

# The Messenger



APRIL

, 2015

## Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM    Sunday School  
10:30 AM    Worship Service  
11:45 AM    Fellowship

1459 White Memorial Church Rd.  
Willow Spring, NC 27592  
919-639-9973  
[www.wmpcwillow.spring.org](http://www.wmpcwillow.spring.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Remembering God's grace, the mission of White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Willow Spring is:*

*Come to be joyous and thoughtful in worship;*

*Walk with God's guidance into deeper faith and knowledge;*

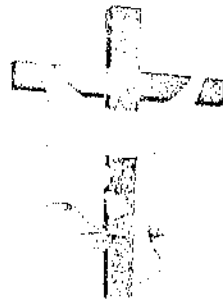
*Stretch out to the needy with tangible acts of service;*

*Be loving and generous with time, talents, and treasures;*

*Go out into the world to welcome and invite.*

## A NOTE FROM HENRY COATES

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! By now, I hope most of us have met and been introduced to one another. I am excited to be worshiping and serving alongside you good people of White Memorial Willow Springs for the next several upcoming months. I look forward to all of us getting to know each other more fully. I hope that God can use our time together for his Kingdom and that we may all continue to grow more into his likeness. During this time of getting to know one another, if you have any questions or comments for me, please do not hesitate to email me at [pastorhank1@gmail.com](mailto:pastorhank1@gmail.com). As we head towards wonderful Spring weather, it is my prayer that we can take the time to see God's goodness and mercy all around us! Take care and God bless. See you on Sunday.



2015 ...THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE...since last month the two adult SS classes have joined classes because both were using the weekly Bible reading as each Sunday's lessons. We have good attendance, good discussions. Church members who have not previously attended SS are enjoying the class and enjoying the reading. You can begin now. There is a chart for each month/each day. The group only discusses the readings of the previous week. We are learning from each other, gaining insight and confidence. One writer said that with Presbyterian emphasis on education, many were all too often biblically illiterate. We take turns as facilitator for the day. Please come join us in the SS room next to the sanctuary.

## Easter Egg-Stravaganza

Saturday, April 4

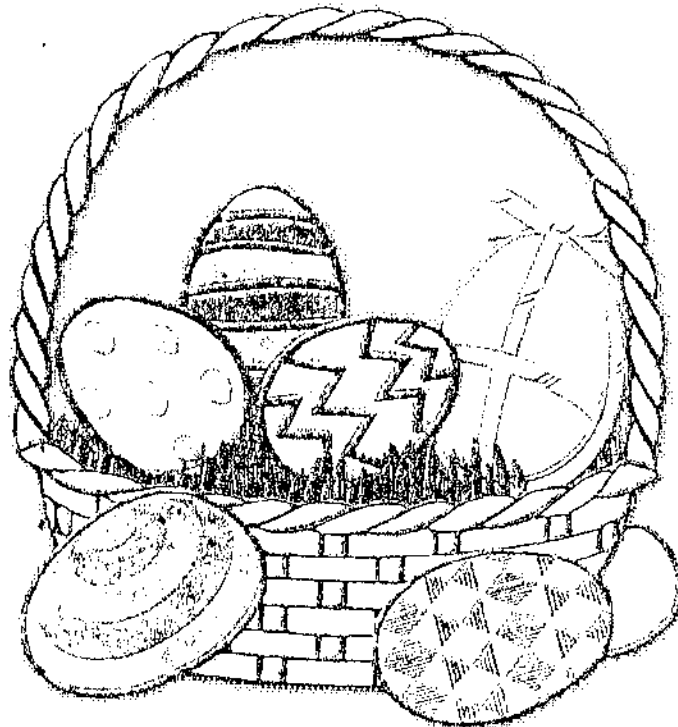
10A - Noon

Want to have some fun? How about spending a morning with kids of all ages... dyeing eggs, decorating cookies, playing games, hunting eggs and having a light lunch? If this sounds good to you come join the Easter Egg-Stravaganza on Saturday, April 4 from 10A-noon. There will be fun for all ages and a wonderful opportunity for us to exhibit our new mission statement to the community.

