



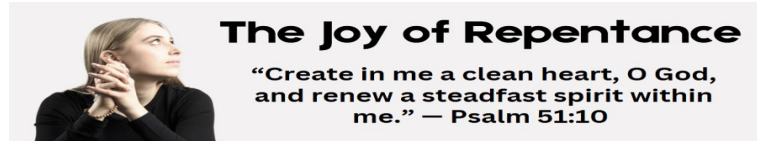
March 19, 2025  
Issue #239

ROOTED IN FAITH  
GROWING IN LOVE



That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith: that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height.  
Ephesians 3: 17-18

Since we have been looking at the subject of joy in Philippians during our Sunday evening messages, I was blessed by this little devotion given by Dr. Bruce Barnes in his weekly “Barnes on the Bay” newsletter. I hope it will be a blessing to you.



Repentance, joyful? Yes, when we understand its result. Repentance is often seen as sorrowful, a significant moment of acknowledging sin before a holy God. Yet, within this act of humility lies an unexpected gift—joy. True repentance is undoubtedly about turning away from sin, but it also involves turning toward God, who restores, renews, regenerates, and revives our hearts. And who would not want that?

David deeply understood this when he cried out in Psalm 51 after committing grievous sins. In his prayer, he didn't merely ask for forgiveness; he longed for a clean heart and a steadfast spirit. He recognized that sin separates us from God, while repentance brings restoration. It is encouraging to know that when we genuinely seek the Lord's mercy, He does not turn us away. Instead, He graciously cleanses us, making us whiter than snow (Psalm 51:7).

The joy of repentance springs from the certainty that God welcomes us back with open arms. Just as the father in the parable of the prodigal son ran to embrace his wayward child, our Heavenly Father rushes to meet us, covering us with His love and restoring our place in His family (Luke 15:20-24). Sin weighs heavily on the soul, pressing down with guilt and sorrow. However, true repentance lifts that burden, sweeping away despair and filling the heart with peace and joy.

The joy of repentance is always within reach for those who surrender, offering not merely a second chance but a transformed life. Through God's amazing work of grace, He changes us from the inside out, granting us a new heart that yearns for Him above all else. This isn't just a fresh start; it's a work of the Holy Spirit, reshaping us to walk in righteousness. True repentance offers more than forgiveness—it leads to freedom.

If your heart feels heavy today, bring it to the Lord. Confess, turn away from sin, and embrace the joy that comes with being made new. Let repentance be not a burden but a gateway to deeper fellowship with the One who loves you the most.

APPLY IT !

Our Prayer: “Father, cleanse my heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Help me to walk in joyful repentance, knowing Your mercy is greater than my sin. Thank You for restoring me and drawing me closer to You. Amen.



This past weekend the teenagers went to Capps Entertainment. How exciting was it to find that our church van wouldn't start for the activity? However, the Walls came to the rescue. Thank you, Jackson, for supervising the event, and thank you Greg/Stacey for loaning the church your van for the afternoon. Your family is amazing!



March Madness is here! Basketball lovers are delighted as the 68 teams have been chosen to compete in the NCAA tourney. Of course, the church will piggyback on this great event and host our own tournament. Anyone can participate to win a \$50 Olive Garden gift card. Just pick up a bracket in the church foyer (or download your own copy). Fill out the teams you think will win and turn your selections into the office before Thursday's games. I cannot stress enough that you do not need to know basketball to win this event. The White Oak Hill tourney is just for fun, and we hope everyone participates. Good luck to everyone!



So many things are happening at the church in the next 45 days!! But we can't get ahead of ourselves and skip into the excitement for the April events. Friend Day is less than two weeks away! Wow! We are going to have such a great day. Here's how you can help.

- Pray! Let's pray for the Lord to use our efforts for His glory and for people to accept Christ.
- Pass out invitations! Let's invite everyone we know to the service.
- Be Present! Let's clear our calendar and make sure we are present on the 30th.
- Participate! Finally, let's partner together to help where we can (i.e. tables, decorations, etc.).



The service will be on March 30th, and it starts at 10:30 a.m. Unfortunately, there will be no Sunday School class on Friend Day to allow our great cooks an opportunity to bring their food. Did I mention we were eating in the Family Life Center after the service? We are ordering Parker's Barbeque and Chicken to serve beside the covered dishes prepared by our church family. Not having Sunday School class will also allow the musicians more time to prepare before the big day.

