

**THE NEWSLETTER OF
GULF BEACH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
271 S. HWY. 79
PANAMA CITY BEACH,
FL 32413**

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*We are a Christian
community that offers
fellowship and preaches
the Gospel of God's
love in Jesus Christ.*



*Now may the Lord of Peace Himself give you Peace at all times
and in every way. The Lord will be with all of you.*

-2 Thessaloni-

BEACH TIDINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF GULF BEACH PRESBYTERIAN

MAY 2015

Special points of interest:

- Announcements
- From the Pastor's Pen
- Ministry updates
- Session Minutes
- Caregiver Support
- Calendar

Articles for the Newsletter can be email to lizpinkchurch@hotmail.com or leave it in the Newsletter Box in the church office. Articles must be received by the 15th of the month.

Sunday
Worship
Time
10:15 AM

Sunday School
9:00AM

Tim Keller asks the question, "If your church closed its doors tomorrow, who outside the congregation would know or care?" In the missional church, our presence in the community is so consistent and so generous that we truly are known and celebrated for the love that we have for others. (2015 GBPC Session Retreat)

Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church Staff and Session

Rev. Bonnie Wilkins
Pastor/Head of Staff

Dr. Larry Tyson –
Music Director

Norma Davison -
Accompanist

Liz Creswell –
Bookkeeper/
Admin. Assistant

**SESSION: Please feel free to
call on them.**

Tracy Schoppe Clerk of Ses-
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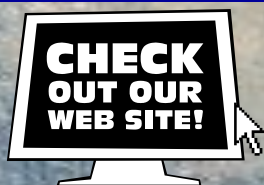
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Rev. Bonnie Wilkins
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“A Call For Prayer”

- ◆ In their time of waiting, the disciples were “constantly devoting themselves to prayer” (Acts 1:14). Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church calls you to do so too.
- ◆ As you regularly walk or drive through your neighborhood, pray for your neighbors, businesses, schools, other churches. How does God want you to witness (to share your faith) to your neighborhood?
- ◆ Become a secret prayer partner for another in this congregation.
- ◆ Pray daily for your ruling elders, worship leaders, pastor, teachers and group leaders.
- ◆ Make a commitment to fast and pray for one day this year.
- ◆ Stop and pray daily with this breath prayer (repeating the phrase and listening) while walking, sitting, cleaning, and so forth. For example, “God, what will you have us do?” or “Christ, open my heart to your vision.”
- ◆ Pray with a friend or a loved one. Even when your apart plan a time when you will “meet in prayer” as you stop your routine and pray at a given time no matter where you are.

Engage the Gospel with Pastor Bonnie

Sunday Mornings: 9-9:45am

Rev. Bonnie will also offer the “*Engage Discipleship*” and “*Engage Mission*” follow-up courses, June-Sept.

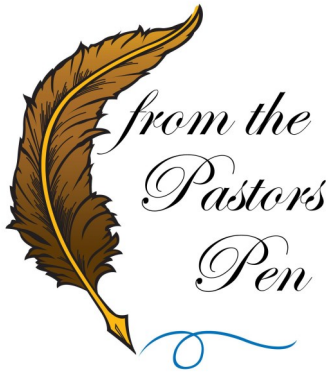
Engage the Gospel Study Book: \$5.00
(it will be ordered for each person registered)

When: May 3,10,24,31 (no class 17th)

Volunteers Needed

- ⇒ **We need two people** to help greet our visitors each Sunday morning and make them feel welcome so they will want to visit our *!little pink church!* again. There are two ways people enter our church for worship service, through the front entrances to our vestibule and through the Fellowship Hall. We hope to have a designated Greeter at each of these two entrances. Many thanks to the two ladies that have already volunteered to help greet our visitors and remember gentlemen this is volunteered position that is suitable for men and women.
- ⇒ **We also need two people**, man and women, to help usher the individuals that visit us on a routine basis, our members, our associate members and our returning visitors and snowbirds. The Usher will greet them at the same two entrances, handout the church bulletin and take up the offering. A lot of our young people enjoy helping take up the offerings to God, so by all means we allow them to assist. I think it is so wonderful that they are in church and want to help.