Even if you can't join us that morning, you can contribute to the event by bringing in bags of candy to fill the eggs, bringing in items for prizes awarded to all the kids, helping to fill eggs or helping to decorate for the event.

Contributions are needed by Saturday, March 28.

As usual for our congregation, it's all hands on deck! Thanks in advance for your time and talents. If you need more information please contact Nancy Warren at 919-639-3674 or [flagman22@embarqmail.com](mailto:flagman22@embarqmail.com)



## TRIBUTE TO CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS

I am standing here tonight surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, my family, all the educators who mentored me, my PSCE experience, and the dedicated educators that I have worked with all my life many of whom are seated right here. I am so proud to have been called into this magnificent profession. Oh there are few monetary rewards or prestige and sometimes there is even a lack of respect but those are nothing compared to the smile on a child's face or the courage of a teenager or dedication of an adult.

We teach people holy things: How to pray, How to raise a faith filled children; We teach children and their parents the meaning of the Lord's Supper. It is quite a holy endeavor to teach children, youth and adults the stories of the Bible. Who else knows how to involve people in their own learning? We have been in groups when the Holy Spirit has descended. We have received messages from children, youth and adults who are glad we have been a part of their lives. What a joy Vacation Church School is---I could have done with less committee meetings. We love writing curriculum.

At a Montreat Youth conference I sat right beside a youth advisor who was having a religious experience. At the same conference a young man was finally able to cry about his sister's terminal brain tumor.

We teach people faith! I taught a confirmand who was going to be held back in the sixth grade if he didn't make a speech. We were talking about God helping people do things they never thought they could do. All of a sudden the conversation turned on me. The class knew that I had been frightened unto death when the youth group threw a rubber snake on me. So the boy and I made a pact that if God helped me hold a rubber snake then he would believe that God would help him make his speech. Well, after much prayer and concentration I held several rubber snakes and the boy passed English. What more could anyone ask from a profession? At an Advent workshop a young father who rarely attended church got so involved in making Jesse tree ornaments that he wouldn't leave until he was done.

We have called people to teach the faith and we have trained them. We have an enormousness amount of people we have helped to have faith who have shared that faith with others. We have taken our children, youth and adults on mission trips. We have taught people to tithe; we have taught them the great hymns of the faith. We have endured bad superiors and unkind church members. And yet we press on because we have been called by God, "Our hope is in no other save in thee; Our faith is built upon thy promise free; Lord, give us peace and make us calm and sure, That in thy strength we ever more endure."\*(I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer Art)

Marilyn Hein, Retired Teacher Elder  
and former Associate for the Presbytery of New Hope

SERVICE AND CELEBRATION PAGE  
APRIL, 2015

**USHERS**

Helen Smith and Jan Gossett

**NURSERY**

5 – Jenn Boudoux, 12 – Michelle Johnson, 19 – Joyce Byrd,  
26 – Lynn Stephenson

**BIRTHDAYS**

1 – Ashley Sanderson, 4 – Jayce Stephenson, 6 – Monica Chapman,  
7 – Linda Strickland, 13 – Ira Jersey, 17 – Jordan Johnson,  
18 – Joy Watson, 24 – Jessica Denning Evans, 25 – Haley Stephenson,  
25 – Justin Honeycutt, 26 – Glenda Talton, 26 – Brenda Talton,  
29 – Clay Bausoux

**CLEANING**

4 – Maria S. Young, 18 – Cecil R. Young

---

Mike Stewart would like to invite church members to attend Joyful Sound Academy Violin Recital (ages 4-18) on Sunday afternoon at 3:00 PM on April 26, 2015 in the White Memorial Presbyterian church sanctuary. Cake and ice cream will be served in the fellowship hall following the recital. Come and enjoy.

---





- Condolences to Reverend Paul Fulks, former interim pastor of our church and his family. His mother passed away on March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Frances Seagroves is moving to Liberty Commons after a stay at Rex Hospital.
- Melody Thorpe, Jenn's friend, has returned home with home health care. Continue to pray for her improvement.
- Jaden Turner, Steve & Rosanne's grandson, has started basic training at Fort Jackson. Prayers for his safety and future in our armed forces.
- Paul Dunn, Lynn Stephenson's father, his cancer is progressing and he is in a lot of pain.
- Ronnie Stephenson's brother, Bobby, as he deals with cancer concerns. He was in the hospital at the time of this writing.
- Baby Jackson – per Sharen Jackson
- Pam Page, Myrline's niece as she undergoes chemotherapy.

