



"Yucca Breeze"

JUNE 2020

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS

PASTOR'S PULPIT:

Just June . . .

June is usually the month that many graduations take place. Depending on your area of the country, the waning days of Spring are often the time for grads to finally (with degrees, diplomas, or doctorates in hand) walk. For many, the graduation service is consummate joy, the end of one long, long journey and the beginning of a new great adventure. An adventure, which we might add, that they have been working toward seemingly forever. Whatever the case, I find it so appropriately timed. Ideally, graduation takes place smack dab between Mother's Day in May and Father's Day in June. To me, it just seems appropriate to hold a triune celebration. A celebration recognizing the hard-working, celebrating the deserving threesome who can lift their collective heads high and tell one another—way to go, we did it...finally!

Graduation is also a time when freedom is in the air. Freedom for young people to focus on what they want or might want to become; freedom for parents to try to refocus on who they want to be. For young people, it really is a period to explore their emerging passions. For parents, it's more of a time to try to establish or re-establish some substantive purpose. I've often thought of this period for parents as being caught in between two realities. The first is the joy in easing of many of the trials that made one consider seriously the old adage—*insanity is hereditary; you get it from your children*. And the other reality is the tinge of sadness that comes from the realization that as Maggie told Peter in the movie *Hook*: *your children spend their first few years chasing after you, but after that, you'll spend the rest of your life chasing after them*. And on top of that, if it's the last child, an empty nest always brings with it the melancholy mood that was captured for many of us old rockers in the lyrics of Pink Floyd's "Time": *Tired of lying in the sunshine, staying home to watch the rain. You are young and life is long and there is time to kill. Then one day you find ten years have got behind you. No one told you when to run, you've missed the starting gun!*

Ah yes, graduation. But there is always a kind of twist concerning the new found freedom aspect, especially in regards to our trying to find real purpose in our life and for our life. Unlike a child who we spend years training and teaching how to be independent; ironically, for the maturing Christian person, the training is now the complete opposite. Freedom, true freedom, is learning what it means to once again grow more dependent, not independent, weaker, not stronger, willing to follow, not have to be in charge, humble not proud, realizing we really don't have all the time in the world . . . and if we're going to reprioritize or make some life commitments we better get busy. As we mature, we begin to long to simply *be* the kind of person that He has always known we could be and inside our own hearts we have always known we should be. Where can we begin?

I read an article, and it's part of the D2D training (which I deeply and strongly encourage you to commit to doing some time soon) in which the author discussed the topic, *My Heart, Christ's Home*. It's a story too long for the Breeze, but it's on the Internet. The author is Robert Boyd Munger, who as a Presbyterian minister has some good insights in this whole "how do I find purpose and what does it cost me and where can I begin" set of dependent-inducing questions. He basically takes us through a journey of all the rooms in our hearts—all the places which we have set off for ourselves and where we spend the most time—and basically keep secret. It's our "grown-up" rooms where independency is on grand display and in much of who we have become is in full bloom. Without revealing too much, Munger finally leads us to the last room, and there offers us an opportunity—to give up the title, transfer ownership if you will. It's a beginning step to graduating from being our own person, to becoming Christ's. It's about the first and best initial decision that we can make when our hearts are longing to find that new purpose, the better way of being, and the life that we've always really wanted.

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And in a little tidbit from that section he writes:

Then a thought came to me. I said to myself, "I have been trying to keep this heart of mine clear for Christ. I start on one room and no sooner have I cleaned that then another room is dirty. I begin on the second room and the first room becomes dusty again. I am so tired and weary trying to maintain a clean heart and an obedient life. I am just not up to it!" So I ventured a question: "Lord, is there any chance that You would take over the responsibility of the whole house and operate it for me and with me just as You did that closet? Would You take the responsibility to keep my heart what it ought to be and my life where it ought to be?"

Are you ready to walk? To graduate? To move towards a future where there really is the kind of adventure that at this point in life seems like the thing to do? You too can stand smack dab in the middle of another group of “triune” folks, a holy trinity who will celebrate with you and I am sure you will hear ... way to go, we did it ... finally.

