

# Arden Focus

*In the Word, in the church, and in the world.*



Arden Presbyterian Church

August 2020

## Interim Pastor's Pen



### Thy Kingdom Come

Until we find a cure or a vaccine for Covid-19, we are all learning how to adjust to a “new normal,” meaning a new way of going about our lives, school, work and interactions with other people.

Even though we are not experiencing “normal” life (so to speak), we do like our routines, don't we? Some of us are so excited that sports are back on television, because they are a major part of our routine. We are creatures of habit.

Here's a more significant example: every Sunday we pray, “Thy kingdom come” (Matthew 6:10). That means the kingdom of God is not yet here in its fullness, which means virus or no virus, sports or no sports, whatever is happening — this is not normal.

Life in a fallen world is not normal. Normal is the kingdom of God, the fullness of communion with the triune God of love, the fullness of communion with our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ — that is what we were created for and that is what is supposed to be normal.

As Christian pilgrims, we are learning that no matter what we go through, we are aching and longing for the kingdom of God out of the fullness of Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:9).

Rev. Dwight Basham

One of the major parts of our routine as followers of Christ and one of the major ways we bear witness to the reality of Jesus Christ is worshipping him together. Whether it's in-person, whether it's virtual right now because that's how we need to do it: we are worshipping Christ.

The gates of hell are not prevailing against the Church (Matthew 16:18). The Church is moving forward. Ministry is not dependent upon brick and mortar or the four walls of a building.

As I've been reading through the book of Acts recently during my daily devotional reading, I'm thrilled every time I see the recurring refrain: “and the word of God increased and multiplied” (Acts 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 13:49; 16:5; 19:20). That's ministry!

Ministry is the word of God! It's moving forward. The word of God cannot be bound. The word of God is not chained. And so whether we're inside the Sanctuary or outside on Zoom, Facebook, or YouTube, in whatever we're doing — if we are proclaiming the glories of Christ — the Church is moving forward.

And I don't know about you but that makes me want to say: “Thy kingdom come! Come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22:20)

Yours in Christ our King,  
*Dwight*

**Help Needed:** On behalf of the **Diaconate and Session**, we are looking for **volunteers** on a rotating schedule to **assist during Sunday worship** this fall. Contact the church office or go to [ardenpres.org](http://ardenpres.org) and click on the image “**Opportunity for Service**” to express your willingness to serve. Thank you for serving your Church!



*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Matthew 11:28-29





## Call to Prayer

*Unction is that indefinable, indescribable something which an old, renowned Scotch preacher describes thus: 'There is sometimes, somewhat in preaching that cannot be described either to matter or expression, and cannot be described what it is, or from whence it cometh, but with a sweet violence it pierceth into the heart and affections and comes immediately from the Lord.' We call it unction. It is this unction which makes the Word of God 'quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.' It is this unction which gives the words of the preacher such point, sharpness, and power, and which creates such friction and stir in many a dead congregation. The same truths have been told in the strictness of the letter, smooth as human oil could make them; but no signs of life, not a pulse throb; all as peaceful as the grave and as dead. The same preacher in the meanwhile receives a baptism of the unction, the divine inflatus is on him, the letter of the Word has been embellished and fired by this mysterious power, and the throbbings of life begin - life which receives or life which resists. The unction pervades and convicts the conscience and breaks the heart. This divine unction is the feature which separates and distinguishes true gospel preaching from all other methods of presenting the truth, and which creates a wide spiritual chasm between the preacher who has it and the one who has it not. It supports and impregnates revealed truth with all the energy of God. Unction is simply putting God in his own Word and on his own preacher. By mighty and great prayerfulness and by continual prayerfulness, it is all potential and personal to the preacher; it inspires and clarifies his intellect, gives insight and grasp and projecting power; it gives to the preacher heart power, which is greater than head power; and tenderness, purity, force flow from the heart by it. Enlargement, freedom, fullness of thought, directness and simplicity of utterance are the fruits of this unction...What of unction? It is the indefinable in preaching which makes it preaching. It is that which distinguishes and separates preaching from all mere human addresses. It is the divine in preaching. E.M. Bounds, Power Through Prayer*

*This is our great need! Those who preach and teach need it, and Christians have a corporate responsibility to pray for anointed preaching and teaching (cf. Eph 6:19-20; 2 Thess 3:1). But we also need to look to God for this anointing on our own personal witness, even upon the few sentences we may speak for Christ to others. Sinclair Ferguson, Man Overboard*