### **CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

\* Mitch Parrish

\* Kaylan King

\* Detta Wood

### **THOSE IN NURSING HOMES OR ASSISTED LIVING**

- Danny Matthews, Hester Family Care Center, 154 Haven Lane, Princeton, NC 27569
- Pauline Jones, Liberty Commons, 2315 Hwy. 242, Benson, NC 27504
- Vada Allen, Oak Hill Living Center, 9767 NC Hwy 210, Angier, NC 27501
- Alene Stamey, North Chase Nursing Facility, 3015 Enterprise, Wilmington, NC
- Frances Seagroves, Liberty Commons, 2315 Hwy. 242, Benson, NC 27504

### **JOYS**

White Memorial welcomes Henry Coates to serve as Intern Pastor for the next six months. Henry has a new puppy named Nola.

Another happy, yet sad, visit to Stagecoach Manor. Keep our friends there in your prayers.

## Betrayal

Love has moved out.  
The room is silent.  
The table is left;  
broken bread still sitting there,  
wine half finished,  
herbs and lamb scattered across  
the table,  
In the distance you can hear  
footsteps moving through  
the olive grove,  
Where they are we do not know.

The room hangs,  
suspended in time,  
cushions scattered,  
crumbs across the floor,  
a basin and a towel sit by the door.

There is a rustle of leaves among  
the trees.  
a brushing of garments caught on  
the branches,  
the sound of knees breaking the  
twigs as they kneel

The room is cold,  
full of questions.  
The air is deep with the smell of  
betrayal and panic,  
of accusations and unfinished stories.  
But something deeper is gone,  
and gone forever;  
a presence,  
a hope.  
Footsteps sound on their way past the  
house out of the city.

The room is dull.  
Shadows stretch across unfinished  
bread and half-drunk wine,  
a breeze from the empty window fills  
the space,  
and crumbs roll and tablecloth flutters,  
as the wind searches  
and cools the wound of that room;  
a ghostly presence,  
filling the hole,  
haunting love.

There is a gathering of noise,  
shouts,  
and silence.

From the room all there is to hear  
is distant muttering.  
The trees capture the sounds  
and clasp the moment of betrayal.

Suddenly,  
all at once,  
the wind changes direction,  
the silence sinks,  
there is a cry somewhere in the city,  
and a kiss is traced on a carpenter's  
cheek.

It is the moment of betrayal.  
The night has truly arrived.

