Harkins

In Honor of Kelley Groce's birthday, by Duilla Harkins

In Memory of Betty Durham's father, Vernon Lewis, Sr.

In Memory of Betty Durham's grandfather, Clyde Aiken, Sr.

In Memory of Bob White

Betty & Ben Cone, Jr.

In Memory of Louise Price (Brenda Wilson's mother)

Charles & Nancy Gordon

Coak & Nancy May

Mark & Debra Schlueter

Jim & Diane Stanley

In Memory of Betty Causey

Roy Michaux

Thank You

I'd like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the membership of Centenary, to thank Kelley for her leadership and faithfulness during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Proverbs 16:9 tells us, "we can make our plans but the Lord directs our steps." When the calendar turned to 2020, no one could have imagined the trials we are now facing.

Leading virtual services is probably not something Kelley prepared for when she was in seminary, but she has handled it admirably and with true grace. She has shown us that the church is not the building, but it is all of us and we are still worshipping, even if we are not together.

Kelley, Anita Trumpler-Rich, Lori Johnson, Faye Elliott, Lisa Bunch, and Betty Durham have been the hands and feet of Christ during this time with the hard work they have all put into our weekly services, which are recorded and shown on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel. They all deserve our heartfelt thanks.

Chris Bagwell, Lay Leader