Blessings, *Pastor David*



The Music Box

by Lynn Michelle (Mason) Music Leader

“Come As You Are In The Family Car.” You probably know this quote came from Robert Schuller, the minister in the 1950’s who pioneered “Drive In” services in California. Later on, other ministers also encouraged those who minister to promote such services because it would be a way to help people who might not otherwise go into a church. Examples of those who might not want to go into a building: *people with health or anxiety issues* *those who struggle to walk from their car* *Parents who don’t want their new babies being touched by many people (however well meaning)* *grieving individuals who aren’t ready to brave all the well-intentioned questions.*

Fast forward to 2020: “When God Closes A Church Door He Opens A Browser Window” or now the modern day quote that is most used is “Come As You Are But Stay In the Car.” How fortunate The United Churches is that Pastor David has instituted our new Drive-In Church. How lucky we are that Pat DeSmet has the expertise and willingness to take care of all the electronics. Furthermore, we could not have enjoyed our very first services outside without the loan of a transmitter from Pastor Bill Martin. He was very generous and encouraging in promoting a new way to worship. In the month of May, the church was able to buy their very own transmitter with funds donated by the Presbyterian denomination of the church.

It has been a positive challenge figuring out how to have special music at a Drive-In church service as we continue social distancing. A great move forward happened with Tracy Bastian’s decision to bring his historic pump organ to town and use it for the service and special music. From there, we were able to expand with flute music and vocal solos and the renditions of small family groups. The electronic keyboard brushed off its dust for more than one service and the children from the Humbracht family and the Kutz family (grandparents Lynn & Mike Buchholz) and Wyatt family (Grace Stehly, granddaughter) treated us to the sound of music. The Lynn & Lynn duo popped in from the 70’s also.

Perhaps, there is an instrumentalist or singer you would like to recommend for one of the Sundays this Summer. Don’t be shy. Dial: M for Music, or how ‘bout 745-5069 and arrangements can be made! Lmm

FROM OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES—The United Churches Finances through April, 2020

The Trustees are making monthly reports to our church family during the Covid-19 Pandemic. We don't know how our church may be financially impacted with the limited church activities. A part of the congressional Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, (the CARES Act) is a provision for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP loan) through SBA. The CARES act is a large economic relief plan to help keep the economy stable, and the PPP loan is a Paycheck Protection Program to enable companies to continue paying their employees during the crisis. The program has loose guidelines, and the trustees applied for, and received a \$10,780 loan through this PPP program. If our payroll, related expenses, and utilities are at least the amount of the loan during the 8 weeks after receiving the loan, the amount of the loan, plus interest will be 100% forgiven. We applied for the loan through, and with the help of First Interstate Bank, and we are in the first steps of transferring our banking to First Interstate.

Our giving to the church has remained strong during the first four months of this year. Our total offerings are over \$55,000 through April, which is about \$4000 higher than our projections, and higher than last year through April. April giving alone, during the time we had no Sunday services in our sanctuary, was over \$2000 higher than our projected income. Our April expenses were pretty much on target, with no expenses considerably higher than our budget. Thank you to our church family, for your continued dedication during this difficult time.

As we continue our outdoor Sunday service, and broadcast it on our church owned radio equipment, a huge thank you is in order to the Presbyterians in our church. On April 21, our local Presbyterian session decided to give nearly \$7000 toward purchasing video/sound system equipment, and a radio transmitter for broadcasting our services. When we watch the service on Facebook, or listen on the radio to 1610 AM, we need to remember and thank the Presbyterians. They have also given \$5000 toward our windows project, helping us pay for this \$28,000 windows upgrade.

In summary, our church finances have not been hurt in the first couple of months of the coronavirus crisis. We encourage our church family to continue to support our church, and each other during these difficult and trying times.

Don De Vries



CENTENNIAL TID BITS

The Rev. Robert Tarleton was assigned to Hot Springs in October, 1920. One important thing he instilled in the hearts of the members was the consideration and thoughtfulness of each member to respect the beliefs of others and wanted each denomination to have equal representation in all matters and on all committees-no matter which denomination was the largest or the smallest.

