

# ClaytonPres Press

Clayton Presbyterian Church  
Fred DiMaio, Pastor

April - May 2019

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## A 'SO BE IT' MOMENT

How often have you had to simply 'accept' a decision or a situation? Like it or not, all of us have had to at some point in time. Big major events such a death, accidents or even worry about who our adult child wants to marry can be life changers that prove to be beyond our control. Problems big or small will often settle down when we learn to shrug our shoulders and adapt with the Lord's help to living with the issue.

The Christian author, Corrie TenBoom wrote in her book "The Hiding Place" of a vivid moment in her life when her family was imprisoned by the Nazis in World War II. The womens' camp dorm building was very rough living and packed to the seams. Much to Corrie's shock her sister Betsy seemed to accept their inhumane, degrading living conditions. One night, during Betsy's evening prayer she gave a Thank You blessing for the fleas in their living quarters. Corrie was so angry she shouted, "Why would you give ANY thanks for these horrible biting fleas?!" Betsy responded in her quiet voice, "Because the women guards don't like the fleas so they stay outside and each night we can all have a Bible study without fear." A true 'So Be It' moment.

Luke 1:26-38 has some wonderful 'So Be It' moments. The angel Gabriel was sent from God to the city of Nazareth to a very young virgin named Mary. The angel informed Mary that "...she was highly favored, the Lord is with thee." The angel continued to tell the young girl that "...the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee and that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called 'the Son of God'."

Verse 38 sums up with Mary's acceptance of God's command... "Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it unto me according to thy word." Mary quietly accepted what the angel had told her. Mary's reaction was probably, for us today, the biggest 'So Be It' moment in history.

### Treasury Report

Jan. 1 - Mar. 29, 2019

Receipts	\$20,924
Expenses	\$22,514
Fund Balance	\$114,488

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All of her life Mary had been told of the coming of a Messiah. The stories she had heard never told of 'how' this Messiah would actually come, just that he would save the Jews from the Romans. According to Matthew Henry's Study Bible comments, Mary does not object to the danger of blemishing her reputation in the small town, but leaves the matter with God's decision. That, also, is a pretty big acceptance-moment for all mankind. What strength! What trust! What hope! It is strange about the human race, sometimes the more we are puzzled and afflicted the stronger and more determined we become.

When you are thinking about your own, personal 'So Be It' issues and situations take a moment to sing a very quiet precious song, "Count Your Blessings". As you sing "...name your blessings one by one..." you will remember all the pluses in your life and you can shrug away the minuses.

As we prepare our minds to enter the most holy of times for Christians, our Lord's death upon the cross of Calvary, remember His loving sacrifice for you. He accepted the sins of all who would believe upon Him. Now THAT is a mighty big 'So Be It' gesture.

Suzanne Muir

## Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 18 - 6:00 pm

## Good Friday Service

at Wiley Presbyterian Church

Friday, April 19 - Noon

## Church Clean Up Day

Saturday, April 27 - 7:00 am - Noon

Breakfast is included!

## YARD SALE

Saturday, May 4 - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

It is time for our yard sale. Time to clean out the "extra stuff" that you don't need but someone else could use. Our yard sale is eagerly anticipated by local shoppers who feel that our yard sale is one of the best. Please see the bulletin insert to volunteer your time. We need everyone's help to make this a success.

## GAME NIGHT

Wednesday, May 15 - 5:00 - 8:00 pm



## Jelly Bean Prayer

Red is for the blood He gave,  
Green is for the grass he made.

Yellow is for the sun so bright,  
Orange is for the edge of night.

Black is for the sins we made,  
White is for the grace he gave.  
Purple is for his hour of sorrow,  
Pink is for our new tomorrow.

A bag full of jelly beans is yummy to eat,  
It's a picture, a promise, a special treat,  
To help us remember Jesus' work complete,  
Gives us hope beyond any earthly sweet.



## The Pastor's Pen

Spring is attempting to arrive in the Georgia mountains. Many of us have early blooming wild flowers in the woods and around driveways. Due to the continuing rains, and that can slow down any time, we can expect most everything to be sprouting up. The next two months will be busy for our members and friends. Holy week is fast approaching, Easter is the third week of April. We will hold a Maundy Thursday service here at 6 pm and then join the Wiley congregation on Friday at Noon.

