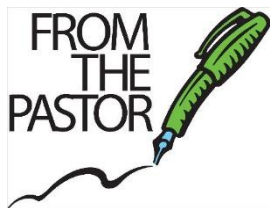
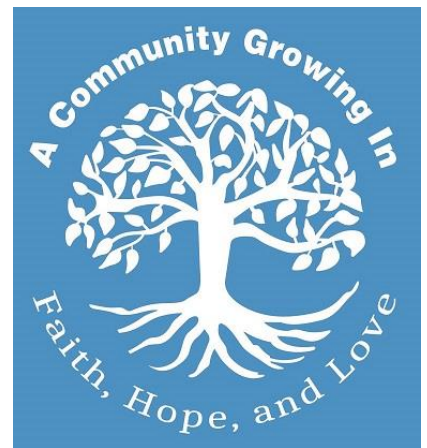


# May Memorial Baptist Church

E-Connect Newsletter Printed Edition 8-24-2020

*Reaching.....Teaching...Touching...  
in the Heart of Powhatan*

3922 Old Buckingham Rd. In the heart of the Courthouse Village  
(804) 598-3098 [Maymemorialchurch.org](http://Maymemorialchurch.org)



## *Beauty in Barren and Dry Places*

John Ames, Sr., born in 1880's Kansas, has taken his son, who bears his name, to find the grave of his father. John Ames, Jr., is the elderly Presbyterian Pastor in Marilynne Robinson's fictional town of Gilead, Iowa, and he is writing to his son about faith, family, community, and his life's experience. This boyhood trip with his father to find his grandfather's grave is a story he recounts early in Robinson's *Gilead*. The two Johns first travel by train, then they rent a horse and wagon, and they take the final part of their journey to find the grave on foot. The entire trip takes about a month, and it is a journey which they could not afford into a dry and barren Kansas. After finding some faithful Christians who remember the ministry of the deceased Ames (all of the Ames' men were clergy), they finally locate the small, overgrown, and neglected graveyard...(continued on page 4)

Connecting to God...Worship



***Please join us for Worship at 11:00  
Sunday in the Sanctuary!***

This Sunday will be the final Sunday with Mary Ellen Balarzs as our organist, and Joan Maples as the Minister of Music. We will recognize them as we thank God for their service to the church during worship, and we hope you can be present (or join us online) to mark this important day. Because of COVID 19 we will not be having a reception as is our custom upon a staff member's final day.

We are grateful for both Joan and Mary Ellen, and we pray for God's blessings upon them.

# What Are You Doing Here ?

**Team Sign Up Has Begun**

Contact the church office to sign up for a team for 2020-2021.

Connecting to Each Other...Fellowship



## **Kingdom Kids *meeting on ZOOM!!***

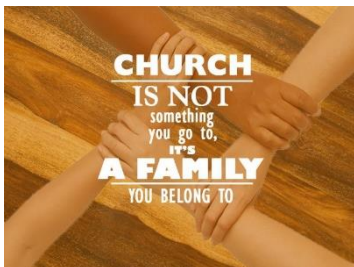
**Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking this link, then follow the directions by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2770321474>

To join with any phone: Call (312) 626-6799

Enter the meeting code: 277 032 1474



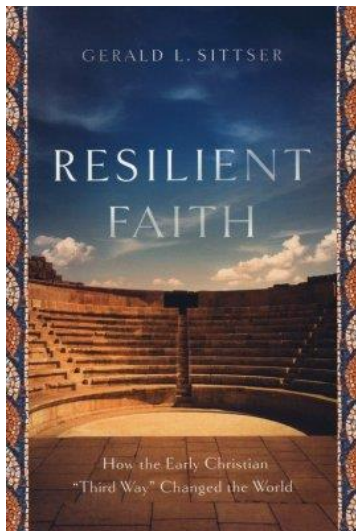
## **Wednesday Night Group Study—Update**

Beginning Wednesday, September 9 we will begin at new Wednesday night study, meeting each week at 6:30. We will be taking a Wednesday night “Zoom Break” for the next two weeks and then begin in the Gospel of Matthew on September 9.

