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A Member of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
and the Presbytery of New Hope

This is God’s House! All are Welcome!
Prayer Concerns

“God is able to make all grace abound toward you...” II Corinthians 9:8

Jack Abernethy
Les Basnight
Marc Basnight
Don & Nancy Bierwerth
Martha Butcher
Those Fighting Covid-19
Anne Cramer
George Daniels
Maj. Brian Dermody
Tommy DeSanto
Arlene Evans
Claudette Forney
Dorothy & Matt George
Jim Goes
Judy Goins
Margaret Hartman
Nick Hodsdon
Andy Mallory
Sharon McRee
Nancy Messinger
Joe Morgan
Roy Murray
Fran Peel
Claudia Riley
Lawrence Rust
Fred Smith
Kathy Townsend
Lisa Trupo
Those Serving in our Military

In Loving Memory . . .

Etta Parrott
April 10, 1926 ~ March 18, 2020

Howard Miller
January 19, 1930 ~ April 22, 2020

Judy Dempsey
June 12, 1937 ~ April 22, 2020

Marjorie Bennett
March 21, 1929 ~ April 29, 2020

May Birthdays

Jack Abernethy..........................1
Tom Carrico...........................1
Sam Martin............................5
Jan VanEe..............................13
Robert Snyder........................14
Jane Smith.............................16
Don Younkin...........................17
Amanda Martin.......................19
Jerry Hale.............................20
Nancy Dod.............................21
Jeanne Kramer.......................22
Megan Munson.......................23
Cathy Hammill.......................27
Carol Jackson.......................27
Ike McRee............................29
Grace Folds...........................30
Caroline Hastings..................31
Caroline Lowcher...................31

May Anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Braswell..........6
Mr. & Mrs. Lyman Futrell..........6
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Bear...............14
Mr. & Mrs. Matt George............15
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Gauvreau.........21
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Werner.........23
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Evans............27
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Hale.............29
A Word from your Pastor

A couple of quotations that I read recently from Pope Francis really spoke to me and I wanted to share them with you. They both deal with how, during this period of social isolation, we are not really alone. There certainly have been days recently when we have felt separated, lonely, depressed, or anxious, but we also need to remember that God’s loving care for us is constant. Pope Francis has said, “Loneliness is not overcome by closing in on ourselves, but by crying out to the Lord, for the Lord hears the cry of those who find themselves alone.” When we are lost, Scripture tells us that Jesus goes out to find us. In Luke 15, Jesus teaches us that, as the good shepherd, when we are lost, he leaves the other ninety-nine sheep to go and find us. And when Christ has found us, there is great rejoicing in heaven. May we continue to turn to our Lord, who is the source of light, life, and hope. God does not only care for us as isolated individuals. We are adopted through Christ as members of God’s family, the body of Christ. When we recognize our with one another, we find our true calling and strength. Pope Francis also has said, “Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is . . . Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you.” God created us for a bigger purpose than just thinking of ourselves. While some of our routines have been disrupted and we aren’t able to connect in some of the ways that we are used to doing, there are still many ways that we can serve, care for others, and make a difference. I have been inspired by the many stories of resilience and creativity that we have heard. Some examples include teachers who have driven the homes of every graduating senior to have a parade recognizing the graduates, people who have called restaurants to pay for meals for medical personnel and other frontline workers that shows appreciation to those workers and also helps keep the restaurant staff employed, and families that have placed stuffed animals in their windows so that children can go on scavenger hunts as they walk around their neighborhood and find the stuffed animals.

I hope all of us will continue to seek creative ways to show God’s love to each other. I would like to invite you to participate in one specific way that we can uplift each other during this pandemic. If you have a story of kindness or a story where you have seen God at work, please share it with me. The stories you share can be your own personal experiences or it may be a story that happened to someone else that touched you. I hope to include some of those inspirational stories in our weekly News and Notes that is emailed to the congregation or in future monthly newsletters. Please email me or mail to the church office any stories where you have seen God’s goodness on display.