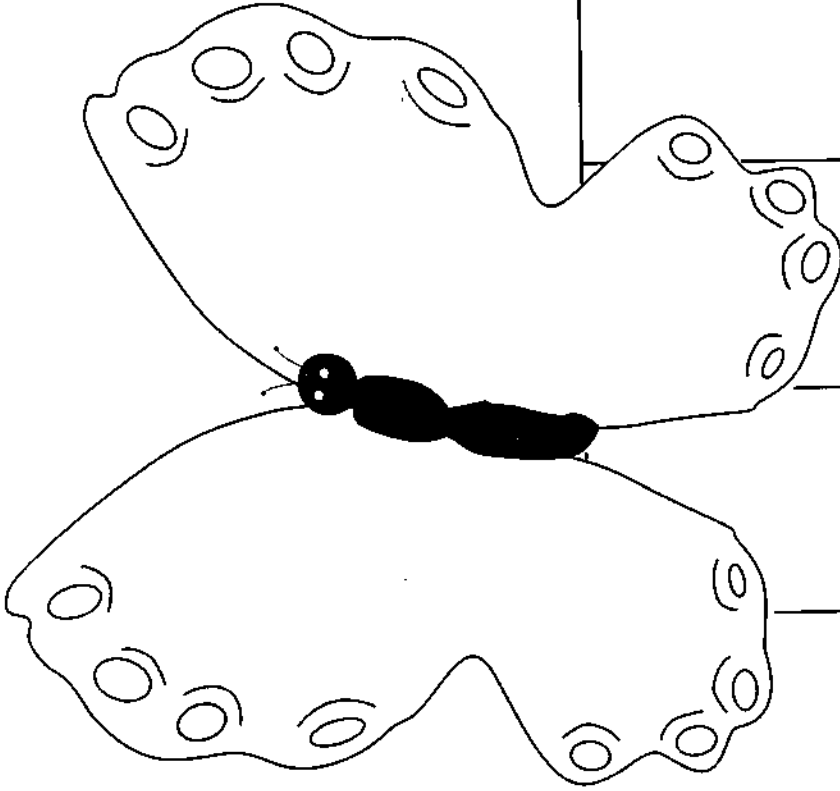
APRIL 2015 MOUSE NEWS

- We've turned a new page at WMPC. Intern Henry Coates has begun his 6 month relationship with the church, bringing with him the gift of the Spirit that blesses our worship services and our hearts. Mouse loves ministers.....we serve together and feed at the same table...we try to follow God's plan as each of us is created to, one person's weakness, made perfect in another's strength. I talked to Duane last week; he is doing well and is happy and invigorated by serving a large congregation that will benefit from his skills and insight. God bless all ministers everywhere.
- Bring Easter lilies in honor or memory of others any time. Leave the names of the ones to be honored and your name please.
- There will be no Easter Cantata this year because of the transition we've experienced. We invite you who love to sing and praise God to join the choir.
- Heart- felt thanks to Mike Stewart and Kristy Gathings for taking over the church piano for the time being. Providing worship music ranks right up there with bringing the word in sermon in Mouse's opinion. I could be blessed and sent out, fed by music alone.....and by some sermons but not all. just saying....part of that is my weakness.
- During the children's sermon Sunday, one said, "I used to have a puppy, but he turned into a dog." WE ALL KNOW THAT'S A STORY FOR THE AGES... from mouth of babes.
- Sandy and Mitch Parrish are hosting a family reunion of Mitch's family Saturday in the Fellowship Hall. People are coming from as far as CA. They will be having a Memorial Celebration of life for Mitch's brother Lonnie, who died earlier this year.
- Connie Alberant has been sick but is better now. In a church of dog lovers, Connie must be the Queen. Ask her why.
- Our in house flower guru, Jenn Baudoux , has impressed her employer. His business has doubled since she's been working there. He is smart to recognize that she is the impetus for his good business. We also recognize Jenn's talent and her gifts to our church. Thank you, Jenn.
- Don and Teresa got away for a weekend in March. Although Don retired, he's been recruited for part time work---that's what happens to talented people. Don, you're too young to retire. And there's a wedding coming up in November.
- The Nimrod /Amanda Stephenson Family reunion will be in church hall Sunday May 3. Hosts are descendants of Albert --that's Linda, Stephanye, Rush, Robin, and numerous cousins. Ann married into the mix and explains all Stephensons in this community as "a couple came into the county in 1700's. They had 12 children and all of them had 12 and on and on." Nimrod and Amanda were 4 or 5 generations from origin.
- Spring is here y'all. Easter egg hunt---April 4. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and forbid them nor for of such is the kingdom of heaven." MATT. 19:14. AND WHEN WE HAVE EASTER, CAN SUMMER AND VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL BE FAR BEHIND?



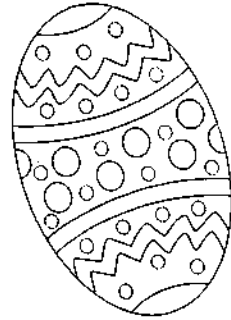
# Easter

# Calendar



## Easter Sunday

Acts 10: 34-8  
Jeremiah 31: 1-6  
Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3: 1-4  
**Matthew 28: 1-10**  
The sweetness of new life is proclaimed to a people in exile, in Peter's sermon about God's lack of partiality, and most of all in the wondrous story of resurrection.



March 28

Matthew 28: 5  
Throughout the day look for crosses.

March 29

Matthew 28: 6  
Just before you wake or go to bed, consider the empty tomb.