To join us click the link <https://zoom.us/j/286978612> on your computer or mobile device and the Zoom meeting will automatically open. Be sure your camera and microphone are turned on! You can click on the link anytime this week to be sure it will work. If you experience problems [email](#) or call Pastor Michael at (804) 922-0101.

To join with any phone: Call (312) 626-6799

Enter this code: 286 978 612



## Church Wide Zoom Sunday School: Sunday Morning at 9:15 a.m.

Zoom Sunday School class has begun a series of lessons based on the early Christian church. Mr. Bob Kruschwitz will be leading us in a discussion centered around the book *Resilient Faith: How the Early Christian "Third Way" Changed the World* by Gerald L. Sittser.

To join the Zoom session at 9:15 Click the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87174870259>

and Zoom Sunday School will automatically open. Be sure your camera and microphone are turned on! If you experience problems email or call Pastor Michael at (804) 922-0101.

To join by phone: Call (312) 626-6799

Enter: 871 7487 0259

## Blessing of the Backpacks



## Blessings of the Backpacks Sunday, Aug 30th

We encourage all families to attend our sanctuary service. You do not need to bring backpacks into the church, but please take a picture of your students holding their backpacks or on the first day of school and we will put them on the screens! Forward these pictures to the church by emailing [maymem@verizon.net](mailto:maymem@verizon.net). Please make sure to send the pictures by Tuesday, August 25.



## Youth Day at the Lake!

on Sunday, Aug 30.

To Bob and Nancy Woods' home for an afternoon at the lake.

Lunch will be provided!

1:00-4:00 p.m.

**FROM THE PASTOR...(continued from page 1)**

John spends time with borrowed tools cleaning up the dry piece of land, setting tombstones back upright and repairing the broken fence. Then John Sr. sits on the ground beside the grave of his father, remaining there for two long hours. He stands, and he begins to pray. While he prays in that desolate place, John Jr. could not keep his eyes closed for such a long time, he opens his eyes and begins to look around. John Jr. is surprised, because to his amazement he says he sees the sun setting in the East. Young John had his bearings right, and after a moment of confusion he realizes that he is seeing the full moon rising just as he is seeing the sun setting in the opposite direction. He is overwhelmed at the moment, and reluctantly he speaks to his father who is still in the middle of his long prayer. The two John Ames stand in that parched and dreadful place, but when John Sr. is pulled out of his prayer to witness the setting sun and rising moon, he says “I would never have thought this place could be beautiful. I’m glad to know that.”

It seems to bring great comfort to him knowing that the place where his father’s remains were laid to rest is (or could be) a place of deep beauty. Up to that moment, it had only looked dry and deserted and dreadful, but when his eyes were opened from his prayer he saw the beauty that the place could hold.

We live in a world, a culture, that often looks only dreadful. We have witnessed it this year, the ugliness all around us. Thousands and thousands of deaths to COVID 19, the repeatedly televised senseless death of George Floyd, the ugly violence of protests that has left destroyed businesses and vulgar graffiti that I would just as soon my daughters didn’t see. Some days since March 15 have seemed just as dry and barren and ugly as that neglected cemetery in Marilynne Robinson’s *Gilead*. And living in this place takes a toll on us.

But remember, God calls us in the midst of our prayers to open our eyes, for there is beauty breaking through all around. We are called to see the light that is shining in dark places, and we are also called to reflect that light. We live in the “already/not yet,” a place where God’s kingdom *already is come* but *not yet* fully.

Where are the places you see God’s beauty today? Is it with your family, or maybe in seeing the dark green of late summer. Maybe it is a verse of scripture or a good meal with a friend. And how are you displaying the beauty of God’s kingdom in the world? An act of kindness, or a simple deed of mercy.

We are always in need of seeing the beauty of God’s kingdom, but our world needs is more now than ever. Keep your eyes open for it. Be the source of God’s beauty in the world.

