

The Philagram

**Philadelphia Presbyterian Church
Mint Hill, North Carolina
June 2018**



From Rusty Benton, Head Pastor

Choices, Choices

CHECK THIS OUT!.....*According to multiple sources on the Internet, the average amount of remotely conscious decisions an adult makes each day equals about 35,000.* WOW!....35,000 decisions! Now, let's pair that with the fact that God is love. What do we get?

We get 35,000 opportunities a day to share in the greatest feelings, expressions and experiences that life can ever offer! So, let's check out what that looks like in real time.

This week I had the opportunity to visit a number of people who don't have the opportunity at the end of the day to do things like go home, decide what they would like to have for dinner or sit on their own familiar comfy sofa and watch tv. Some of these folks were in hospitals, assisted care facilities and even homeless. Others were suffering from mistakes they had made in the form of unhealthy decisions about relationships, money or the use of their time. (You can fill in the blanks here as we are all sinners and come hugely short of the glory of God!) Whatever the case may be, each of these folks were in need and I had the opportunity to say to myself, as the Biblical Paul says, "For what I received I pass(ed) on to you...

God gives it to us first. We receive it and it changes everything about us. It does this because God's love is stronger than everything else in our lives. What happens when we live into the love God has poured into us is kind of like what happens when we pour red food coloring into a glass of water. (or into a batch of chocolate cake batter---did you know that Red Velvet cake is actually just chocolate cake with red food coloring & cream cheese frosting?—cool huh?) In short, it changes everything in a way that it can never be undone! And, the change is so incredibly awesome for everybody!!!!

It is not easy to minister to someone sick or hurting. Maybe it can be tough because we might be afraid we will "catch" what they are suffering from. Maybe it's tough because seeing or hearing or even smelling (real stuff) illness and/or pain is unsettling and even at times scary. This stuff can remind us of our own hurts, our own mortality or maybe just how much we don't want to know that someone is suffering.

It might not always be an easy thing to make the choice to love, but it is always an impacting and an important one. Someone once said that Love is often needed most when it is the hardest to share! Jesus says---With friends, enemies, at parties, with the sick, the rich, the poor, the happy, the sad, the troubled, the believers and the unbelievers, share it! Jesus did exactly this and in so doing poured the color into our colorless lives! He taught us what love really is and in so doing made life what God really wants it to be!

Our choices to love those in need are so abundant, but that's not all there is to it. Loving is something that we can do with each other in great times and just everyday regular old Tuesday afternoon circumstances as well. We can certainly tell folks we love them when we walk in the door from work or school. And we can also do loving things like do extra chores around the house...or...ask about, listen to and be interested in what is going on in someone's life...or...congratulate someone or take them to lunch or dinner because we're proud of them or even just because we want them to know how special they are to us!

We can't cover 35,000 options here. But we can grab onto the idea that love can be a good part of every part of our lives. God has given us this gift and this choice. I say, we take it!

From Associate Minister Katie Sloan

The Little Things....

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. - Ecclesiastes 3:11



It's hard to believe the summer is here. It's time for family vacations at the lake, lazy hours in the sun, balmy evenings, and longer days. When I think of summer I think of grilling with friends, juicy watermelon, coffee on the patio, and the smell of the ocean.

While the summer is full of lots of outdoor activities and larger than life events, it's the little things that make all the difference. Seeing fire flies (ok, ok I know ... lighting bugs), smelling the roses -literally. The Lord sends everything beautiful in its time! While there are a lot of things that don't look very beautiful these days, when I'm able to focus my attention on even the tiniest of things, I can't help but to be amazed by all that God has created. To think that with one stroke of His masterful paint brush he creates a rainbow in the sky after a rain shower. How awesome is that?

Maybe it's because of the heat but it seems that things slow down a bit in the summer-time. We spend leisurely time in our yards watering the flowers and in our vegetable gardens harvesting the ingredients for dinner. We go to the park and go camping. It is the perfect time to take in the beauty of God's amazing creation and to create some new memories with friends and family.

I hope that you will invite someone to share in your summer fun. That you will slow down and take in the little things. Get a jar and catch lightening bugs with the kids. Run through a sprinkler. Go to the beach and feel the hot grains of sand between your toes. And while you are experiencing all these amazing things, remember the one who created them.

May your summer be full of laughter, amazing little things, and lots of watermelon!

Blessings,

Katie



God Bless America!