Peace in Christ,
Jody Moore

Sermons for May 2020
The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

May 10, 2020
Psalm 31:1-5, 9-10, 14-16, and 23-24

The Psalmist calls upon the Lord as our refuge, the solid rock upon which we stand. The psalm honestly acknowledges our real struggles, but finds true comfort and solace in our Lord. Will we rely on the Lord’s steadfast mercy and care?

May 17, 2020
1st Peter 3:8-22

First Peter teaches us how to live a moral life as Christ’s disciples by its instructions to have “unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing.” How can we be guided by those principles in our interactions with others?

May 24, 2020
Acts 1:1-11

Jesus ascends to heaven, leaving the disciples behind to manage without his physical presence. Like those early disciples, we cannot see Jesus face-to-face, so we have to rely on the Holy Spirit’s guidance. What does it mean for us to serve our resurrected and ascended Lord in our daily lives?

May 31, 2020
Acts 2:1-19

On this Pentecost Sunday, we will hear the story of the first Pentecost when the disciples were gathered together and wondering what was next for them. God sends the Holy Spirit to equip them to spread the Gospel. We will discuss how God’s gift of the Holy Spirit blesses us today as Christ’s followers.

Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School continues to meet every Sunday at 9AM via Zoom. Each class lasts 40 minutes. We are currently studying Reza Aslan’s book: Beyond Fundamentalism: Confronting Religious Extremism in the Age of Globalization.

There is information about how to join in the Zoom class posted each Friday on the Church Facebook page as well as the Outer Banks Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School Facebook page. The classes have also been recorded and posted on Youtube.com. Please join us! We have also been sending out a lot of information via e-mail, and if you would like to be included on the e-mail list please let us know!

Shortly, we will begin studying and discussing The Apostles’ Code: Unlocking the Power of God’s Spirit in Your Life by O.S. Hawkins. This is a 40-day devotional focused on Pentecost. We will be ordering copies of this book and if anyone wants a copy let the church office know. You can also order a copy on your own through churchsource.com.
May 31 is Pentecost Sunday. This day commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his ascension from earth to heaven. In honor of Pentecost Sunday, there is a special offering. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children.

40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained locally to make an impact in the lives of young people within our own community. Our church donates this money to Dare County Friends of Youth. This is a county mentoring program that places at-risk youth between 6-17 with caring adult volunteers who serve as role models and friends. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Please consider making a donation for Pentecost, whether the church is meeting in person or not. This has been a particularly difficult time for our youth. You can send your donation to the church office -- PO Box 2199, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948 -- and mark on the check or envelope “Pentecost.”

From Minute for Mission by Nonie Booth on May 3rd:

It was my privilege this past week to be one of the volunteers from OBPC helping at the Beach Food Pantry. A special thank you goes out to Dot Landis, for coordinating the effort and making sure all of the needed slots were filled.

It was truly a humbling experience. People, whom I’m sure have never asked for assistance in their lives, now find themselves struggling to feed their families due to circumstances created by the Covid-19 virus.

These are the statistics from the Beach Food pantry just this past week:

- Monday 15 clients were served – 10 of which had never visited the Pantry before
- Tuesday 22 clients were served – 11 new
- Wednesday 26 clients were served – 20 new
- Thursday 16 clients were served – 8 new
- Friday 22 clients were served – 18 new

In all of April in 2019, 273 clients were served. In April of this year, 2020, 535 clients were served – of which 366 were new. And this scene is being played out all across America – all across the world.

Normally on the first Sunday of each month here at church we have our Pennies for Hunger baskets out at the end of each row. They are passed and the collections raised are distributed to the Beach Food Pantry. Obviously, we were not able to do that this month. But I encourage each of you, at the end of our worship time together, to take out your check book and make a donation to the Beach Food Pantry, PO Box 468, Kitty Hawk. Let them know you are a member or friend of OBPC. It is indeed a stark realization that there are those amongst us that not only worry but are not able to feed their families. The Beach Food Pantry is a blessing to this community - thanks be to God.