Prayer List August 24, 2020

**CHURCH FAMILY:**

Barbara Barden  
Susie Brock  
Margaret Carter  
Joann Cole  
Bob Cosby  
Bob Cox  
Snead DeNoon  
Lee Duncan  
Nick Elam  
Ester Fitch and Family  
Bea Gallier  
Rick Gallier  
Bill Ketron  
Jeanan Krueger  
Paul Lindsey  
Fran O'Donnell  
Jim Pinkley  
David&Susan  
Terry  
Frances Tilman  
Karen Utt  
Nancy Wilkinson  
Janice Worsham

**MILITARY:**

Danny Myers, Brent  
Templeton, Quint Sutton,  
David Brizendine, Jeremiah  
Clift, Nelson Sutton, Justin  
Donnavon, Austin, Breeden,  
Caleb Hammer,  
Kris Curtis,  
Adam and Hunter Mitchell

**HOMEBOUND:**

Janice Worsham, 2041 Rocky Ford Road  
Frances Tilman, 3904 Old Buckingham Rd  
Audrey Johnston, (currently at Kirk and Peggy Johnston's home) The Crossing at Bon Air, 9100 Bon Air Crossings  
Drive, Room 202, Richmond, 23235  
Audrey Mann, The Laurels of Willow Oaks, 11611 Robious Road, Midlothian, 23113  
Jim Pinkley, Currently with Billy and Marlis Kruschwitz  
Jean Hall, 1748 Old Powhatan Estates

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:**

Stephen Breeden, Son of Martha Oberg  
Estelle Davis, Debbie Elam's mother  
Lacie Baggett  
Libby Gregg, daughter-in-law of Carol Gregg  
Stuart Yeorge  
Ben Spoon, Juli Spoon's son-in-law  
Matthew Berger, friend of Joy&Juston Sanudo  
Clyde Martin, brother of Esther Fitch  
Jeff Crews, Susie Brock's brother-in-law  
Sheri Sadie, Nancy Flower's Daughter  
Sharon Baltimore, friend of the Bradbury's  
Bill Casper, Bill Karnolt's brother-in-law  
Justin Yancey, Grandson of Irma Alvis  
Stephanie Hay, Karen and Ray's daughter-in-law  
Jodi Erpelding, friend of Jeanan Krueger  
Janie Dean  
Phyllis Lester, Ed Utt's sister  
Shawn Neugent, friend of the Sheltons  
Lennox Family  
Helen Fitzgerald, friend of Diana and B.J. Smith  
Chloe, granddaughter of Amy&Bill Karnolt  
Nurses, Erin and Melissa, relatives of the Karnolt's  
Logan Cook, grandson of Wilford and Linda Poore.  
Tim Martindale, friend of Bob & Vicki Kruschwitz  
Pam Polk Mottley, Ed Mottley's sister  
Gwen Lunford, Lester Oberg's sister.  
Debbie, Vicki Kruschwitz' sister  
Randy Kope, grandson of Les and Dianne Miller  
Brian Sullivan, nephew of Mike and Bernice Koelzer  
Mary, Annie Sparrow's Aunt  
The Wood family to find Nancy's sister

## Tentative Schedule

### Sundays:

**9:15 a.m. Zoom Sunday School**  
(Re-Gathered SS begins in October)

**11:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary**  
Also, a Live Streaming Worship Service  
will continue to be shared on  
YouTube Premier at 11:00

**5:30 p.m.** Soul Food

### Wednesdays:

**3:30 p.m.** Zoom Kingdom Kids

**6:30 p.m.** Zoom Mid-Week Gathering  
**Resumes on September 9**  
(Re-Gathered Bible Study in January)

## Birthdays

### August

26-Judy Ketron  
27-Judy Boelt  
28-Buddy Stokes  
28-Nancy Wood  
29-Francis Shelton  
31-Graham O'Donnell

### September

1-B.J. Smith  
1-Colette Saxton  
2 - Parker Mead  
5 - Carolyn Hash  
6-Howard Sheppard  
6-Kaye Stokes  
8-Diana Smith  
8-Marjorie Cave  
8-Zach Bilthuis  
10-Kayla Tibbs  
10-Ben Cunningham  
13- Ewell Flippo

## Financial Information

### Our Gifts to our Lord, Week of August 23, 2020

<b>Regular Offering</b>	<b>\$ 6,677.50</b>
Building Fund	200.00
Scholarships	25.00
Special Offering	20.00

**Total \$ 6,922.50**