



## PASTOR CORNFIELD'S

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### HOME BIBLE STUDY SERIES: "THE TEACHINGS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL" Lesson 5: "Godly Hope"

Romans 5:1-5 (NIV): <sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup>And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

This passage from Romans has been a source of hope and comfort for me during some of the most difficult trials in my life. The Apostle Paul begins by reminding believers of the peace we have **through our Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom we have gained access to salvation and eternal life. Our salvation comes not through good intentions or good works, but rather by

God's grace through our faith. Thus, the first part of this passage addresses **peace with God**—which speaks to our condition of being justified before God as a result of our belief in Christ. However, the second part of this passage deals with quite a different matter—the **peace of God**: God does not just want us to be at peace with Him; he wants us to experience the joy and comfort of being His children. He wants us to know emotional and spiritual peace regardless of our life circumstances.

The vehicle for such peace may not be what we hoped or expected. The Apostle Paul tells us that to achieve such peacefulness, we need to give thanks in our suffering (we may not **feel** thankful, yet we are to **give** thanks nonetheless). When we thank God for the suffering and trials He has allowed into our lives, amazing things happen. First, giving thanks during our trials builds up the ability to endure and to persevere. It prepares the groundwork to handle future

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## Thank You From . . .

### MISSION COMMITTEE.

*Operation Christmas Child.* Thank you to everyone for your support of Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box project. Eighty-four boxes were collected and delivered. Total shipping cost was \$588, special offerings totaled \$379, and the Mission Committee donated \$209 toward the shipping.

*Kingsway Food Baskets.* Many thanks to all who donated to the Kingsway Food Baskets for the month of November. We delivered 44 boxes of dressing, 21 cans of vegetables, 8 cans of beans, 7 cans of soup, 7 packages of gravy, 6 jars of chili sauce, 4 cans of fruit, 12 packs of chewing gum, 2 each of: baby food, chili, and 1 each of: spaghetti, grits, cookies, and chives. Thanks so much for a job well done all year.

*Food for December will be "Anything Goes."  
Delivery date will be Tuesday, December 20.*

**MARY LINDA WOLFE.** Our sons, Kenny and Doug, send thanks to all who sent birthday greetings for their October and November birthdays and for your continued prayers. Isaac and I were blessed to see and speak with them via Skype on Thanksgiving Day, and they are both well. We are all looking forward to them leaving Afghanistan in early January.



## PRAYER CONCERNS

*Please keep in your prayers—*

### BETSY ANDERSON

*(recovery from knee surgery)*

### MARY GLENN DAVIS

*(stress fracture in her foot)*

### ETHAN

*(little boy hospitalized at Duke)*

### MARTHA & LOIS

*(Jeanne Alexander's mother - broken ribs from a fall and sister - her mother's caregiver)*

### MARY LOU GORDON

### WAYNE McMANAMA

*(shoulder)*

### WELDON SHAW

*(upcoming surgery)*

### JOHN SNARR

*(Dolores' son; recovery from surgery)*

### W. R. E. PROGRAM

### OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS & THEIR CAREGIVERS

### OUR NATION, LEADERS, & MILITARY

### GAIL S.

*(Missionary Work)*

### DOUGLAS WOLFE

### KENNETH WOLFE

*(Serving with the military in Afghanistan)*

## PASTOR'S CORNER

*(continued from front page)*

trials with greater patience and less distress. Second, when Christians get to the point in life where they can thank God for their trials as well as their joys, they grow in Godly character. Their sense of well being is controlled much less by their circumstances and much more by their trust in God, and His promise to be present with us during all of life's seasons.

Third, and finally, when suffering builds endurance and Godly character, we actually become hopeful in the midst of our trials. We come to recognize that even when life seems to be treating us unfairly, that placing our hope in God will never be disappointing or embarrassing. God's love which has been poured into our hearts will sustain us during our trials. God's love will enable us to serve others joyfully, even

when our own lives seem to be falling apart. And God's love will enable us to praise and enjoy Him regardless of whether life is calm or stormy. As we begin the Advent season, let us joyfully remember the great hope we have in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who once came to earth to save lost sinners, and who will return again to bring us to our eternal home, where we will live out the rest of our days in His glorious presence.