The Elders of Session want to thank all of you that help make this *!little pink church!* such a special House of God that we have chosen to worship Him in.



Discovering God's Call to Us: Vision, Mission & Goals

These things I plan wont happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day! -Habakkok 2:3-6

What is the future VISION we have for "who we are" as God's church here in Panama City Beach? What is our God given mission or purpose for the here and now? What are the first steps in our plan toward fulfilling our mission as Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church? These are some of the questions the session and I asked, talked about, and considered at our eight

hour session retreat on Sunday, April 26th.

As we began this process, it was agreed that keeping Christ in the center was the first essential step in our task. Through prayer, we will stop and listen. Through scripture, we will seek wisdom and guidance. Through conversation, reflection, and study we practiced discernment and began to think both missionally and with vision.

This is an important first step in this process of getting on the Jesus Way as a congregation and getting focused on making disciples as we love God, love each other, and love the world. We are not done-not by a long shot! Discipleship-life in Christ-is a constant way of transformation is it not?

We agreed that without a vision and a ministry plan to support it-we are just wandering around with no chance to meet up with God and his missional desire for us. **VISION empowers God's people to meet up with God and be active and growing in their faith.** That is why our first goal as the leadership team (Session) is to define a new Vision for our church. Then it's your turn-the whole congregation needs to know the Vision and allow it to shape your spiritual life in worship, giving, service, learning, and fellowship in this church.

At our retreat, we prepared our minds and hearts to listen and act by studying and reflecting on 1. The characteristics of the missional church; 2. The ABC's of Natural Church Development for growing the church; 3. The Healthy Church Framework (as defined by our Presbytery for all its congregations); 4. Reviewed our church's mission study that guided the calling of the pastor and now guides our vision and mission planning); 5. Began to discern a VISION Statement and Ministry Plan for our congregation. We are planning now for our church's present and future.

It's amazing what possibilities start coming to light and present themselves when we start looking and listening with VISION...ways to glorify God in the use our buildings and grounds; our talents in music and the arts; partnerships with other area churches, groups, and agencies; ways to more fully and sacrificially love God, others, and our world (and especially our neighbors and our community).

The needs and possibilities are here. We have been challenged to dream dreams and see visions. Are we ready to take these next steps? Are you? I pray your answer will be, "Yes, we are! Yes, I am! We/ I will be committed to the long follow-through by the Jesus Way of life."

I hear the words of one of our hymns as I write this to you, 'Who will bear my light to them? Who shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.'

We have to be vigilant about being committed to keeping Christ in the center of all of it. God desires our obedience in listening for God's word to us, following God's timing, and trusting that God's timing is always perfect, though it sometimes baffles r frustrates us. Your Session must be focused on

goals, mission, and action. This means some new ways of being committed to our leadership roles. Some committees may be phased-out as we begin responding through goal and project oriented task teams instead.

The good news of this is that it means more involvement opportunities for the congregation in decisions and carry-through of a specific goals, projects, and task. More opportunities for you to do the mission God calls you to and to invite us to be a part of it with you. We want to see mission and ministry matched to your time and talents in specific areas of opportunity and need. And when this happens, know that your spiritual life will grow and deepen as relationships are built and experiences shape your God-identity and life of discipleship.

Now, it's not going to happen all at once. Remember, we are in this for the "long-haul" believing that God has a future oriented vision for us as a congregation. And we have to be committed to an attitude of thriving, not just surviving; of life viewed in terms of abundance, not scarcity; of the long way of obedience, not just quick fixes.

God has called every one of us to be active in this church right now, right here. The possibilities for growth and purpose are in God's vision for you, my friends. But, are they in your vision for you and this church? Keep praying, keep talking, keep listening. Give it time by committing to the attitude that: a long follow-through gets us closer to the vision God has designed and desires for us. That is my commitment to you-***in it for the long-haul-serving and loving this congregation and community through God's vision, love, and power.*** My prayer and desire for you is to catch the vision with us for the new thing God is calling us to be and do here in Panama City Beach and beyond!