Two weeks later is the Presbyterian Women's Yard Sale!!!! I hope that all of you have it on your schedule to help out at some point in this great endeavor. It requires time and effort to make this a success year after year. Please plan on signing up to work during the week before and/or that Saturday of the sale. The more hands that are available the easier it is for all.

We will also be welcoming our traveling members and friends back to Rabun County. The pews are still where you left them....

There are two weddings on the schedule in April and May. One for regulars Pat Slaughter and Bryan Kuvick who will be joining Clayton Presbyterian and another in late May for a couple that has ties to Rabun County. We are also happy to announce that our old pew cushions are being used at Dahlonega Presbyterian Church.

Plans are in the works to get a master landscape plan developed. Many of you have worked with flowers, mulched, and weeded for years. We will primarily be redesigning the large planting area in back of the church as well as the front sign area.

We thank all who have continued to so generously contribute their time, efforts, and resources to our church. To our part-time or traveling members, as well as friends, thank you for supporting Clayton Presbyterian when you are away. It is indeed a joy when you return to our midst.

As we reflect upon the coming Holy Week, let us not forget that our Lord and Savior sacrificed all for us, the children of God. Continue to be supportive and loving of one another. Lend a helping hand when and where you are able....smile....for the love of God is present where ever two or more are gathered.

Blessings  
Pastor Fred

*Happy Birthday  
to you!*

### April

2 – Alexandra Givens  
12 – John Maclean  
14 - Henry Newman  
15 – Dan Miller  
16 - Barbara Shafer  
19 - Shirley Boyle  
19 – James Chestnut

### May

4 – Jo Bonnette  
4 – Blant Ferguson  
12 – Gwen Kempin  
26 – Pat Myers

*Happy  
Anniversary*

### April

1 - Rick & Sharon Spivey

### May

8 – Rhett and Nancy Bickley  
16 – Ron and Anne Spearman  
17 – Blant and Nancy Ferguson

**A big thank you** to Natalie Inman and her Cumberland University students who provided our church a Haitian Dinner on March 3rd. We appreciate their hard work and their insights into the Haitian communities they serve. This group was among the students and staff scheduled to be in Haiti presenting Leadership Conferences during Spring Break. Due to massive violent protests erupting in Haiti their trip had to be cancelled. They hope to reschedule in May.

Instead Dr. Inman kept them busy practicing organization, problem solving, and leadership skills as well as improving presentations. They visited Cherokee and studied parallels in colonialism. And they found time for some serious hiking and even a few intense games of UNO.

Thank you to all for supporting their efforts with your prayers and generosity.

## Tribute to Betty Anne Griffin



A vibrant member of our church and community has passed on leaving us missing her quirky, fun sense of humor. She was a joy to be around telling her stories, and my what a full life she lived! She is probably entertaining heaven even now.

She was active in all the church offered, lending a hand, support, encouragement, and her delightful spontaneous laughter. Wondrously she seemed to grow even more beautiful with age. Thank you, Lord, for the time we had with her.

## Prayer

Prayer is the central spiritual discipline, since it places us in communion with God. When Paul tells us to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17), he is saying that our communion with God should be a constant and never-ending state of being.

Brother Lawrence showed us one way to do this in "Practicing the Presence of God," where he explains that even while doing our mundane daily activities such as washing pots and pans we can be communicating with God and aware of His presence.

Our interior dialogue with God may at times become more of a monologue, and while that is okay (since God's patience is infinite); it is at times advisable to stop talking and to listen to what God has to say. There are times when we

can simply be quiet and rest in the awareness that God is there, praying "Here I am Lord, your servant is listening."

Real prayer is transformative. We must be willing to change and let God's will be done, not ours. Jesus, after all, prayed "not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:42) And James said, "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." (James 4:3)

How often are our prayers pure selfishness, asking for a return to health, or for wealth, or some other source of pleasure? Instead, let us pray for the grace and wisdom to know God's will, and the strength and courage to do it.

— *Good News Journal* Sep/Oct 2018