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Starkdale Evangelical Presbyterian Church Newsletter April/May 2021

Worship Services 9AM and 11 AM

MESSAGE FROM

REV. G. CARL MOORE

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

(Tit 3:4-7 ESV)

C.S. Lewis famously said: "The highest doesn't stand without the lowest." This makes sense. Case in point, what makes the height of Mt. Everest so spectacular is the depths of the Grand Canyon. What makes the height of the Freedom Tower possible is the depth of its foundation. This is true, especially true of the gospel. The height of the good news of the gospel does not stand without the depths of the bad news. R.C. Sproul notes: "The gospel is only good news when we understand the bad news." If someone says to you— "I have bad news and good news"—if you are like me you may prefer the bad first (to get that out of the way) then the good. As a child I would prefer first my bland vegetables so I could in turn enjoy my dessert. This is true of the gospel. Tim Keller says that: "In the gospel, we discover we are far worse off than we thought, and far more loved than we ever dreamed." In other words, the good news is the



Anniversaries

3 Tom and Anna Ault
9 Robert and Margaret Stewart
23 Ray and Darene Waskiewicz
24 Robert and Diane Smith
30 Joseph and Carolyn Glaub
30 Philip and Vickey Makari



love of God, that we are loved beyond our wildest dreams, that we are accepted beyond what we can ever imagine, that we are embraced with breathtaking love! This is the height of the gospel that takes our breath away!

However, many take this for granted. Many in the churches across America today assume they are loved by God. God's love is too domesticated, too tame, and too familiar. Such an understanding of God's love is far from breathtaking, it's more stale, arid, and old. Such a heart has never experienced the true love of God.

Ironically, what makes the height of God's love so breathtaking to a true believer is coming to an understanding of the depths of our sinful nature, a biblical understanding that we (apart from Christ) are far worse off than we thought. Unconverted man hates this notion. Because of this he creates man-made religions. Examples are legalism and humanism. The man-made religion of legalism tells us that the glass of our human goodness is half-empty. We are good, but not good enough. So, because of this, we must keep striving to increase our half-empty glass to being two-thirds empty or three-fourths empty with emphasis on the empty, the not quite good enough. The religion of legalism is fatally pessimistic. The other extreme is the man -made religion of humanism. It tells us that the glass of our human goodness is half-full. We are good, and getting better. We must strive to increase our half-full glass to being two-thirds full or three-fourths full with emphasis on our fullness; we are good and getting better all the time. The religion of humanism is fatally optimistic.

However, the gospel of God concerning Christ (the only God-made religion) is neither pessimistic, nor superficially optimistic. It's realistic. Scripture tells us that the glass of our human nature is dirty with sin, that our dirty glass of sin contaminates the water of our good works. The bad news is not that our glass is full or empty, but dirty. It doesn't matter how little or how much water we have. It is still dirty.

But the good news is this: if we would fall on the mercy of God and trust and repent of our sins and stop looking to our accomplishments (whether half-full or half-empty) and look to what Christ has accomplished on the cross, then God will do what is impossible for us to do; God (as Paul says to Titus) will wash us, and renews us, and pour out on and in us His Holy Spirit. In short, He will pour out our good works, wash the glass of our hearts, and renew us by pouring his presence and power within us, replacing the foul water of our righteousness with the pure water of the righteousness of Christ. Beloved, this is the breathtaking height of the gospel!! This is the Easter message of Resurrection Sunday. As Christians may we soak this in! Though we are far worse off than we dare to think, remember that we are far more loved than we dare to dream.

In Christ, Pastor Carl

Thank You

I would like to thank each and every one of you who kept me in your prayers, and also for the beautiful cards with encouragement.

The doctors even acknowledged that in the surgery they felt the prayers also.

I am so grateful for all of you, the nurses, doctors and most of all God's mercy and grace.

With Christian Love, Esther Harris



The Starkdale Adult Choir is happy to announce we have returned. We are very blessed to be back. The choir will be singing from the balcony.

Please join us as we worship the Lord together!



THE CHIMES STAFF

Betty Hackathorne, Wayne Hackathorne, Esther Harris Janice Whitaker

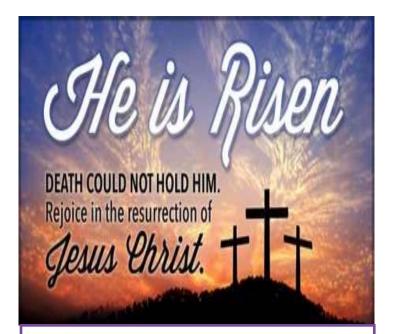


Dear Carl, Tom, and the Starkdale Family,

We would like to express our deepest gratitude for all of your visits to see our father and all of the cards and

prayers that the Starkdale Family sent out for him. Your kindness reached out and touched our father and lifted his spirits during his illness. May God bless each and every one of you for your thoughtfulness.

With much thanks, Sharon Petrilla, Sheila Byard, and Sandee Huber



PALM SUNDAY SERVICES

MARCH 28, 2021 9:00 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE

> IN THE SANCTUARY APRIL 1, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES APRIL 4, 2021 9:00 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.



Dear Friends Committee), (Outreach

Thank you for your generous support of the Urban Mission in 2020 financial contributions to our organization.. Your commitment to helping those we serve through the Urban Mission is greatly appreciated. We look forward to serving you in 2021!

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely, Rev. Ashley Steele, Executive Director

Starkdale Presbyterian Church (Outreach)

Thank you for the recent donation you gave for the Women In Action Against Cancer Coalition. We use those donations to help women in the Tri-State area receive individual care if they are uninsured or underinsured.

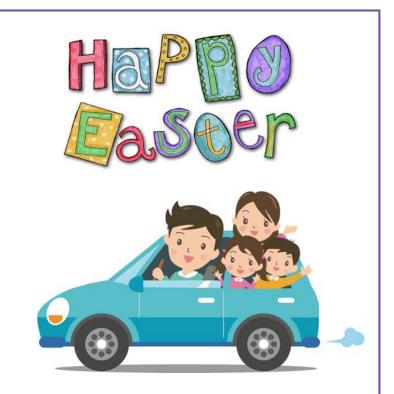
Jane Pellar,

Corresponding Secretary

To Starkdale Church Outreach Committee,

Our sincere thanks for your generous donation for our Christmas Drive. Because you cared, 65 families were blessed this Christmas!

God Bless, Jerry Boyd Wintersville Good Neighbors



DRIVE THROUGH EASTER BUNNY EVENT! APRIL 3, 2021 12:00 - 1:00 P.M.

PLEASE JOIN US AT STARKDALE CHURCH PARKING LOT - LOWER LEVEL

EASTER GOODIES AND A VISIT FROM THE BUNNY!

<u>RSVP</u> to the Church Office at (740)264-5309