Peace,

Pastor Bonnie

Our Vision: Transforming lives through the love of Christ Jesus by witness, mission, and evangelism.

A word of ***thanks*** to those that are signing the ***Attendance Registry*** on Sunday mornings, it doesn't take but a moment and we only ask that you provide all of the information once, beyond that your signature is sufficient. The following are just a few of the routine ways in which the gathered congregational information is used to benefit the ***"little pink church"***:

1. to assist in the decision making process of determine whether there are adequate numbers of regular attendees to support additional programs and ministries,
2. to provide requested information by our Presbytery (numbers only),
3. to assist the Elders in determining the appropriate time to change our winter service to offering two worship services to accommodate the return of our beloved snowbirds,

4. to acknowledge a visitors attendance and welcome them back to worship with us again,
5. we look at the overall attendance for gaps in attendance where follow-up by the Shepherding team or by Pastor Bonnie may be warranted for regular members, associate members and visitors alike,
6. to determine whether to have someone designated to be available for children in the nursery, and
7. to determine how many persons to prepare for with our coffee and donut ministry following worship service every Sunday in our Fellowship Hall.

We do not share your personal information with anyone outside the Elders of Session, our Pastor and Office Administrator. Your personal information is kept confidential within this circle.

I look forward to seeing you in church and in our attendance registry! Wanda

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry's mission is to increase access to food for hungry people, and empower them to help each other.

Report from Food Pantry- March 2015 our food pantry served 122 people a total of 1100 meals. We received cash donations of \$565 while we purchased \$55 in groceries. .

Needs:

PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY, & SODA CRACKERS

Food Pantry needs volunteers. We are short 3 people. Training happens while you work. There is always one experienced person on each shift. We are open 9am-12noon Mon-Fri. This is a great Mission and a good way to serve the Lord. Please call Beve Lutz if you think you can give us a hand serving the poor and hungry. (859) 235-7349. Thx

The Pantry is very, very low on the hygiene and cleaning products at this time. The Pantry Policy has been to buy nutritious foods only.

So we are asking for your donations of the following: **shampoo, razors, deodorant, liquid dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels, can openers. I recommend you purchase small travel size or sample sizes of the hygiene products.** We break down packages with multiple items and distribute just one at a time, i.e. one roll of toilet paper per client, etc.

I have begun shopping at Dollar Tree for Pantry food. I've noticed good buys on hygiene and cleaning products there as well. It sure helps stretch that dollar. My plea to the congregations is to search your heart and if you can help us with these non-nutritious products for a few months that would be wonderful.

Thank you for your faithful and continuous support of this Mission. May God bless each of you.

Beve Lutz, Elder



The missional church is such an ingrained part of the surrounding community, that there is a genuine and heartfelt desire to see good things come about in the community. Furthermore, as people of faith, the dreams are big God-sized ones which will only come about with God's favor and blessing. The missional church is recognized and loved for its contribution in the neighborhood. (2015 GBPC Session Retreat)

Men's Ministry

THE Men's ministry will be meeting for lunch on Monday, May 4th at 11:30A. Bring your own lunch and come join the fun.



The monthly Spruce up Day at the Church.

will be the third (3rd) Sunday of every month (May 17H) after 10:15

service, from 12:00-2:00 PM.

Bring work clothes and work gloves.

Pizza will be provided. Bring your own beverage.

Let's work together to take care of God's House!



CAREGIVER SUPPORT

We held our first caregivers support group meeting April 23rd, as scheduled. We had a modest turnout. Pastor Bonnie held a short devotional and led us in a word of prayer. Our mission is to provide a place of spiritual care, guided conversation and resources in an atmosphere of comfort to share their own

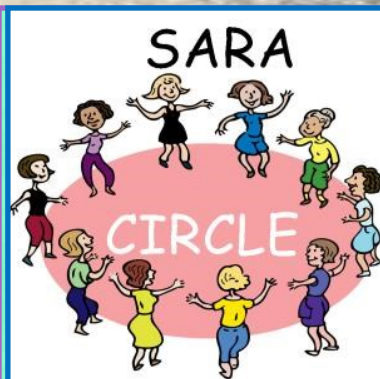
stories of failure and stories of success. Our vision is that no one should ever feel that they are in this alone.

