



Landrum Methodist Church

April 2025

The Lamplighter

“The Lord is my Light and my Salvation.”

He is risen, indeed!

Trudy Van Voorhis

Often in an Easter service there are people present who do not normally attend church. It is Easter, and that's just what you do on Easter – go to church. There are even some present who have never truly heard the gospel before.

Christians familiar with the Easter story sometimes can make it seem that belief in the resurrection is no problem at all. The resurrection is often reduced to analogies equating it with the blooming spring flowers after a long winter's nap or a caterpillar emerging from the cocoon as a beautiful butterfly. These things are wondrous and precious in and of themselves. All around us are signs that rebirth has been written into God's creation –but our analogies always pale in comparison to the real thing.

I was reading John 20:1 about the empty tomb and something in the first sentence caught me. “Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb,”. That still dark phrase stopped me.

John probably wrote this referencing the time of day but perhaps the darkness John was talking about was not just the physical darkness we experience before sunrise, but it was spiritual darkness as well.

On that first Easter morning things looked bleak to Mary Magdalene who was likely wondering, “What will I do now?” The disciples might return to their old lives again – fishing, tax collecting, families, but her? She was the woman from whom Jesus cast out seven demons. She didn't want to return to that life. What was she going to do without Jesus – her friend and Savior? Sadness, disappointment, and emptiness consumed her. She languished in spiritual darkness. Most of us can relate because we have all had days when we stand with our dreams in shambles around our feet.

Faith is easy when all is sunlight and happiness, but it is very difficult to believe when it is still dark. It is easy to believe God is for us when life is good, but when it when it is not, we can feel rejected, guilty, or abandoned. Faith is living without answers. In Hebrews it says, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen." Anyone can walk in sunshine; only the faithful can walk in the dark.

This Easter Sunday the gospel tells us that while it was still dark, Jesus had already risen. Jesus was there with Mary in the darkness that first Easter morning. The tomb was empty. The Son had risen. Death was defeated. In fact, every Sunday is a celebration of the empty tomb! A celebration that Jesus is alive! It's the empty tomb of Jesus that gives us HOPE!

The Lord has risen! The Lord has risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

Holy week Sunday April 13–Sunday April 20

Palm Sunday Service 4/13

Maundy Thursday 4/17 7 pm Service with Communion

Good Friday 4/18

Easter Sunday 4/20 Living Floral Cross, Service with Communion

Joe Brown
109 Edgewood Ave.
Landrum SC 29356

June Rhymer
810 E Rutherford St
Landrum, SC 29356

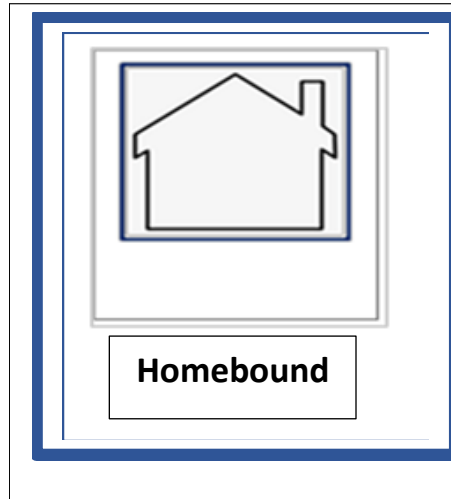
Betty Little
508 E. Prince Road
Landrum SC 29356

Maxine Finch
102 Corolla Court
Moore, SC 29369

Peggy McAllister
1064 W Mills St
Columbus NC 28722

Mary Williamson

Mrs. Wofford Jaime's Grandmother



The LMC Minister and Congregation prays for those who need special prayer or have medical concerns.

We express our heartfelt Christian sympathy to those who have had loved ones pass away.

Please inform the church office of any names that need to be added or removed from the prayer list.

Remember these people in your prayers as well as our church, Pastor, Outreach, Missions, Community and our nation.