The Evangelism Committee held a luncheon on March 1st for prospective new members. Everyone had the opportunity to ask questions about our church and also got to meet the committee members. The lunch was well received and everyone expressed their gratitude for the fellowship.
In Support of a PCUSA Missionary

Our church is going to be using its missionary funds to support John Etheredge from Rocky Mount, NC who is serving in Ghana. Here is some information about John. In future newsletters, we also will be updating you about his missionary work.

From his adolescence, John Etheredge has sensed the call of the Holy Spirit leading him to serve God and to serve the Church. Heeding God’s call, John has contributed extensively to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on the congregational, presbytery, national and international levels.

A ruling elder and lay pastor, John has served on the sessions of Mount Pisgah Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church, both in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. He has also served two terms on New Hope Presbytery’s Committee on Preparation for Ministry and was New Hope Presbytery’s Commissioner to the General Assembly in 2010. In 2001, John joined New Hope Presbytery’s Committee on the Self Development of People (SDOP), a ministry uniting Presbyterians and ecumenical partners in “participating in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice.” In addition to being the moderator of New Hope’s SDOP and currently serving as its chair, John was elected to the PC(USA)’s national SDOP committee by the General Assembly in 2002. He served two terms on the national committee and was moderator and chair of the SDOP’s South Task Force Committee. Serving in this capacity in the South inevitably demanded confronting how structural racism and systemic poverty intertwine, a consideration that shapes Presbyterian World Mission’s conception of mission as partnership.

God had prepared John for his roles in the SDOP through calling him and his late wife, Anne, to take the bold step of facing race head-on in their congregational affiliation. In 2008, they were moved by the Holy Spirit to transfer their membership from the predominantly African American Mount Pisgah Presbyterian Church in Rocky Mount, a congregation of which they had been a part for over two decades, to the predominantly white First Presbyterian of Rocky Mount. It was only later that they came to discern the Holy Spirit’s purpose in leading them to take this bold step. John explains that they were called to join First Presbyterian to grow in their understanding of the dynamics of race in society and the Church, and to encourage their fellow congregants to do the same.

Since 2016, John has served on the National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC), the mission of which is to “serve Jesus Christ and enrich the black Presbyterian congregations and their communities through [a] commitment to congregational enhancement, advocacy and social and racial justice.” John is also the president of the Mid-Atlantic Black Caucus and serves on the Mid-Atlantic Jubilee Fund Committee, which funds African American clergy recruitment; African American Christian Education; African American congregational leadership and development; and African American youth ministry.

John’s philosophy of mission is encapsulated in John 21:16: “Take care of my sheep.” John views the verse’s injunction both as a call to serve others in Christ and a call to recognize how Christ sends others to nurture us. John has been fed by those he has encountered throughout his years of service to the church, and he is thankful for the sustenance he will receive from the PC(USA)’s international partners in Ghana.

John’s wife of 53 years, Anne, passed away in 2017. They are the parents of two grown children, Jonathan and Jessica.

Please see the back page for the prayer card for John.

One Great Hour of Sharing

PCUSA had a special offering collection that was supposed to be on Palm Sunday, titled “One Great Hour of Sharing” (OGHS). All monies raised go to our Presbytery of New Hope. Unfortunately, we were not able to be in church to collect the offering. We want to encourage you to still donate, as this offering is very appropriate for what we are going through now. It is best to send this offering to the church office -- PO Box 2199, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948 – and write OGHS on the memo line or envelope so that the offering goes to OGHS.

This is a once a year collection for natural disasters, alleviating hunger, and support towards the development of poor and oppressed communities. Almost $700 was collected last year. Let’s see if we can top that this year. The OGHS ministries are driven, not so much by who the recipients are, but by who we are - faithful and generous followers of Jesus Christ.

The Music Ministry of Outer Banks Presbyterian Church would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Elaine Spencer, Christine Jackle, Cheryl Needham, Kathy Gunther, Hollie Writtenberry and Elisabeth Writtenberry for sharing their time and talents with us during our live-stream events during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank you for a job well done and we are appreciative for your willingness to assist in providing music for these worship services!
COVID-19 Session Directive

The Session of Outer Banks Presbyterian Church has previously adopted directives for facility use and worship services on March 13, March 20, and March 31, in response to the Covid-19 virus and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, the State of North Carolina, and Dare County.