March 30

Matthew 28: 7  
To whom do you wish to say, "Christ is Risen"?

March 31

Matthew 28: 8  
Remind yourself how you first heard about Jesus.

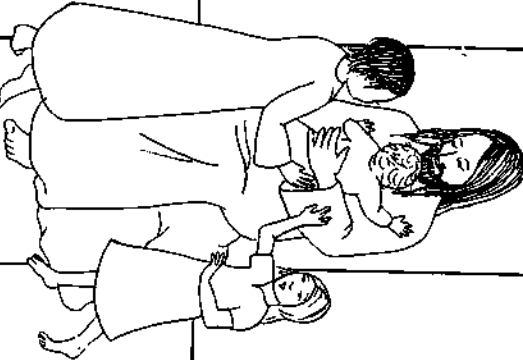
April 1

Matthew 28: 9  
Kneel down and imagine talking to Jesus. What do you want to say?

April 2

Matthew 28: 10  
Go for a walk and notice the world proclaiming resurrection.



<p><b>Easter 2</b></p> <p>Acts 2:14, 22-32  <b>Psalm 16</b>  1 Peter 1:3-9  John 20:19-31</p> <p>As we move into the Easter season, we are led by the words of Psalm 16 that proclaim that God is before us and at our right hand. The risen Christ appeared before the disciples in a locked room and reminded them that God was with them – and would be with them – in all times and places.</p> <p>Today: Gather some precious object and consider and pray for those involved in producing it.</p>	<p><b>April 4</b></p> <p>Psalm 16:1-3  Write down or talk about what you like best about your worshipping community.</p>	<p><b>April 5</b></p> <p>Psalm 16:4  Look at some magazine advertisements and consider the psalmist's words.</p>	<p><b>April 6</b></p> <p>Psalm 16:5-6  Fill a bowl with water and place it so you can see it throughout the day.</p>	<p><b>April 7</b></p> <p>Psalm 16:7-8  Light a candle. What does it say to you?</p>	<p><b>April 8</b></p> <p>Psalm 16:9-10  Feel your heart beat. What do you want to say to the giver of life?</p>	<p><b>April 9</b></p> <p>Psalm 16:11  Go for a walk and listen for God's company.</p>		
<p><b>Easter 3</b></p> <p>Acts 2:14, 36-4  Psalm 116:1-4 12-19  1 Peter 1:17-23  <b>Luke 24:13-35</b></p> <p>While walking on the road, sad and confused, two disciples encounter a stranger, not recognizing him as the risen Christ. Even after explaining scripture to them, they do not fully understand. But they offer hospitality – and the stranger accepts – and Christ is recognized in the breaking of the bread. Where do we meet Christ in our daily living?</p>	<p><b>April 11</b></p> <p>Luke 24:13-24  Make a pathway of stones, and think of where you have "met" Jesus.</p>	<p><b>April 12</b></p> <p>Luke 24:25-27  Write a saying of Jesus on paper and fold it. During the day unfold it, revealing the promise to yourself.</p>			<p><b>April 13</b></p> <p>Luke 24:28-29  Pray for asylum seekers or those who are homeless.</p>	<p><b>April 14</b></p> <p>Luke 24:30  During a meal today, imagine Jesus is your guest. What do you say?</p>	<p><b>April 15</b></p> <p>Luke 24:31-32  Listening to relaxing music, speak "God" and see where it takes you.</p>	<p><b>April 16</b></p> <p>Luke 24:33-35  Go for a walk and imagine the story having just taken place. Where are you going?</p>



# Lent and Easter symbols

Here are some symbols of Lent and Easter that you may see around your church during these seasons. Because they are only symbols, they can have many meanings – the ones listed here are not the only ways to understand these. What might they say to you?



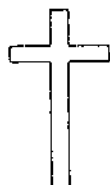
When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, people waved palm branches and shouted "Hosanna."



Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples just before he died. When we share Communion, we remember Jesus.



After the Last Supper, Jesus washed the disciples' feet, to remind them that he came to serve people, and he wants us to serve others, too.



Jesus died on a cross on Good Friday. An empty cross reminds us that Jesus rose again on Easter Sunday.