Prayers for:

Joy Gardner – Praise for good test results
The Blackstock Family
Phil & Rosemary Odom
Jerry Jennings
Jeannie Godwin
Mike Cece
Charlotte Stow's son in law – Chris
Glenn Strange
Long Family – friend of Joyce Himmel
Victims of wildfires
Firefighters and first responders
John Fiddler
Linda Perkin – Praise mobility improving

Stewardship Spotlight

Nancy Boatwright

One of the most popular ways to donate directly from your retirement account is through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). If you are 70½ years old or older, you can transfer up to \$100,000 per year from your Traditional IRA to a qualified charity, such as our church, without counting the transfer as taxable income.

Here are a few key benefits of QCDs:

1. Tax Benefits: The donation won't be taxed as income, which can help reduce your overall taxable income for the year.
2. Satisfy Your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD): If you're over 72, the QCD can count toward your annual RMD, which you are required to take from your IRA.
3. Supporting Your Church: A direct transfer from your IRA to our church allows you to support the ministry without having to take the income into your hands first.

Speak with a Professional

Charitable donations from retirement accounts are a fantastic way to give back while also benefiting from tax savings. But because retirement accounts and tax laws can be complex, it's always a good idea to speak with your financial advisor or tax professional before making any decisions.

We are grateful for your continued support of the church and ministry, and we thank you for considering this tax-efficient way to give.

Thanks,

Nancy B.
Finance Chair

April Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Vickie Killough
- 6 Gladys Harris
- 8 Betty Little
- 12 Sarah Sprouse
Rittina Robinson
- 13 Eli Quinn
Skyler Wofford
- 14 George Ashmore
- 15 Livie Fagan
- 19 Donny Surface II (son)
- 23 Deanna Sprouse
- 26 Evan Plumley



ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Tommy & Joy Gardner
- 6 Charlie and Deb Croft
- 19 Buddy & Wanda Manson
- 24 Trudy & Rusty Van Voorhis

New members

Welcome to our new members –

Tom Johnson

Philip (Phil) & Marcia Burrus

Steve & Carmon Collie





Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)

We recently entered Daylight Saving time when we “Spring forward” and set all our timepieces an hour earlier. We were reminded to change the batteries in our flashlights, emergency equipment and detectors. The first day of Spring is about this time that we look towards the promise of better weather.

It is also a time in many homes when we begin the routine of ‘Spring Cleaning’. We work to get our homes in tip-top shape in hopes that everything is tidy, and we can enjoy what Spring and Summer can deliver. Not everyone participates in this practice. Some can take clean-up to the extreme while in other homes it may be an ignored ritual.

I am one of those types who make multiple lists for everything in fear that I will not be prepared. I am amazed at those who can do everything last minute. They tell me that I do not enjoy life since I am busy with the planning of details. I am reminded of Jesus’ parable of the wise and foolish virgins, waiting for their bridegroom. Those who did not fill their lamps in case the night got long ended up losing out. While they were out trying to refill their lamps – the groom came and they missed the banquet, all because of their lack of preparation.

In thinking about this story and my own soulful “Spring cleaning”, I see Jesus as the bridegroom showing up to take me to the banquet. In the parable Jesus tells us to “keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour”. He is talking about his return for his bride – the church. Am I ready to go? Have I been negligent in keeping a clean house and my lamps full of oil with wicks trimmed? Have you?

Perhaps you are one of the people who stand prepared with your lamps full and your reserve tank of oil besides you. Do you help others to prepare? Do you share your oil and let others know that the groom is on His way?

A spiritual spring cleaning is to examine our prayers, our relationship with God, how we treat others, selfishness, and anything else that impacts your spiritual life. Pray for guidance and begin to sort the clutter and grime of our hearts—dust off your irritations, let go of negative things in your life and replace them with positive ones. The Bible warns that it is “the little foxes that ruin the vineyards” (Song of Solomon 2:15).