The church facility has been closed to all tenant groups, as well as church-related groups since the Session’s initial action. Our church staff has been able to enter the church, provided they practiced social distancing recommended by the CDC. Staff has been encouraged to work from home as much as possible. Since closure, Rev. Dr. Jody Moore has provided mid-week devotionals and announcements through an emailed newsletter to all members with email addresses. Dr. Moore has further recorded and live-streamed his weekly sermons, including Sundays prior to Holy Week, Maundy Thursday (which included Communion), Easter Sunday, and all Sundays thereafter. On April 6, 2020, the Finance Committee submitted a Paycheck Protection Program application to the US Small Business Administration through Towne Bank, receiving $36,900, which is enabling the church to keep all personnel on payroll and not interrupt their employment.

The Covid-19 Task Force, appointed by Dr. Moore, composed of Nonie Booth, Judy Whittle, Jody Moore, and Gary McGee met electronically on April 25, 2020 and considered the following current information:

- North Carolina’s “Stay at Home” order by Governor Cooper has been extended to May 8, although citizens can go to grocery stores, pharmacies, and the like for essential services. NC public schools are closed for the rest of the school year.
- Gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited by both North Carolina and Dare County.
- Dare County “Stay at Home, Stay Healthy” order has been extended to May 22.
- Dare County now requires face masks or coverings to be worn in all public places.

*The Governor’s order of April 23, 2020 states that places of worship may begin to re-open two to three weeks after May 8, provided social distancing requirements are met and face masks or coverings are worn. Therefore, it appears that May 22 could be the earliest date the church could re-open on a new normal basis. Dr. Moore is researching how other churches are re-opening in stages and will present and discuss those recommendations with the Task Force and the Session.

Based on this information, the Covid-19 Task Force recommends that the Session extend its existing directives for church facility usage, office practices, electronic communications with the congregation, and live-streamed recorded Worship Services through May 22, 2020. Further, the Session authorizes Rev. Dr. Moore to provide virtual Holy Communion Services on first Sundays of each month as long as the restrictions regarding Covid-19 remain in place.

The Session also authorizes Elders on an individual optional basis to provide in-home Communion for members, who provide their own bread and wine/grape juice, and who have indicated a desire to receive Communion at their homes, provided the Elders honor social distancing and wear face coverings or masks while visiting.

The Session agreed for the family of Judy Dempsey to place her ashes in the Bible Garden at an arranged time when Covid-19 restrictions allow. The family has asked to place Judy’s ashes during Memorial Day weekend or later. Judy’s husband’s and daughter’s ashes are already in the Bible Garden.

The task force will continue to monitor orders by the State and Dare County and will recommend any appropriate modifications to the Session.

Faith Knitters

The Faith Knitters are not meeting during this time of the Covid-19 virus and the stay at home policy imposed by the Governor. However, we are still knitting and crocheting. We were scheduled to visit Spring Arbor assisted living to deliver our prayer shawls on April 28th but that didn’t occur because of their no outside visitors policy. We will reschedule that visit probably in the fall. Just a reminder to everyone that if you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, we would be more than happy to supply one. Just give Barbara Nock a call at 252-255-5979 or email at nocktwise@embarqmail.com. Many of the knitters have expressed how grateful they are to have something to do during this time of “House Arrest”. If you would like to become a part of this fulfilled group, just let me know. There is always room.

OBPC Help Team

We hope that everyone is aware that the church has a group of volunteers to assist anyone who needs help in picking up groceries, medications or any other type of errand. The volunteers are Melanie Cahoon, Barb Nowland, Jean Sias, Gary McGee, Marion Murphy, Gayle & John Waldmann, Frank Moore, Bev Jones, Charlie Huff, Susan Furlough, Jim Perry, Phil & Randy Parker, Jean Basnight, Ron Herron, Rosalyn Pugh, Kathy & Bob Gunther, Ike McRee, Elaine Spencer, Andrea Braimiller, Bette Kraemer & Karol Browder. A big thank you to everyone who has said that they would help. The positive news is that we have had only one request for assistance which tells me that everyone is doing well with the restrictions. However, I want to stress that if the need arises, we are poised and ready to lend a hand so don’t hesitate to ask. You may call Barbara Nock at 252-255-5979 or email at nocktwise@embarqmail.com.
Session Notes
April 29, 2020

The Session held a “Zoom” meeting on April 29, 2020 at 3:00 pm with a quorum of elders participating. Rev. Dr. Jody Moore moderated and Clerk of Session Gary McGee recorded the proceedings and actions.