In Christ,

*Keith*



### Communion will be Observed on December 18

“The invitation to the Lord’s Supper is extended to all who have been baptized, remembering that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. In preparing to receive Christ in this Sacrament, the believer is to confess sin and brokenness, to seek reconciliation with God and neighbor, and to trust in Jesus Christ for cleansing and renewal. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may come to the Table in order to be assured of God’s love and grace in Christ Jesus. Baptized children who are being nurtured and instructed in the significance of the invitation to the Table and the meaning of their response are invited to receive the Lord’s Supper, recognizing that their understanding of participation will vary according to their maturity.”



**Holy Communion**

*(Book of Order, W-2.4011a,b)*

**BIRTHDAY CARD  
SHOWERS REQUESTED FOR**

**VIRGINIA WHITESELL**

P.O. Box 68  
Fairfield, VA 24435

*Celebrates her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on December 8*

**MARIE FLINT**

267 Otterbein Farm Lane  
Steeles Tavern, VA 24476

*Celebrates her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 27*

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**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

**MARY KATHRYN BLACKWELL**

65 BEULAH DRIVE, VILLA 4  
RAPHINE, VA 24472

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**NP IN SEARCH OF NEW  
ORGANIST—CAROLE  
WILL RETIRE DECEMBER 31**

After nearly 25 years as our organist, Carole Smyer will be retiring at the end of December. We will miss Carole's extraordinary talent and her enthusiasm. She has served New Providence very well.

We are advertising in local and regional papers for a replacement. If you are aware of any possible candidates for this position, please encourage them to apply or speak with Diane Bates (348-5592) or Jack Pearson (464-8797).



**VIRGINIA WHITESELL &**

**PHIL LUNSFORD**

December 8

**WALLACE POOLE**

December 10

**TY MADDOX**

December 11

**STEVEN MADDOX**

December 13

**BRIAN SANDRIDGE**

December 14

**KRISTEN BROWN**

December 18

**TERRI GORDON**

December 19

**MARIE FLINT**

December 27

**CLAY KELLY**

December 31

**FRANK & SUE SMILEY**

Anniversary December 15

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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE FROM PASTOR KEITH

Our Christian Education program has had a number of dedicated teachers and leaders who have served God faithfully for many years, and we thank them for their years of loving and faithful service as several of them now step down.

- I have been prayerful that God would raise up new (and former) teachers who believe God is leading them to serve New Providence in a Christian Education role (teaching, superintendent, Christian Education committee, etc.).
- I am thankful that God has led several folks to step forward thus far: Jeanne Alexander has accepted the Superintendent role, and Glenda Jackson will serve in a backup superintendent role. Milton Reid and Tami Bird have stepped forward to serve in teaching roles.
- We are still in need of several more teachers at all age levels, especially keeping in mind that for children, we need to have two adults in every classroom.
- We will also be in need of several folks to serve on the Christian Education Committee beginning in January.
- Please continue to prayerfully consider serving our Christian Education program. If so, there is a sign up on the bulletin board – or you may contact the church office to sign up. Please indicate your preferences for age group and if there are work issues that may preclude you from being there every week.
- **Remember that inexperience is no barrier: *God does not call the qualified—He qualifies the called.*** If you feel led to teach or serve in a CE role, there will be mentoring and training to enable you to follow God's call. And we will have ongoing support meetings for all of our teachers at New Providence going forward.





***CHRISTMAS DINNER & PROGRAM***  
***SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, AT 5 P.M.***

JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS DINNER  
AND  
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM  
FEATURING A  
*CHILDREN'S MANGER SCENE,*  
*MUSIC, AND CAROL SING*

THIS WILL BE A WONDERFUL EVENING OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP  
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

*In order for the cooks to know how many to prepare for,  
please RSVP to the church office at 348-5881.*



**CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

**December 24**

**7 p.m.**

*Christmas Joy Offering will be received*

## BROWNSBURG HOME TOUR

On Saturday, December 10, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., New Providence will be open for the Brownsburg Home Tour, and the Presbyterian Women will be serving lunch. A sign-up sheet for food donations is on the hall bulletin board for those who would like to help.