A constitution containing 8 short articles, as prepared by a special committee of ten, was adopted and published in the Sunday bulletin on December 5, 1920, and thereafter this was considered the "official date" of the organization of The United Churches. The first article read: "The name of this organization shall be The United Churches of Hot Springs, South Dakota." The second article read: "The purpose of this united effort is to bring members of several churches into closer cooperative organization; to attempt to answer the prayer of the Master when He prayed 'That they might all be one'; and to promote the social welfare of the community."

June Birthdays:

- 2 Pastor David Cook
- 4 Donna Jenniges
- 13 Ed Cerney
- 14 Cheryl Keller
- 15 Rev. Morris Nelson
- 16 Jean Schuchardt
- 27 Nancy Cape

**June Anniversaries:**

- 8 Paul & Sandy Swenson
- 9 Chris & Jennifer Kutz
- 10 Dean & Nancy Cape
Sean & Molly Cape
- 17 Bill & Pat Coffield
- 23 Frank & Lynn Mason



If your name is not included on the Birthdays and Anniversaries list and you would like it to be added, please contact the church office by email: uc@gwtc.net or call 745-5640.

THIS AND THAT ...

Our Sympathy: To the family and friends Dr. Robert Holwell (Jill Evangelista's father) who passed away on Monday, May 18th in Lincoln Nebraska.

June Mission Giving: "Love Inc. of the Black Hills" has been chosen as the recipients of our June loose change offering. Their mission is "to mobilize churches to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ."

Loose Change Offering: The June loose change offering will be taken on June 14th. We will continue to take this offering on the 2nd Sunday of each month for the time being.

Food Pantry: Our local Food Pantry served 300 patrons in the month of April.

Finalizing New Church Directory:

We are still waiting for a few more photos to be submitted, so please get those in now. June 30th will be the deadline and the last chance to provide photos to be included in the directory. If you need assistance with this, or have any other questions, please contact Sue Trobee at 673-2365, or (325) 262-3079 (cell), or by email: trobees@yahoo.com.

Thank You!

Excerpts from "Transitions" — the Spicers in Manila

Like many of you, we also have had to stay home with businesses closed. Here in the Greater Manila Area, we have been in enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) for two months. Our family was given a quarantine pass and only one person could go out at a time for only groceries or medicine. Lines to get into stores were long, with waiting time up to 3 or 4 hours. No other businesses were open. Since May 16, some businesses are starting to open up but they still only want you to go out on certain days, according to your area. Many of our missionaries have been involved with getting food to the poor people who have no income and no way to get food or medicine, without money or transportation. We praise God that some parents have organized a way for us to order food from some suppliers and have it delivered to us.

We praise God that we were able to get tickets to the US for Ashley's wedding after our initial flight was cancelled. We were able to get an earlier flight in order for us to quarantine before the wedding. Please pray for the added expenses of repurchasing our ticket, 14-day quarantine time, and other expenses.

Continue to pray for our son, Ben, and his family as they have not been able to leave Brazil. It is easier and cheaper for them to leave by way of Columbia, but recently, they found out that Colombia has no international flights out until June 30, which will be too late for them to get to the wedding. Please pray with us that God will open the doors for them to get out. They are also expecting their third child and would like to be in the US for better health care . . . we are also uncertain as to when we can return. As of right now, most foreigners are not allowed entrance into the Philippines, even if they have a valid visa. This also means that any other returning or even new staff for Faith Academy will not be able to enter the Philippines. This will greatly affect our school year. As this school year comes to an end, please be praying for our staff and students, especially the seniors as this has been hard on everyone. Also, please pray for our administrative leaders. It is hard to make decisions for the next school year without knowledge of what will be allowed according to the government. They also need to make plans on what activities we can still do and how to implement them. Walter will be moving into the deputy head of school role so has been on some of those planning meetings and will continue online until we can return.