After a devotion and prayer by Dr. Moore, the Session approved or accepted the following actions and information:

- Granted scholarships to the church’s high school seniors: $500 each to Cailin Lewis and Joseph Lewis, who are church members, and $250 each to Grace Folds, Hopelynn Kovacs, and James LaCroix, non-church-member participants in church youth activities.
- Adopted the fourth set of recommendations from the church’s Covid-19 Task Force, which extended until May 22, 2020 the prior directives regarding no usage of church facilities by church or tenant groups, staff work at home practices, electronic communications with the Congregation, and live-streamed, recorded Worship Services. Additional directives allow Dr. Moore to provide virtual Holy Communion monthly on first Sundays until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, allow elders on an individual, optional basis to provide in-home Communion provided social distancing and wearing masks/face covering are observed, and approved the scattering of Judy Dempsey’s ashes in the Bible Garden on or after Memorial Day.
- Accepted a loan/grant of $36,900 from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) of the US Small Business Administration to ensure that all church staff are paid normal, regular compensation during the time the church has been closed due to the Pandemic, and staff has worked from home during that time. Session extended appreciation to Finance Moderator Jeff Aldridge for submitting the application. Session also reviewed the Finance Committee’s financial reports.
- Clerk McGee advised that the following persons had agreed to serve on the Disaster Preparedness Task Force, mandated by New Hope Presbytery: Susan Harman-Scott, chairwoman; Elder Evelyn Webb, George Wood, Jerry Moore, and recently-accepted Ron Herron. The task force will begin working as soon as the Covid-19 virus allows meetings to occur again.
- Elder Barbara Nock, who is coordinating the church’s efforts to assist any of its members or friends who have needs, such as grocery shopping, pharmacy, or medical needs, etc. during the time of the Pandemic reported that 24 volunteers were in place, but only one (1) request had been received. Dr. Moore reported that no church members have requested financial assistance for personal expenses from the Benevolence Fund.
- Dr. Moore reported: (1) that the 2020 PCUSA General Assembly has been moved to on-line, from a scheduled meeting June 20-27 in Baltimore; (2) that New Hope Presbytery’s meeting on July 28, 2020 had been moved to on-line and that he and Elder Commissioner Bob Messinger would participate in that manner; (3) that the 2020 Thompson Scholars program, schedule April 20-24 at Columbia Theological Seminary, in which Dr. Moore was an invited participant, had been cancelled, rescheduled for 2021, and he will attend then; (4) that he will participate in a continuing education opportunity online during the week of May 18-21, entitled the Festival of Homiletics. All of these rescheduled, postponed, or meetings changed to on-line are due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- Dr. Moore said that there are between 166 and 200 views of the church’s weekly live-streamed services, with over 300 watching on Easter Sunday. He said the mid-week emailed newsletters containing devotionals and church announcements are emailed to 162 people, and 20 are mailed to those without email addresses.

There being no further business at 4:22 pm, Session adjourned with prayers of thanksgiving, intercession for each other and members and friends of the church.