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## ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING

New Providence is once again offering the Alternative Christmas Giving program. This is an opportunity to make Christmas gift donations to worthy organizations (Mission Next Door, Kingsway Help Center, Valley Mission Homeless Shelter, Rockbridge Habitat for Humanity, Friends of Barnabas, Heifer Project) in honor of friends and family on your Christmas list. The Mission Committee will send a card to the recipient of the gift, so we can take care of some of your Christmas shopping. Brochures explaining the program are available now, and the Alternative Christmas giving opportunity will be available until December 24. Contact Roberta Fauber (261-1975) for more information.



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## HELP WITH THE HATS, SOCKS & GLOVES TREE PROJECT THROUGH DECEMBER 11

A tree has been set up in the back of the sanctuary to be decorated with new hats, socks, and gloves. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, December 11. The items collected will be delivered to the Zacchaeus Kitchen and Homeless Shelter in Washington, DC, where they will be distributed to those who are most affected by the cold—the homeless and those who have no warm clothing for the winter. Thank you for your support of this project.



## NP SUPPORTS STUDENT THROUGH PRESBYTERY iCARE PROGRAM

Meet New Providence's new child that we support at the Gore Bethel Home for Children in Ethiopia, Tsehaynesh Dida Duguma. She is 13 years old and in Grade 8. Her favorite subject is biology, and she would like to become a sociologist. Tsehaynesh's father died some years ago by epidemic disease. Her mother left her when she was five years old. She has been supported by her elder brother, but he is now too poor to support her, so she is living at Gore and New Providence, through our Presbytery iCare program, is providing the support for her to remain there and go to school. Please keep her and the staff and residents at the Gore Home in your prayers.

*Mary Linda Wolfe, iCare Contact Person*



*Tsehaynesh Dida Duguma*

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**B**

**Shenandoah Presbytery announces the  
2012 Mission Trip to Baja California, Mexico**

**July 15-21, 2012**

**A**

**Building houses for families in need in  
Vicente Guerrero, Baja California, Mexico**

**60 team spots available on a first-come basis**

**J**

**Registration is now open and closes April 1, 2012**

**Organizational and informational meeting will be  
held in February; watch for future announcements**

**A**

**For more information, including FAQs, registration forms, and  
past trip reports, go to: <http://www.shenpres.org/mc/mce1.html>**

## Highlights of November 17 Regular Session Meeting

- The treasurer reported that we are in “pretty good shape” at this time and projects a carry-over balance to the 2012 budget.
- The Nominating Committee reported they are still seeking candidates for the office of elder for the new year. Anyone feeling led to serve or nominate someone should contact Elders Georgie Young or Miles Bobbitt.
- Received a report from Betsy Reid on the November 8 Presbytery meeting at Opequon Presbyterian Church, Winchester.

### Committee Reports

- **Christian Education** - reported that they have a new Sunday School Superintendent, Jeanne Alexander and Assistant, Glenda Jackson.
- **Member Care** - reported that they have reviewed the church roll and recommended five persons be moved to the Inactive Roll. They suggested we try to focus each week on the strengths of our congregation.
- **Property** - reported that they have signed a mowing contract for 2012 with Steven Maddox.
- **Mission** - reported that they delivered 84 filled shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child project. Donations toward the \$7 per box handling fee will be collected at the doors. They are also working on the Christmas Alive project and will be furnishing Christmas gifts for a family in need.
- **Finance** - a change was approved to the committee’s criteria for offering counters to include church members not on the Finance Committee, following approval by Session.
- **Worship** - reported that it is working with the Pastor to plan the Christmas Eve service.
- **Budget & Personnel** - reported that annual reviews on all four employees went well. They were unable to offer deserved raises in 2012 due to budget constraints. They reported that they are advertising for an organist to begin on January 1 following Carole’s resignation, which is effective December 31. The revised budget was reviewed and approved with some changes.