We are thankful to you, our prayer and financial supporters, enabling us to serve here in the Philippines.

Cheryl for the Spicers



HYMN HISTORY ROOM AT THE CROSS FOR YOU

Words and Music by Ira R. Stanphill, 1914-1994

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

Out of the varied experiences of a fruitful life have come the many moving hymns of Ira F. Stanphill. As a child he traveled by covered wagon from Arkansas to New Mexico, then later moved to Oklahoma and Kansas. Converted at age 12, Stanphill began preaching at 22 in revival meetings and later served pastorates in Florida, Pennsylvania, and Texas. At 17 he wrote his first gospel song and traveled for several years with evangelists, playing the piano, organ, ukulele and accordion.

Mr. Stanphill began to write his own gospel hymns, and he employed the unusual practice of creating a text from titles suggested from the congregation during a service. He would explain:

"The basic reason I have written songs is that I love God and Christ has loved me. Most of my songs are the outgrowth of real experiences with Christ. I think they appeal to people because I have had trial, heartaches, and sorrow in my own life, and I know what write about."

"Room at the Cross" was a title suggested to Ira in 1946 at one of his meetings. He wrote it on a scrap of paper, which he found in his pocket after returning home. Impressed with the title, he quickly wrote both words and music as they appear today. Since then the song has been recorded by numerous Christian artists, translated into Spanish, German, and Italian, and was used as the closing them of the national broadcast *Revival Time* for many years. Only eternity will reveal the number who have been directed to Christ through this one gospel hymn that reminds us that there is always room at the cross for one more sinner.

*The cross upon which Jesus died is a shelter in which we can hide; and its grace so free is sufficient for me, and deep in its fountain – as wide as the sea.
Tho millions have found Him a friend and have turned from the sins they have sinned, the Savior still waits to open the gates and welcome a sinner before it's too late.*

The hand of my Savior is strong, and the love of my Savior is long; through sunshine or rain, through loss or in gain, the blood flows from Calv'ry to cleanse every stain.

Chorus: *There's room at the cross for you; tho millions have come, there's still room for one – Yes there's room at the cross for you.*

Bible References: Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9, 10, 13; 1 Timothy 1:15; Hebrews 2:3. No one can hear the message of God's great love as displayed at Calvary and remain unmoved. Resolve to invite some needs sinner to come to the cross. Share this musical truth with that person

Creeds and Confession Corner The Theological Declaration of Barmen



The Theological Declaration of Barmen was written by a group of church leaders in Germany to help Christians withstand the challenges of the Nazi party and of the so-called "German Christians," a popular movement that saw no conflict between Christianity and the ideals of Hitler's National Socialism.

In January 1933, after frustrating years in which no government in Germany was able to solve problems of economic depression and mass unemployment, Adolph Hitler was named chancellor. By playing on people's fear of communism and Bolshevism, he was able to persuade the Parliament to allow him to rule by edict. As he consolidated his power, Hitler abolished all political rights and democratic processes: police could detain persons in prison without a trial, search private dwellings without a warrant, seize property, censor publications, tap telephones, and forbid meetings. He soon outlawed all political parties except his own, smashed labor unions, purged universities, replaced the judicial system with his own "People's Courts," initiated a systematic terrorizing of Jews, and obtained the support of church leaders allied with or sympathetic to the German Christians.

Most Germans took the union of Christianity, nationalism, and militarism for granted, and patriotic sentiments were equated with Christian truth. The German Christians exalted the racially pure nation and the rule of Hitler as God's will for the German people. The chief item of business was discussion of a declaration to appeal to the Evangelical churches of Germany to stand firm against the German Christian accommodation to National Socialism. The Theological Declaration of Barmen contains six propositions, each quoting from Scripture, stating its implications for the present day, and rejecting the false doctrine of the German Christians. The declaration proclaims the church's freedom in Jesus Christ who is Lord of every area of life. The church obeys him as God's one and only Word who determines its order, ministry, and relation to the state. The declaration was debated and adopted without amendment, and the Confessing Church, that part of the church that opposed the German Christians, rallied around it.

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