Respectfully, Gary McGee
Clerk of Session

News from the Presbyterian Women

On a chilly, windy and rainy weekend March 6 - 7, several PW arrived at Carol Lambert’s beach house for a Spring Retreat. Our Seaside Escape had the theme of Be Still and Know That I Am God. Early arrivals took advantage of a 15-minute chair massage and manicures. After a delicious homemade lasagna meal, we began our Bible study portion with a look at Sarai and how God faithfully kept His promises to her even when she decided to do things her way! Later that evening, leisure time was spent reading, playing games, and much laughing! Several spent the night and continued the fun until the wee hours. How about that hot tub, Karen?? The next morning after a wonderful pancake and sausage breakfast, Bible study continued with the focus on Sarah and with Hagar. Great discussions were part of each lesson. Lunch followed with free time until 4:00 when the group gathered again for a wrap-up and to fill a glass bottle with sand, mementoes of the lessons, and a message to God in the bottle. We missed those who couldn’t come due to illness and hope next time we can add to the 18 who did attend. The gathering of supplies and packing of the hot line bags has been postponed until the church task force gives us the go ahead to meet. Normally, Dorcas Circle would be meeting the first Thursday at 10:00 in various homes, Lydia Circle the second Wednesday at 9:30 at the church, and Faith, Hope and Love Circle the second Thursday at the church at 5:30. Please heed all the warnings and stay safe.
A Word from Hollie

Church Family:

It is hard to believe that we are now in our ninth week of "social distancing" and I’m sure many of you, like our youth and me, are still amazed at how quickly and drastically the world has changed. If anyone had told me, or our students, that when we walked out of school on March 13 it would be the end of our face-to-face school year, I’m sure we would have done a lot of things differently. Instead, we are now faced with a “new normal” that includes connecting virtually for almost everything: school, youth group, children’s church, conferences, and even big events like birthdays and graduation ceremonies. While this “new normal” has opened up many avenues of creativity, it has also left us with a wide array of emotions: emptiness, uncertainty, and feeling let-down and brokenhearted. Our students have experienced canceled performances, athletic events, field trips, proms, promotion ceremonies, fundraisers, and conferences. The fate of graduation, VBS, and our summer Montreat Youth Conference are yet to be determined, but we know they will all look very different than they have in the past. Yet, our students have persevered through all these drastic changes. In some ways, I think our students were the most prepared to tackle a “virtual” reality because of their active use of technology. By the same token, I think they were the generation that didn't realize how important face-to-face human contact truly is until they experienced this pandemic. I think they all have a new appreciation for the normal, everyday activities we used to experience.

I am so proud of our youth and children and how they have adjusted to this new reality. Our children have been watching Children’s Church on Sunday mornings, and we offer mid-week children’s resources similar to our VBS curriculum from Group Publishing. Our youth have continued to meet via Zoom on Sunday evenings, playing games, praying together, and studying the Bible. Additionally, our youth have been watching a weekly session called Montreat Now on Thursday evenings. These sessions feature the leadership of the 2020 Montreat Youth Conference and are designed to bring a little of the Montreat conference to our youth at home. Speaking of Montreat, church members had a unique opportunity to attend the annual ARW (Arts, Recreation, and Worship) conference virtually at no charge since the live conference had to be canceled this month. In addition to fun games and workshops with recipes and crafts, Elisabeth and I participated in a virtual choir for the closing worship session. It is really nice to stay connected during this time of distancing. A few weeks ago, we decided to visit our youth and children by driving by and dropping off goody bags from a safe distance. Even though we never left our car, it was heartwarming to see our church family and spend a few minutes talking without technology!

As we continue to adjust the new normal, I encourage you to stay connected with our youth and children. They appreciate you more than ever, and they welcome your love and support. We also want you to know that we are here for you, our church family, and would love to assist you in any way possible.

Until we are together again, stay safe and healthy and know that God is good!

In His Grip,
Hollie
When the kids can’t come to church, you bring the church to them...After all, church was never meant to be confined to 4 walls! We had fun visiting the OBPC Youth & Children “Social Distance Style” on April 19.
John Etheredge

Serving Christ in Ghana

Jesus instructed us to feed and care for his sheep. My call is to care for those youth and adults in Ho, Ghana. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana programs help youth get an education that are no longer in formal school. Skills-training programs are also supported by John at the Evangelical Presbyterian Activities Centre, which educates girls who have dropped out of school. Through the Shepard Centre of Aging, a church-based social center that engages older adults who live alone in the community, John serves as an informal counselor and companion to the older adults who come to the center for nurture, care, and social and faith activities.

“When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus... I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love...” Philemon 4:7