On Sunday, July 1, our Sanctuary choir will present "Prayer For America, A Declaration of Dependence", a patriotic cantata that

will celebrate our veterans, our military, our country and our amazing God. But we need your help!

As part of the service, we would like to display pictures of service members in uniform - past and present, family and friends. We would also like to include pictures of medals or other military memorabilia that may be meaningful to you. Please send digital pictures to cynthia@philadlephiachurch.org or make a copy of the picture (no originals please!) and drop off in the church office.

Also, on cantata day, we invite you to wear your uniform (if you can squeeze into it!) or a hat that signifies your service so that we can celebrate you!

News from our youth

What a great Fall & Winter season we have had in the student ministry! We are now gearing up for our Summer season. This year we have launched small groups for students. We have seen great things come from these faith communities. This summer students will be going to camps, continuing to meet with their small groups and doing a variety of serve days throughout Charlotte.

Please keep these dates and remember our group in prayer during these times:

- June 10-15, The Great Escape – Middle School camp (Cleveland, TN)
- July 12-16, BigStuf – High School camp (Panama City, FL)



News from Christian Education Ministry

Graduation Sunday is June 3. Come show support to all of our graduates as we honor them in the 11:00 worship service. After the service the Christian Education team invites you to a reception in the courtyard to celebrate and congratulate our PPC graduates!!



Promotion Sunday is June 10. The Kingdom Kids, ages preschool-5th grade will have a ceremony at the beginning of the 11:00 worship service to celebrate the end of another school year and move up to their next grade level. Rising third graders will be presented with Bibles and the 5th graders will crossover into the Middle School youth program. All Kingdom Kid families are invited to a picnic on the church playground after the worship service!

The Christian Education Ministry wants to acknowledge all of our wonderful PPC teachers! We have amazing, dedicated and hard working school teachers in our PPC family. They work hard every single day to educate others. It is often a thankless job but we want to express our appreciation with a big THANK YOU as you complete another school year!!



We also sincerely thank each person who volunteers in any way to teach at PPC! Teaching in any area takes dedication and commitment. Whether it's Sunday School, Wonderful Wednesdays, youth, Kingdom Kids, Vacation Bible School, choir, bells, Presbyterian Women circle, small groups, or other Bible Studies, YOU ARE APPRECIATED!! Thank you to ALL who share time and talents to teach others!

Vacation Bible School is August 5-9 and the theme is Superheroes of the Bible! Put on your best mask and cape and join us as we learn how to be a hero today! Dinner will be served nightly at 6 pm. There's something for all ages! There will be adult class offerings and a structured children's program. Lots of volunteers are needed to pull off this exciting week! If you can help as a leader of a children's class, kitchen helper, set up and clean up for dinner each night, decorate the week before, work in registration, recreation with kids, or lead crafts, contact Susan Griffin, Beth Barnes, Ashley Ponscheck or Jill Linscheid ASAP!

Be looking through your books.
We will have another book drive during the month of July.
Watch for more information to come!