**INRI**

These letters stand for the Latin words "Jesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum" or "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" which were put on a sign at the top of the cross.



Eggs carry new life inside them, reminding us of the empty tomb. They also represent the stone that was rolled away.



A caterpillar goes into a cocoon and turns into a butterfly. This reminds us of Jesus coming alive again in a new way on Easter morning.



Many churches light Paschal candles throughout the Easter season to remember that Jesus is the light of the world. They often have the Greek letters Alpha and Omega to show that Jesus is the beginning and the end. They also have the date, and pins to represent the nails.



In the Bible, the Holy Spirit is sometimes described as a dove. Doves are also a symbol of peace.



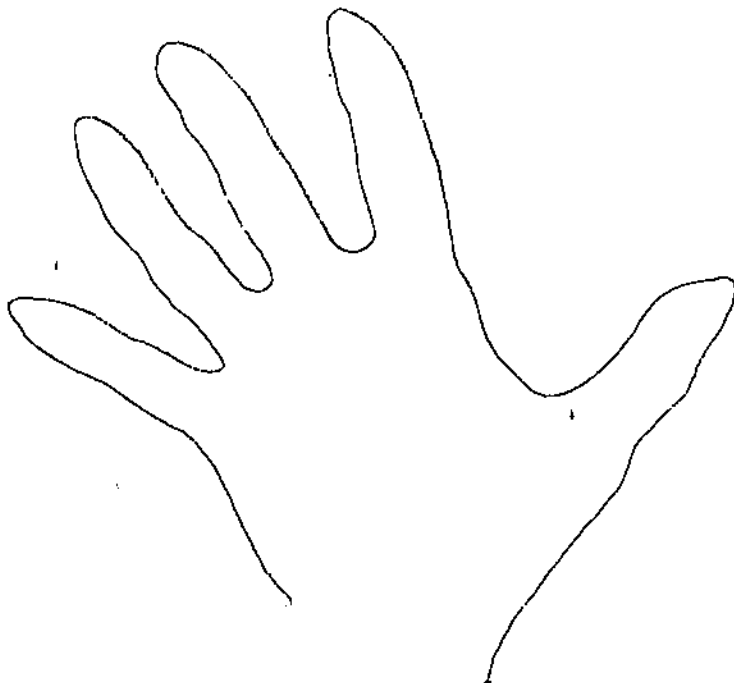
At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came like flames, giving new energy to the disciples and helping them form the church.