"Every heart with Christ is a missionary and every heart without Christ is a mission field." Dick Hillis  
John 4:34-36 "

34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.  
35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.  
36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.



After Friend Day and the first weekend in April, the church will kick off the first meeting of the year for the Sonshine Club. Everyone in the church (over the age of 50) may attend this wonderful time of fellowship in the Family Life Center. More details about the meal and activities will be given later. However, our seniors need to mark their calendars for a great time.



After the April 6th morning service, the church will have a family business meeting to vote on Michael Smart joining the staff at White Oak Hill. He has accepted the invitation to be considered for the Associate Pastor position. We will be voting on him during the meeting. I appreciate all the feedback given to me. It certainly appears most of you loved him and his family. We will be placing more information in the vestibule (the specific motion, his package, and the start date) for your consideration and prayers. Please continue to pray for this sweet family and God's will in their life.

**March Music Ministry Led by Randy Bisette**

March 23rd-Crown Him With Many Crowns, Worthy Is the Lamb, We Bow Down-We Lay Our Crowns

Special Music: The Wall Family

March 30th- What A Friend We Have In Jesus, The Goodness of God; and Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Specials: Bethany, Amanda; and the Men's Quartet



The Prayer Needs in the church this week are listed below.

- Judith Grant- Please pray for Ms. Judith! Please pray specifically for her lungs to function normally.
- Patricia Register- Please continue to pray for our dear sister. Her dialysis is going well.
- Georgia and Phil Joyner-Both of these sweet people are having some serious health issues.
- Norma Reason-Ms. Norma is doing much better but continues to struggle.
- Kim Mobley-Let's continue to pray for Kim and Shawn.
- Eleanor Howell- They have called in Hospice, and she has been moved to a rehabilitation system in Rocky Mount.
- Janice Cason-Please continue to pray for our former pastor's mother.
- Teresa Medlin-Ms. Teresa has been admitted into Wake Medical in Raleigh. Her sugar levels are normal (answer to prayer), but her kidneys are still misbehaving.
- Sue Bisette-Ms. Sue is still experiencing some discomfort, and the doctors are running a series of tests to determine the cause.
- Earlene Pitts-Many of you know she has been struggling with Parkinson's disease for years. She is having a very difficult time. Please pray for Brother Gene and Ms. Earlene as they navigate this season of life.
- Hal Jones IV- Please continue to pray for our son. His kidney biopsy went well, and we await the results.
- Gail Pridgen-Let's pray for Ms. Gail. Her chemo treatments are going well.
- Morris Joyner-Brother Morris has cancer and needs our prayers.
- A.W. and Bernice Pitts- This sweet couple is struggling physically. Please pray for them and this season of physical difficulty.
- Friend Day-Please pray the Lord will open doors and open hearts.
- Debra Pierce-Debra is battling some extreme health problems. Pray the medications continue to help.
- Melisa Belcher-Melisa is doing much better. She is waiting to get cleared for her knee replacement surgery.
- Michael and Jennifer Smart-This sweet couple is praying about serving the Lord at the church.
- Charles Price Sr. -Charles is having to use larger oxygen bottles to enjoy a good quality of life. Let's pray he regains his strength.
- Jeff Flores-Brother Jeff is recovering from shoulder surgery.
- Please pray for Israel

Love in Christ,

*Rev. Hal W. Jones III*

Pastor Hal Jones  
Galatians 2:20

**Church Attendance**

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| <b>March 12th</b>      |     |
| Wednesday Night        | 60  |
| <b>March 16th</b>      |     |
| Sunday School          | 85  |
| Sunday Morning Worship | 127 |



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Missions Update v. 7.1

March 2025

"I listen to your programs regularly and accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior. Thank you, and please pray for me!"

- listener in Türkiye

## Serving Never Slows

I shared with the TWR staff in N.C. recently the comfort of knowing all that we have we receive from a wise, sovereign, and loving Father. This helps not only when we become busy with responsibilities but also receive the strength to meet them. For some time, I have felt very busy, but in a good way. Our church began the new year with a missions focus as we viewed the *Lifted* film from TWR. As a result, Josh, a friend from church, is now planning to go & help with the transmitter & tower assembly in the jungles of Suriname. After the movie I had the privilege to interview Ted & Roy, two missionary friends ([graceccnc.org/grace-matters](http://graceccnc.org/grace-matters)) who worked with the Schoens & spent considerable time teaching the Bible to the tribes in Suriname.