"Where there are two gathered in My name ...

Thanks be to God! Wanda

CARE GIVER SUPPORT MEETINGS ARE ON

Thursday at 1:00PM in Gulf Treat Building
Everyone is welcome.



To all the women of the church:

The Sara Circle will meet on May 12th at Noon.

This will be our finally meeting until September. Please join us for a covered dish lunch.

The Sara Circle wishes to thank Janie Thomas, Margret Davies and Liz Crewell for their generous contributions of tea pots and cups and saucers. They are treasures to us. We will all love using them at the next tea in February, 2016.

Sara Circle would like to continue having these afternoons of Christian women fellowship and are looking for more Tea Pots, and cups and saucers. If you run across such items in your journeys at rummage sales, Thrift Shops etc and are will-

ing to donate to us, it would be appreciated. We currently have 12 Tea Pots and would like to have 25 or 30. We have 35 cups and saucers and would like to have at least 50. Thanks for helping and hope to see you at the next Tea Party.

KERYGMA BIBLE STUDY: JOB with Pastor Bonnie

Monday Afternoons: 1-3pm *OR* Wednesday Evenings: 6-8pm

Join Rev. Bonnie for a 7-week course of committed deep study of scripture: *with the class and on your own during the week*. There was never a time when the book of Job was not relevant, but it is especially so today. This is not because the book of Job has changed, but because we have. We may be more ready to listen now...less certain of our own answers. So, when Job asks "why," we, too, strain to hear the answers. And if answers are not forthcoming, then we, like Job, will need to learn how to live without them. The book of Job cuts straight to the heart of what it means to be human. *It is a profound exploration of the life of faith, and wrestles with some of life's most perplexing questions.* God reminds Job that he's out of his league. He/we do not have all of the answers; God does. *Faith, as Job comes to understand it, is an exercise in radical trust.* Are you ready to encounter God?

This Bible study program is a means to a deeply satisfying encounter with Scripture for those with a long familiarity with the Bible and for those opening its pages for study for the first time.

LEADING EFFECTIVE MEETINGS

**Sunday, May 31st
from 11:45-3:00PM**

This workshop is open to anyone.

Leading Effective Meetings is a three hour workshop designed to enable participants to:

- Plan, conduct and manage the meeting process
- Plan the agenda to accomplish the purpose and objectives of the meeting
- Create a participative, involvement oriented environment

- Establish meeting ground rules
- Understand when, why and how to develop necessary visuals
- Utilize participative involvement techniques
- Maintain control of the meeting, within the allocated time parameters
- Prepare meeting documentation



Gulf Beach Presbyterian -Stated Session Minutes Summary-March 9, 2015 5:30pm

Attendees

Rev. Bonnie Wilkins - moderator, Tracy Schoppe (clerk), Ron Coleman, Beve Lutz, Lenny Zacher. Betsy Balmer

Moderator's Report

A motion was made by Betsy Balmer, 2nd by Tracy Schoppe, "Rev. Wilkins will schedule meeting on March 15, 2015 following worship service, for the family of David Reece Kilzer to meet with Session and Rev. Wilkins. Once Session and Rev. Wilkins has met the family, David Reece Kilzer will be baptized the following Sunday (March 22, 2015). The motion carried.

V. Treasurer's Report – Beve Lutz, Treasurer

a. For the month ending February 28, 2015 GBPC recorded a net income of \$1,040. The total income was \$16,094; \$10,932 regular givers, \$2,637 loose plate, \$1,400 in rental income, miscellaneous income \$40, interest income \$139 and in-kind contributions of \$747. The general operating expense was \$5,221. The payroll expense was \$9,515.

b. In the month of February, the long debt of GBPC was reduced by \$3,486, leaving a mortgage balance of \$469,759.

c. A motion was made by Tracy Schoppe, 2nd by Lenny Zacher to approve the financial reports, balance sheet and income statement as presented by the Treasurer. The motion carried.