- 1

Mike Barkley
- 1

Isabel Fee
- 1

Will Robison
- 3

Luke Governale
- 3

David Reed
- 3

Shirley Simmons
- 4

Virginia Boyd
- 4

Madelyn Harding
- 5

Pete Robison
- 6

Lillian McAlister
- 6

Camryn Thomas
- 7

Leslie Allen
- 7

Ken Cloaninger
- 7

Karen Hodgins
- 7

Matthew McGuinness
- 7

Nita Phillips
- 8

Katherine Alphine
- 9

Braxton Hartsell
- 9

Hannah Johnson
- 9

Marilyn Kite
- 9

Katie Newton
- 9

Brett Owens
- 9

Jamie Robison
- 10

Alice Biggers
- 10

Ann Hutton
- 10

Rebecca Jamison
- 10

Laura King
- 10

Ann Whaley
- 11

Emma Kafitz
- 12

Earney Smith
- 14

Perry Davis
- 15

Austin Hall
- 15

Meredith Morris
- 16

Tam Babulski
- 16

Roy Perry
- 23

Lori Beth Jaeger
- 23

Jason Williams
- 24

Aubrey Bartlett
- 24

Cathy Ford
- 24

Marty Robinson
- 25

Joyce Anderson
- 25

Thomas King
- 25

Bruce Muehl
- 26

Alex Ensley
- 26

Lynda Gardner
- 27

Jennifer Perkins
- 27

Victor Orr
- 28

John Ellis
- 29

Diane Beard
- 29

Lewana Ratliff

June Anniversaries

- 1

Kevin & Jill Linscheid
- 2

Rick & Jamie Forbis
- 2

Franklin & Louise McSwain
- 2

Rocky & Cindi Hoffner
- 7

Matt & Jessica Corrigan
- 7

Greg & Tammy Dayton
- 11

Rudy & Judy Turnage
- 12

Jon & Becky Szymanski
- 13

Roy & Marveen Perry
- 15

Doug & Kaye Vass
- 18

Joel & Judithann Moore
- 19

Clark & Linda Davenport
- 19

Jeff & Amy Lewis
- 20

Tony & Becky Garagiola
- 21

Allen & Bernice Hardy
- 22

Jody & Tanya Briner
- 22

Greg & Janean Flowe
- 22

Dick & Jean Lamb
- 22

Bill & Carla Lohrer
- 23

Gary & Ann Brown
- 24

Keith & Karen McGuinness
- 24

Jim & Ann Hutton
- 24

Dale & Brenda Mayberry
- 25

Luke & Abby Governale
- 26

Chris & Erin Clark
- 26

Chuck & Beverly Taylor
- 27

David & Tracy Fee
- 28

Don & Lewana Ratliff
- 28

Barry & Jane Long
- 29

Steve & Laura King
- 29

Mike & Liesl West

If your name was omitted from the birthday or anniversary list, please contact the church office.

Gifts to the church

- In memory of...

Tom Connors

—Anonymous

(Pastor’s Discretionary Fund)

Neal Broome

—The Ralph Leete

Fellowship Class (Choir Fund)

Henry Griffin

—Martha Price,

Frances Leete (Endowment Fund); Ernest

& Linda Jamison (Current Fund)

Backpacks of Love

We have been posting notes of thanks from a few of the Clear Creek students who receive weekend food provided by our congregation. They are truly grateful and are excited to receive their backpacks each Friday. Our last day of packing will be Thursday, June 7. We plan to pack as much as will fit in a backpack to start them off on their summer break. Please help us make that happen! Thank you.



We extend sympathy to the family of Tom Connors who passed away on May 7.

Births within our church family

Congratulations to Jeff and Samantha Cochrane on the birth of their daughter, Remington Leigh on May 4. The proud great-grandmother is Jane Carriker.

Congratulations to Jake and Britney Forbis on the birth of their son, Everett Henry Forbis (Rhett) on May 11, 2018. The proud grandparents are Rick and Jamie Forbis.

Congratulations to Brian and Alexis Biggers Baker on the birth of their son, Henry Phillip Baker, On May 18, 2018. The proud grandparents are Ted and Liz Biggers.

Graduation Sunday, June 3

If your high school, college, or higher learning graduate would like to be recognized on this day, please contact the church office by email at Cynthia@philadelphiachurch.org or call 704-545-6172. A breakfast will be provided for the graduates and their families. Caps and gowns may be worn if desired.



Presbyterian Women’s Mission for June

Servant’s Heart in Mint Hill will be our mission focus for June. They collect school supplies all year. Non-perishable food items for the food pantry are always needed. For the non-food pantry, personal items like baby products, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, dish soap, cleaning supplies, deodorant are on their list. Donations marked “Servant’s Heart” may be put in the missions room across from the church office.

**Friday, June 1**

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—AA Building

Saturday, June 2

8:00 a.m.—Stephen Ministry Retreat—Bigham Hall

Graduation Sunday, June 3

9:00 a.m.—Journey Alternative Worship—Kerr Building

10:00 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Sanctuary Traditional Service—Sanctuary

12:30 p.m.—Graduate Reception—Courtyard

7:00 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Room

Monday, June 4

6:00 p.m.—Christian Education Ministry Mtg.—Session Rm.

6:30 p.m.—Scouts—Bigham Hall

7:00 p.m.—Deacons Mtg.—Heritage Room

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, June 5

6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Bigham Hall

7:00 p.m.—Girls Basketball—Kerr Building

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Wednesday, June 6

10:00 a.m.—Craft Workshop—Chapel Annex

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, June 7

6:00 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.—Personnel & Admin. Ministry Meeting—Session Room

7:00 p.m.—PW Council—Fred Brown Classroom

7:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, June 8

11:00 a.m.—Bible Study—Session Room

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—AA Building

Saturday, June 9

No Meetings

Promotion Sunday, June 10

9:00 a.m.—Journey Alternative Worship—Kerr Building

10:00 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Sanctuary Traditional Service—Sanctuary