As we all dive into our Spring cleaning after what has seemed as a long, arduous winter, we should also include ourselves on the To-do list. Dust your heart, tidy your soul, and fill your lamp. If company does come, you will be ready!



Silver Spirits

Salads & Sides Luncheon on Wednesday, April 9th at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall! All 'Spirits' are asked to bring either a salad or side dish to share with the group, and Honey Baked Ham, dessert, and beverages will be provided!

Because we enjoy helping keep our church food pantry stocked, we are asking for donations of either canned corn or chicken noodle soup. Save the date, bring a friend, and join us for a fun-filled gathering, with great food and great people!

Trudy & Cheryl

Altar Guild

As we walk through these remaining weeks of Lent, you will notice a number of changes taking place within the sanctuary. From the primitive cross on the back wall, the beautiful banners adorning the sides of the sanctuary, the lovely wooden shadow-box cross with the crucifix, and soon palm branches and Easter lilies. All of these visuals are meant to be reminders and prepare us for Holy Week. From the waving of branches on Palm Sunday when Jesus entered Jerusalem, to Holy Wednesday when Judas betrayed Jesus, to Maundy Thursday when Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, to Good Friday with Christ's death, and, Hallelujah, celebrating Christ's resurrection Easter Sunday! Truly, an emotional roller coaster for believers! Thank you to God for sacrificing your only son, so we might have eternal life!

Our Easter tradition continues with the living cross being present in the sanctuary on Easter morning. Please plan to bring flowers for placement on the cross before service on Easter Sunday; though, we will have flowers available for placement if needed.

The flower chart remains in the Narthex with open dates. Spring flowers abound in our gardens this time of year, and Debby or I would be happy to assist you in designing a bouquet

Silver Spirits



March Irish Madness



Photos: Pete Block

Administrative Council Meeting Sunday, March 9, 2025

Members Present: Rita Plumley, Martha Castro, Glenn and Carla Downey, Cheryl Barto, Bonnie Inman, Nancy Boatwright, Jaime Wofford, Wanda Manson, Bill and Cheryl Every, George Ashmore, Wayne Hager, JJ Carruth, Debby Croft, and Joy Gardner Guests: Pete Inman

Glenn welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with Scripture. He shared that he and Ted Andrus have spent the past 5 weeks going through certified lay minister training and scripture has supported his decision to be part of the Global Methodist Church.

Nancy Boatwright moved to approve the February minutes as written and George Ashmore seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Glenn shared Pastor Steve's comments since he wasn't at the meeting. Steve thanked the Men's Ministry for the Shrove Tuesday dinner and congratulated Glenn and Ted on completing their training. The process for working on the survey results has started.

The following members gave their reports:

Debby Croft: The Lenten decorations are up and cards continue to go out to members.

Wayne Hager: The Men's Ministry meeting has moved to coincide with George's Monday night Bible study and they are planning other activities.

Wanda Manson: We have backpacks in April and May.

Bill Every: The GMC has defined the pastor appointment process and assignments are not based on what the "district" wants; the assignment is congregation or pastor driven. The search process can be done by the church or the GMC will help if needed. Steve's annual evaluation is due in September.

Cheryl Every: Joanna and Steve are out of town for 2 days and will return Wednesday.

Cheryl Barto: Silver Spirits is Wed. She shared for Jody that we are preparing 120 food boxes for the March meal.

Joy Gardner: The church is giving the UMC stoles to Saluda UMC. The Fellowship Hall piano is having some issues and can't be used until the technician has had an opportunity to evaluate and make necessary repairs and that evaluation date is scheduled for April.

Jaime Wofford: Work is continuing to work on the office and the new church sign has been ordered.

Nancy Boatwright: The finance meeting was held before the Administrative Council meeting,

Nancy moved to adjourn and George seconded the motion and it passed.

The meeting was closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Castro



Views from the Pews



Baptism of Bill & Cheryl Every's Grandson William



Photos: Paul Forster