VI. Committee Reports:

A motion was made by Beve Lutz, 2nd by Tracy Schoppe to accept the recommendation to renew the 2015 liability insurance with the same carrier; to continue to fund our Wind Self-Insurance Fund (designated fund 425.19) \$5000 in 2015; accept the recommendation to renew GBPC with same property insurance provider, assuming the quote is in line with our budget amount. The motion carried.

Mrs. Norma Davison, GBPC accompanist, has done an excellent job of providing music throughout the winter at the 8:15 and 10:15 worship service. As a reflection of our gratitude the Session would like to give Mrs. Davison a bonus to compensate for the extra work required during the months of 2 worship services.

A motion was made by Tracy Schoppe, 2nd by Ron Coleman, to transfer \$400 from Hazel Culpepper Music Fund to Unrestricted Funds for the purpose of giving Mrs. Davison a bonus of \$400. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Tracy Schoppe, 2nd by Lenny Zacher,

"GBPC credit cards and line of credit on behalf of GBPC can be extended only to employees and officers of GBPC." The motion carried. Session made a commitment to updating these accounts when there are changes to staff or officers.

Building and Grounds: Lenny Zacher, chair-

A motion was made by Lenny Zacher, 2nd by Ron Coleman to increase our lawn maintenance budget by \$600 annually. The motion carried.

Member Care: Wanda Pflugfelder, chair .

Thanks to Linda Coleman, the pictorial directory was a huge success. The committee looks forward to receiving this valuable tool.

Mission, no chairperson–

Report from Food Pantry- February 2015 our food pantry served 177 people a total of 1597 meals. We received donations of \$280 while we purchased \$935.07 of groceries.

Effective on March 13, 2015 we will not be open on Fridays morning's 9a-12n, but will be open from 5-7pm in order to service the day time workers. The trial period will be Mar 13th through the end of April and reevaluated at the May meeting.

VII. New Business

a. Request from Committee for Children and Youth to have a lunch at Gulf treat to raise funds for camp and retreat scholarships. The event will take place March 28, 2015 following worship service. The request was approved.

VIII. Unfinished Business

a. Media Project – During the last month, the Session members have engaged members of the congregation in conversations regarding the proposed media project. The motion, "*The Hospitality Committee would like Session to approve the entire Media Project and to open a designated fund for the project*", which was presented and tabled at the February 9, 2015 Stated Session meeting was rejected. The following motion was made by Lenny Zacher, 2nd by Betsy Balmer, "\$1500 is to be moved from the Kitchen Designated Fund (425.13) to a new created designated fund called Media Project. This fund will be used to complete the improvements to sound system in sanctuary and fellowship hall and replace sound system in Gulf treat." Motion carries, with 2 abstentions. The worship service is currently being videotaped using borrowed equipment.

Next stated session meeting will be April 13, 2015 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall.

Tracy G. Schoppe, Clerk of Session

Don't Be a Quitter

excerpt from article by: *Rev. Dr. Gary Cecil, Pastor, Grace Presbyterian, Panama City*

“Amendment 14-F has passed by a majority of Presbyteries, amending the language about marriage...the term ‘same sex’ does not appear, but marriage is [now] defined as ‘traditionally between a man and a woman’...even with this change in language, no minister or session is required to act in any way contrary to their conscience before God.

...We will never have consensus. We never have. But at least Presbyterian will seek building up Christ's body through devotion, debate, and decision. The openness and freedom we enjoy in this process does not guarantee that all decisions will go one way; still, I prefer our devotion-debate-and-decision model over other more authoritarian ones. I guess it is about trust: When we get together a group of saved sinners praying in the same room, the majority will have a better chance of discerning God's will than any one sinner along. It forces us to keep asking questions an evangelical Christian professor put forth: How do you know you're not wrong?

One evangelical minister finds this creating a lot of conversation among the youngest Presbyterian. They stay together by not emphasizing excommunication but focusing on knowing Jesus Christ. A Presbyterian leader issued this call: *Stay at your post! Serve your missions and communities for Christ. Don't be a quitter!* What kind of witness would that be? When it got tough—and when Jesus was upset with pompous, self-righteousness, misguided religious leaders who did not understand the Scriptures they could recite so well from memory—Jesus refused to be a quitter, and forgave them on the cross that was his post, his mission.”