It seems recently that I have just been jumping from one task to the next: phones, internet, computers, licensing, and more. One task on my plate has been to interview potential interns and volunteers for the IT team and to prepare for them to join us. The

*Neal joins Ted McKinney and Roy & Margaret Lytle after interviewing them about ministry in Suriname.*



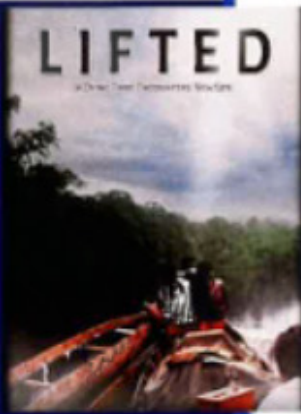
*Neal snaps a selfie with Simon visiting from Nepal, and Phil who volunteers each year.*

three that will join us soon will report to me. It is a blessing to pour into others seeking to serve the Lord with their technical skills, but it does take energy and focus that I cannot create on my own.

Another interesting "busy-ness" came recently when the global leaders were in town for meetings. The computer belonging to our brother Simon from Nepal needed some work. We thought it would be simple and quick. However, as often is the case with technology, it was neither. But thankfully we tag-teamed, even off hours, and better secured his computer and got him the data he needed. It's always enjoyable to meet co-workers from around the globe and hear firsthand how the Lord is blessing the ministry.

One area we continue to pray for and seek God's blessing is with security. As AI becomes streamlined in society, the bad guys are often ahead of the game. We have recently (and rapidly) implemented measures that better protect our missionaries against thieves & hackers. I contributed to the conversation & implementation, but there is no way any of this can be a one-man show. I'm thankful to work with excellent missionary-professionals!

## Lifted: A Dying Tribe Encounters New



*Lifted* is a TWR documentary film following the ministry of the Schoen family in Suriname. They are one of several families that ventured deep into the jungles of the Amazon to spread God's Word to unreached tribes. I get to support Tom Schoen in his continuing efforts to disciple believers along lands bordering Brazil. Ted and Roy also served there and continue to make trips to see their Wayana and Trio friends and impart some Christian kindness to them. Soon, Josh will join the work with his engineering skills. Today the story continues as the tribal elders are building two AM transmitters to minister to their people along the river. I highly encourage you to watch the movie ([twr.org/lifted](http://twr.org/lifted)), but beware, it may result in a heart for missions! If you have seen the movie already, be sure to check the site again as there are extras where the Schoens recall stories that did not make it into the full film.

### Prayer Corner

Pray – for us to parent well and for the boys as they navigate the teen years

Pray – for God's strength and grace during busy & trying seasons

Pray- for TWR in the presidential search and navigating ministry in dynamic & trying times

Praise – God is bringing two interns and a volunteer to work with the IT team this year

Praise/prayer – for protection from ever increasing cyber security attacks

### Family Fun

We are thankful that aside from normal parenting forays and bouts of winter colds, things are good at home. Anthony is continuing to work part time and stay busy studying for Science Olympiad again this year, along with practicing theater with our local Spiritual Twist Productions. He is trying to get his last few permit hours driving with Myra before getting his license in the spring. Isaiah not only enjoyed working his way to becoming a starter on the school MS basketball team but attending with Neal his first in-person NCAA & ACC men's b-ball game. In January we celebrated Cara's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. We have all enjoyed adding kittens to the household at Christmas, but her especially. And the purr machines love her! She is eager to find some activity she can get into but they are all still a year or two off (volleyball, horse riding, etc.). Alden is cruising through his school lessons. He's a whiz at math and is happy to now be reading! Myra continues staying busy as chauffeur along with home schooling. She's hoping steady part-time Engineering work comes soon. Neal is continuing his woodworking. He is also now a part of the church's missions team.



*Above – Christmas family photo*

*Left – Cookie and Custard snuggle with Cara*

*Center – All four kids enjoy a computer game together*

*Right – Neal & Isaiah root on NCSU. Go Wolfpack!*