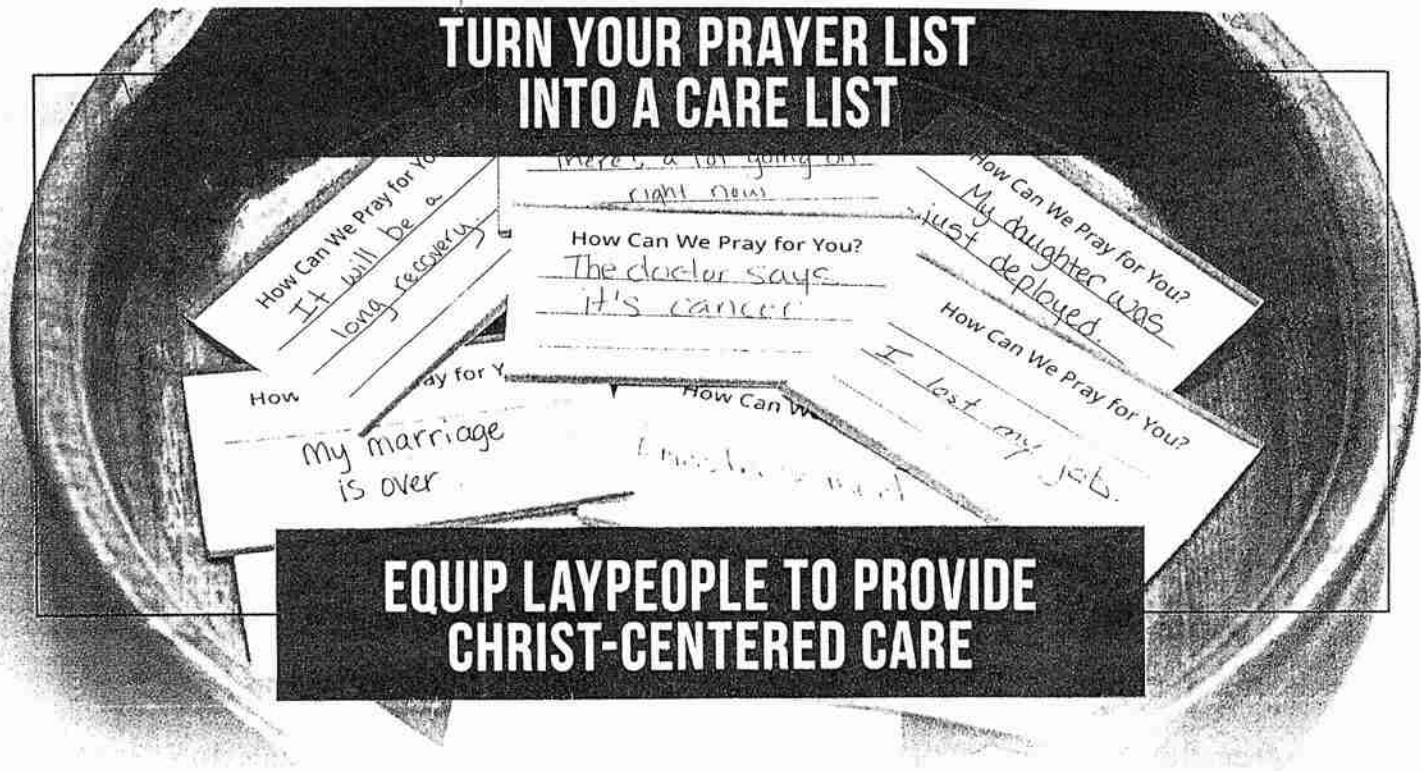
## THE FIVE FINGERS of PRAYER

1. Your thumb is nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as CS. Lewis said, a "sweet duty."
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the President, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble, or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger, the smallest finger of all, which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

Should you find it hard to get to sleep tonight, just remember the homeless family who has no bed to lie in. Should you decide to share this with a friend, you might brighten someone's day!



# TURN YOUR PRAYER LIST INTO A CARE LIST



## EQUIP LAYPEOPLE TO PROVIDE CHRIST-CENTERED CARE

**P**astors want to provide care to everyone who needs it—but they can't do it alone. Equipping laypeople to minister to hurting people is a highly effective and biblical way to ensure that those in need of Christ-centered care receive it.

Christ at work in and through gifted, trained lay caregivers—that's the Stephen Ministry vision!

### STEPHEN MINISTRY INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP

This half-day event will show how to make that vision a reality. You and your team will gain hands-on ministry skills through a sample of Stephen Minister training, deepen your vision for care and outreach, and learn how to bring the life-changing benefits of Stephen Ministry to your congregation.

SESSION 1:  
**MINISTERING TO THOSE EXPERIENCING GRIEF**

SESSION 2:  
**AN INTRODUCTION TO STEPHEN MINISTRY**

SESSION 3:  
**HOW TO CARE IN A DISTINCTIVELY CHRISTIAN WAY**

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Pastors and church staff
- Lay leaders and decision makers
- Caregivers and caregiving teams

### WORKSHOP COST

\$15 per person or \$50 for a group of four or more from your congregation or organization.

Take advantage of the group rate and bring a whole team. They'll learn how to cast a vision and build support for beginning Stephen Ministry.

### DATES & LOCATIONS

The accompanying letter tells about a workshop near you. For a nationwide schedule of upcoming Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshops, visit [www.stephenministry.org/schedule](http://www.stephenministry.org/schedule).

### THREE WAYS TO REGISTER

1. At [www.stephenministry.org/workshop](http://www.stephenministry.org/workshop)
2. Call (314) 428-2600
3. Submit completed registration form by mail

# Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

## *Stephen Ministers are there:*

- ... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ... *after* the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ... *after* the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- ... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- ... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... *after* the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the "After People." They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

[www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org)