A prayer for Mom

A young boy had been misbehaving, so his mother sent him to his room. Sometime later, he came out and told his mom he'd prayed about the matter. “That's good,” she replied. “If you ask God for help to not misbehave, he'll help you.”

“Oh, I didn't pray for help behaving,” said the boy. “I prayed for God to help you put up with me.”

Advice for grads

The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Summer Sunday Picnics

There will be potluck picnic lunches immediately following services on

May 3rd, & June 7th.. Meat will be provided by the church, congregation please bring a dish to share. If you can't cook, come join us anyway there is always plenty of food. When Jesus blessed the 5 loaves and 2 fishes, there was plenty to feed the people plus much left so, so it seems with all of our fellowship meals.

Covered dishes can be brought before church and left in the walk-in cooler in Gulf Treat. Food will be set-up in Gulf Treat after worship and you can choose to eat inside or out.



God With Us... The One who sets the course of this road, and whose entry into it defines the way forward, is the same who walks beside us, flesh of our flesh, God with us. Therefore, we can trust without reservation a journey whose future turns we cannot see. -- John S. Mogabgab, WEAVINGS JOURNAL

Digging for Diamonds

A good woman is hard to find—and worth more than diamonds. That's what Proverbs 31 says. Do you know how hard it is to find a diamond? Formed at more than 93 miles below the earth's surface, diamonds can be found only because of the volcanic activity that eventually carries them to the surface. But why is a good woman hard to find?

It's been said that women live from their hearts. Take a photo in your mind of what that would look like to you. Is it of women hugging children, caring for those in need, crying with those who weep? What other pictures do you imagine?

How about this: Someone changing your diapers when you were a baby. Who was it? Chances are most of those chores were deftly handled by women with less "eeeeww's" and more laughter than the job deserved!

We'd like to think living as a Proverbs 31 woman makes us look pretty and feel all warm and fuzzy inside. But the reality is that it means being willing to do the dirty jobs, too. It means getting on your knees like Jesus did to wash people's dirty feet without saying "eeeeww." Folding the laundry week after week, feeding the baby calf in the kitchen during a blizzard, or fighting the rush hour traffic twice a day, every day.

It's service, not status, that helps form a Proverbs 31 woman. She's hard to find because, just like a diamond, a good woman is developed in the hidden places. She's willing to go unnoticed, unrewarded, and unappreciated as she serves her world in love. Washcloth in hand, forgoing the status of the head table, her greatness is in her often unrecognized acts of love.

Dig deep this month for the diamonds in your life, and find those precious women who serve unnoticed and underappreciated. Mothers, sisters, daughters, friends...let's give them the honor they deserve!

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10th

CAREGIVER SUPPORT



Below is an article I read from Christianity.com while doing research for our new GBPC ministry, Caregivers Support Group. We meet every Thursday at 1:00PM in Gulf Treat. Please read and give a lot of thought to this article.

There is a vast amount of knowledge available to caregivers and we are striving to share information and love with these folks as they journey to care for a loved one.

Do you know someone who would benefit from this support group? Please tell them about our meetings, or better yet bring them to a meeting. They may be more comfortable with you there. Reach out your hand in Christian Love.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German pastor, theologian and Nazi resister, stated:

“The church is the church only when it exists for others.”

Afraid of Getting Old? How to Love the Elderly

Julie Barrier

Aklak shivered, fighting back tears as he hugged little Kaya for the last time. He would never again gaze into the pudgy round face of his great-grandson. Aklak's gnarled limbs and weak heart confined him to the corner of the crowded igloo. He could no longer hunt or fish in the desolate wasteland of snow and ice. He was dead weight in a family fighting to survive. Mamook, his son, knew what must be done. He placed his feeble father on a snowy ice floe and pushed him out to sea to die alone. Such was the custom of the Inuit tribe in northern Alaska.