# DECEMBER 2011

- 1<sup>st</sup>**            **Night Circle** - decorate the church @ 9 A.M.  
                  **Session Meeting** @ 7 P.M.
- 4<sup>th</sup>**            **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
                  Sunday School @ 9:45 A.M.  
                  Morning Worship @ 11 A.M.  
                  Fellowship Time - following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall  
                  Christmas Dinner & Program @ 5 P.M.
- 5<sup>th</sup>**            **Handbell Practice** @ 7 P.M.
- 10<sup>th</sup>**           **Brownsburg Home Tour** - Lunch served by PW from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.
- 11<sup>th</sup>**           **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
                  Sunday School @ 9:45 A.M.  
                  Morning Worship @ 11 A.M.— 4¢-a-Meal Offering  
                  Fellowship Time - following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall
- 12<sup>th</sup>**           **Handbell Practice** @ 7 P.M.
- 13<sup>th</sup>**           **Property Committee** @ 7 P.M.
- 14<sup>th</sup>**           **Night Circle** - Debbie Mynes @ 6:30 P.M.
- 18<sup>th</sup>**           **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**  
                  Sunday School @ 9:45 A.M.  
                  Morning Worship @ 11 A.M. - Communion  
                  Fellowship Time - following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall
- 19<sup>th</sup>**           **Handbell Practice** @ 7 P.M.
- 22<sup>nd</sup>**           **Evangelism Committee** @ 5:30 P.M.
- 24<sup>th</sup>**           **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** @ 7 P.M.  
                  Christmas Joy Offering received
- 25<sup>th</sup>**           **Christmas Day**  
                  Sunday School @ 9:45 A.M.  
                  Morning Worship @ 11 A.M.  
                  Fellowship Time - following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall
- 26<sup>th</sup>**           **Nursing Home Visitation** @ 9:30 A.M.
- 28<sup>th</sup>**           **Highnooners** @ Just Kay's Café

## **MINISTRY TEAMS & LECTIONARY READINGS**

**DECEMBER OFFERING TEAM:** Frank Smiley, Walter Lunsford

**DECEMBER USHERS:** Walter & Doris Lunsford

### **DECEMBER 4**

**Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15; Mark 1:1-8**

**Beadle:** Ray Bodley      **Liturgist:** Sue Glenn

**Greeters:** Becky Shaw, Weldon Shaw, Lesley Piner

**Children's Sermon:** Kathryn Kuntz      **Nursery:** Pam & Jordan Burks

**Children's Church:** Kathryn Kuntz & Michael Richey

**Sound System:** Miles Bobbitt      **Offering Counter:** Gary Gearhart & Milton Reid

### **DECEMBER 11**

**Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28**

**Beadle:** Cindy Kelly      **Liturgist:** Jack Pearson

**Greeters:** Jeanne Alexander, Frank Rott, Herbert Hamilton

**Children's Sermon:** Pastor Cornfield      **Nursery:** Mark & Justine Poole

**Children's Church:** Lesley & Ali Piner

**Sound System:** Frank Smiley      **Offering Counter:** Georgie Young & Milton Reid

### **DECEMBER 18**

**2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38**

**Beadle:** Ray Bodley      **Liturgist:** Barbara Roepe

**Greeters:** Terri Gordon, Barbara Roepe

**Children's Sermon:** Georgie Young      **Nursery:** Kathryn & Jonathan Kuntz

**Children's Church:** Georgie Young & Stephanie Lucus

**Sound System:** Jeff Gordon      **Offering Counter:** Dick Glenn & Milton Reid

### **DECEMBER 25**

**Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14**

**Beadle:** Dick Glenn      **Liturgist:** Karen Gordon

**Greeters:** Becky Shaw, Weldon Shaw, Lesley Piner

**Children's Sermon:**      **Nursery:** Dot Martin & Carolyn Hemp

**Children's Church:**

**Sound System:** Gary Gearhart      **Offering Counter:** Gary Gearhart & Milton Reid

### **JANUARY 1, 2012**

**2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38**

**JANUARY OFFERING TEAM:** Betsy Reid, Sue Smiley

**JANUARY USHERS:** Frank Rott & Donald MoneyMaker

**Beadle:** Dick Glenn      **Liturgist:** Mike LeNoir

**Greeters:** Walter Lunsford, Doris Lunsford

**Children's Sermon:** Pastor Cornfield      **Nursery:** Mary Glaspey & Cindy Kelly

**Children's Church:** Carolyn Hemp & Hannah Anderson

**Sound System:** Gary Gearhart      **Offering Counter:** Georgie Young & Milton Reid

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**DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: SUNDAY JANUARY 8, 2012**

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