4:30 p.m.—Worship & Music Ministry Mtg.—Heritage Room

7:00 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Room

Monday, June 11

6:30 p.m.—Cub Scouts—Bigham Hall

6:00 p.m.—Evangelism & Outreach Ministry—Session Room

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, June 12

7:00 p.m.—Shawl Ministry Mtg.—Fred Brown Classroom

7:00 p.m.—Girls Basketball—Kerr Building

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Wednesday, June 13

6:00 p.m.—Craft Workshops—Chapel Annex

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, June 14

7:00 p.m.—Finance Ministry Meeting—Session Room

7:00 p.m.—Basketball—Kerr Building

7:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, June 15

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—AA Building

Saturday, June 16

No Meetings

Sunday, June 17

9:00 a.m.—Journey Alternative Worship—Kerr Building

10:00 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Sanctuary Traditional Service—Sanctuary

7:00 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Room

Monday, June 18

7:00 p.m.—Session Meeting—Session Room

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, June 19

7:00 p.m.—Resource Ministry Mtg.—Session Room

7:00 p.m.—Girls Basketball—Kerr Building

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Wednesday, June 20

10:00 a.m.—Craft Workshops—Chapel Annex

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, June 21

6:00 p.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Building

7 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, June 22

6:00 p.m.—Movie Night—Kerr Building

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—AA Building

Saturday, June 23

No Meetings

Sunday, June 24

9:00 a.m.—Journey Alternative Worship—Kerr Building

10:00 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Sanctuary Traditional Service—Sanctuary

7:00 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Room

Monday, June 25

6:30 Stephen Ministry Mtg.—Heritage Room

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Tuesday, June 26

:00 p.m.—Shawl Ministry Mtg.—Fred Brown Classroom

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Wednesday, June 27

10:00 a.m.—Craft Workshops—Chapel Annex

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—AA Building

Thursday, June 28

6:00 p.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Building

7 p.m.—AA Mtg.—AA Building

Friday, June 29

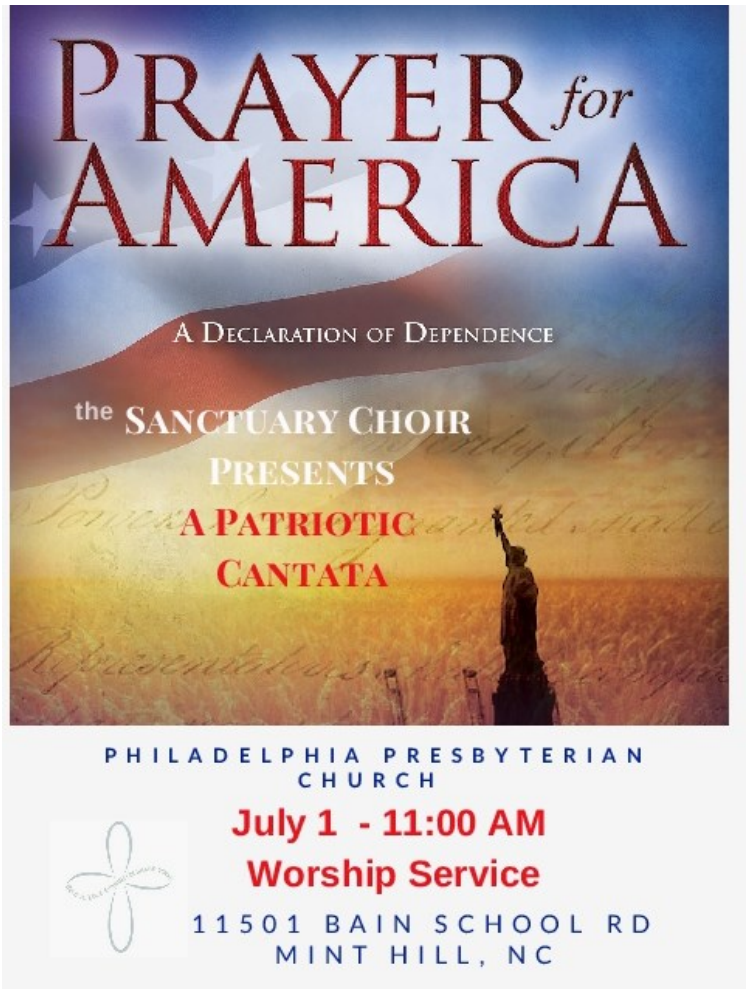
8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—AA Building

Saturday, June 30

No Meetings



Flag Day - June 14
Fly your flag!