Getting old is hell. Paul taught that as the outer body wastes away, the inner spirit is renewed day by day. (2 Corinthians 5:1-2) NIV However the “wasting away” part is inevitable. Watching your loved ones systematically lose their strength, hearing, sight and mental acuity is heart-breaking for you and gut-wrenching for them.

Not all cultures abandon their elders. Hispanic matriarchs rule the roost of bustling households filled with cousins, sisters, brothers and babies. Tucson, where we served as pastors, is situated one hundred miles north of the Mexican border. Abuelitas and Tios come to Tucson hospitals for cancer treatments and bypass surgeries. I loved to see the surgery waiting rooms filled with hoards of friends and family members. Toda la familia (everyone in the family) watched, waited and prayed.

How do most Americans treat the aged? Too often they look away. I've visited a plethora of nursing homes. Many reek with the stench of unwashed bodies, dirty floors and rotting feces. Even the most exclusive facilities still underpay and under-appreciate their employees. Always, always I hear the voice of a demented mother incessantly calling for her son or daughter. It breaks my heart.

One of my dearest friends was the victim of elder abuse. We didn't discover the hateful mistreatment for five years. Mary was a retired pediatrician who married a multi-millionaire. She gave millions to hospitals, universities and to our church. As Mary's health began to decline, she wanted to remain in her home and employ a live-in caregiver. Sue was a slick con artist who ingratiated herself by “taking care” of our aging friend. In three years, she siphoned off hundreds of thousands of dollars to bank roll her daughters' Ivy League educations and lavish lifestyles. Only after a fierce legal battle was Mary freed from her “captor's” secret threats and emotional abuse.

People are living longer. But are they living better? How can you and I love the elderly in our midst?

Honor them. God obviously deemed it important or He wouldn't have proclaimed it the Fifth Commandment. (Exodus 20:12) Webster defines “honoring” as showing great respect, admiration and recognition.

Listen to them. “Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained in the way of righteousness.” (Proverbs 16:31) NIV. Younger adults often consider the words of the aged to be irrelevant and unimportant.

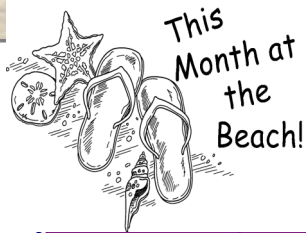
Meet their emotional needs. Too often we assume that if our loved ones have their physical needs met, we have done our part. They need our devotion, appreciation, affirmation and time more than ever.

Help them grieve their losses and give them comfort. Their friends have either passed away or are homebound. Most elderly women outlive their husbands. Every time an older person faces an irreversible health issue, they need comfort. Men grieve the loss of independence and earning power.

Include them. Be sure to celebrate with them! Birthdays, holidays, reunions are wonderful opportunities to cheer your elder family members.

Give them permission to talk about death and heaven. Family members shy away from talking about death, but it is never far from the older person's thoughts. Sing to them, read to them and pray for them. Paul was unafraid to talk about his death. Here's what he wrote to Timothy, his son in the faith:

“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.” 2 Timothy 4:6-8 KJV
Older family members loved you and carefully cared for your needs. Now it's your turn.



May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Apr 2015</p> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Jun 2015</p> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>					S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">1</p> <p>10:00 AM Food, Fun & Fellowship</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">2</p>
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<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">31</p> <p>9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:45 AM -3:00 PM Leading Missions</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Our God is visionary...and He is walking with us and has a radical vision that pulls us forward and advances His Kingdom. (2015 GBPC Session Retreat)</p>																																																																																									



- May Anniversaries**
- 9- Ted & Tracy Schoppe
 - 10- Robert & Eileen Loewe
 - 17- Mike & Suzanne Burke
 - 19- Jeff & Stacy Prater
 - 30- Larry & Beth Tyson

- May Birthdays**
- 1- Caroline LaPlante

- 5- Marion Lankford
- 12- Elise Wiselogel
- 20- Barbara Galbraith
- Daisy Hanna
- 23- Rob LaPlante
- 26- Roger Coons
- 28- Robert Zumstein
- 30- Brittany Tenee Culpepper