They saw a need....

Hats off to the Pairs and Spares Class! One of the missions they have adopted for the year is to do some grounds work around the church campus. Work has begun near the outside entrance to their classroom at the back of Bigham Hall and also in the islands in the parking lot. Bushes have been trimmed, weeds have been pulled, and all kinds of bad stuff has been sprayed with Roundup, all while hornets nests and poison ivy have been discovered! The intention is to keep these areas looking their best so that we can all take pride in our pretty campus. Weeds and stray grasses grow faster than anything else and in places where they are unwelcome! It takes an effort. Are there any other classes or groups that would like to adopt an area for maintenance that is not covered in our regular lawn maintenance contract? It's something to think about! See some before and after pictures below.



In addition to the landscape work, the Pairs and Spares Class has participated in two workshops for Bright Blessings and will schedule two more this year. If you're looking for a Sunday School class, come join them! They meet in the large classroom in the back of Bigham Hall, and they have coffee!

Claire's Army Update from Presbyterian Women



For what are we grateful? For the fact that our church has embraced the annual Claire's Army event with love and excitement....for the close to \$25,000 that has been raised in the past five years....for every table sponsor and guest....for all the workers behind the scenes in the kitchen....for every individual or business that has donated great prizes for the Tea Cup Raffle....for the Presbyterian Men who help with the tables and chairs....for the planners who spend time meeting and making phone calls....for Kristen Miranda for being our emcee each year....the list is long! There has already been a meeting with regards to next year's event! By the way, the planners prayed all through the planning that their efforts would be God honoring, and they appreciated all prayers offered for this special and worthy cause.

Presbyterian Women will present a check to Emily and Kevin Ratliff during the 11:00 worship service on June 24. Money continues to trickle in. We are *so* close to \$10,000, which would be the most we have ever raised in a single year. Anyone wishing to make a donation may do so by writing a check to PPCPW and noting "Claire's Army" on the memo line **by June 15**.

If we could follow each dollar donated, we would see the grateful families on the receiving end of the Claire's Army mission. Thank you, Philadelphia Presbyterian Church, for supporting this very important mission!

Summer movie night is back!

Dates for summer family movie nights are June 22, July 20, and August 17. The June movie will be "The Incredibles", and we will enjoy "The Greatest Showman" in July. Stay tuned for what the August pick will be.

Bring a chair if you'd like. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Movies start at 7:00.

Philadelphia Presbyterian Kindergarten news

Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is underway! If you are planning to register your child for next year, please send in your application as soon as possible. Classes are filling up! You may obtain an application from our website: philadelphiachurch.org or from Becky Brown.



If you are a widower, come have breakfast at Showmars at 8:00 the third Friday of each month. It would be helpful to let Tony Baker know (704-545-4730) that you will be there, but it’s not necessary. Just come around to the back room at Showmars in Mint Hill.

All announcements or inserts to be included in the weekly bulletin MUST be received in the office by noon on Thursday of each week. Announcements or inserts received after noon will be included in the following week’s bulletin. Please be aware that any submissions may need to be edited for space!

In the event of bad weather, be sure to tune in to WSOC-TV for information concerning delays or cancellation of services or events. You may sign up to receive text alerts of service and activity changes or closings due to bad weather by going to wsoc.tv.com/s/closings. Look for the “School closings and delays text alerts” link. The church ID# is 0426.

Ten Cents a Meal offering received on second Sundays

The offering continues to be received on the second Sunday of each month to support hunger-fighting programs within the Presbytery of Charlotte bounds, and to feed the mind, body and spirit of people in our communities to include hunger related and “at-risk” youth programming.

Members in the Military

- Major Grant Cloaninger
1337 Judge Tyler Drive
Clarksville, TN 37043
- Rachel Brinegar
6730 S. Court Drive
Tampa, FL 33611
- Foreman, Jack W.
51802-2 Comanche Ave.
Fort Hood, TX 76544



Rev. Rusty Benton, Head Pastor
Katie Sloan, Associate Minister
Shane Sledd, Youth and Family Minister
Judy Clinton, Office Manager
Cynthia Stokes, Secretary
Linda Cummins, Webmaster/Administrative Assistant



www.philadelphiachurch.org

Jane Mendlik, Interim Director of Music
Marnie Gallagher, Youth Choir Director
Melinda Johnston, Children’s Choir Director
Leslie Anderson, Organist
Shirley Simmons, Philagram Editor