# Women's Ministries

## Tuesdays Were Terrific!

*The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."*

*And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. Exodus 34:6-8*



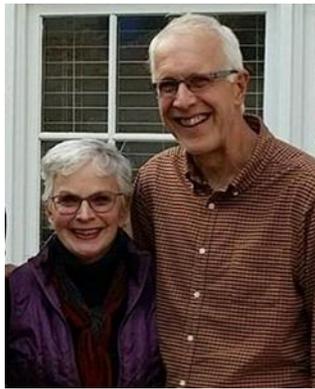
Thank you to all those who joined us for our first in-person and socially-distanced women's ministry event. Kristin Pressley encouraged us with a timely reminder from Exodus of who God says He is as she challenged us to respond to Him appropriately. Watch the videos of both lessons (7/21 and 7/28) at [www.ardenpres.org/womens-ministry](http://www.ardenpres.org/womens-ministry).

*As we look toward our study of **The Psalms** this fall, please be in prayer for the women's ministry leaders as we seek God's will in modifying our format to be as safe and as inclusive as possible.*

## **BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL!**



**Scott Rogers**  
**ABCCM**



**Bridget & David Walls**  
**New Direction**  
**Mustard Seed**



**Kristi Brown**  
**Mountain Area**  
**Pregnancy Services**

Three ways we as a local church show mercy to our local community is through the ministries of ABCCM, New Directions Mustard Seed and Mountain Area Pregnancy Services. Pray for Scott, Bridget & David and Kristi as they respectively lead these organizations.

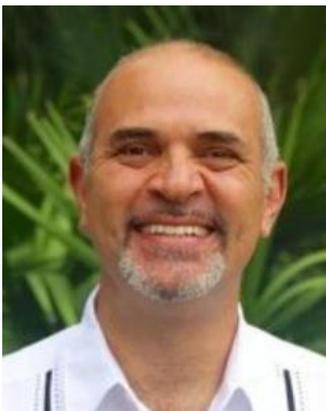
To learn more about these ministries, please take a prayerful tour of their websites.

ABCCM <https://www.abccm.org>

N.D.M.S. <https://newdirectionmustardseed.com>

M.A.P. S. <https://mtnpregnancy.com>

**“He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” MICAH 6:8**



### **HERNANDO SAENZ - ETHNOS COALITION RELIEF INITIATIVE OF THE PCA/MNA**

This is a MNA -PCA relief project to help ethnic minorities in the PCA during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a temporary expansion of resources for the diaconates of PCA churches that are experiencing an exponential increase in requests for help in their poor and marginalized ethnic communities, to enable them to give immediate relief to those in critical need. Please click on the MNA link below to learn more.

<https://resources.pcamna.org/resource/ethnos-coalition-relief-initiative-of-the-pca-mna/>



## Tuesdays in JULY—TERRIFIC!

What a GREAT time we had learning about following God through the life of Moses! Mrs. Turlington chose songs that followed our theme: What A Mighty God We Serve, Walk Like Jesus, Trust and Obey, When I Am Afraid, and others, Mister David shared Moses' story from the Bible—starting with his rescue from the Nile, through his exile and call from God to rescue His people, to facing Pharoah and leading the Israelites out of Egypt. Crafts were made, games were played, and Soccer Shots provided fun and exercise! Our youth were EXCELLENT servant helpers and we appreciate them SO much!



"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature,  
and in favor with God and man." Luke 2:52



Recently the preschool was the recipient of donations from Herbert and Nancy Ellis in memory of their beloved daughter Kathleen. Kathleen passed away on her 53rd birthday, April 6, 2020, after a brief illness.

Kathleen was an alumna of the preschool, and her parents shared warm, fond memories with me of her time spent here.

Kathleen's story is inspiring, and her parents shared it with me, and I would love to share it with you if you are interested. In my office I have a copy of our church's prayer chain for Kathleen during a severe childhood illness, as well as a current article written by her sister, and her obituary which includes her many accomplishments.

This bench will hold a place of honor on our playground.



### **\*\*PRESCHOOL REOPENING\*\***

The preschool is reopening in August. Our classes are for ages 2 through kindergarten. Kindergarten is currently full, but we do still have spots available in the other classes. Call the school or church ext.305 if you are interested—we would LOVE for you to join us!



# Arden Youth

SUMMER 2020 HAS BEEN A BLAST SO FAR!  
HERE ARE SOME RECENT EVENTS.

**June 26**

Putt Putt at Lake View Putt and Play

**July 1**

Hike in Pisgah National Forest

**July 8**

Icecream social and Q&A with Pastor Gabe

**July 10**

Virtual Reality with MS Guys

**July 11**

HS Guys clay shoot  
MS & HS Girls horse care day

**July 17**

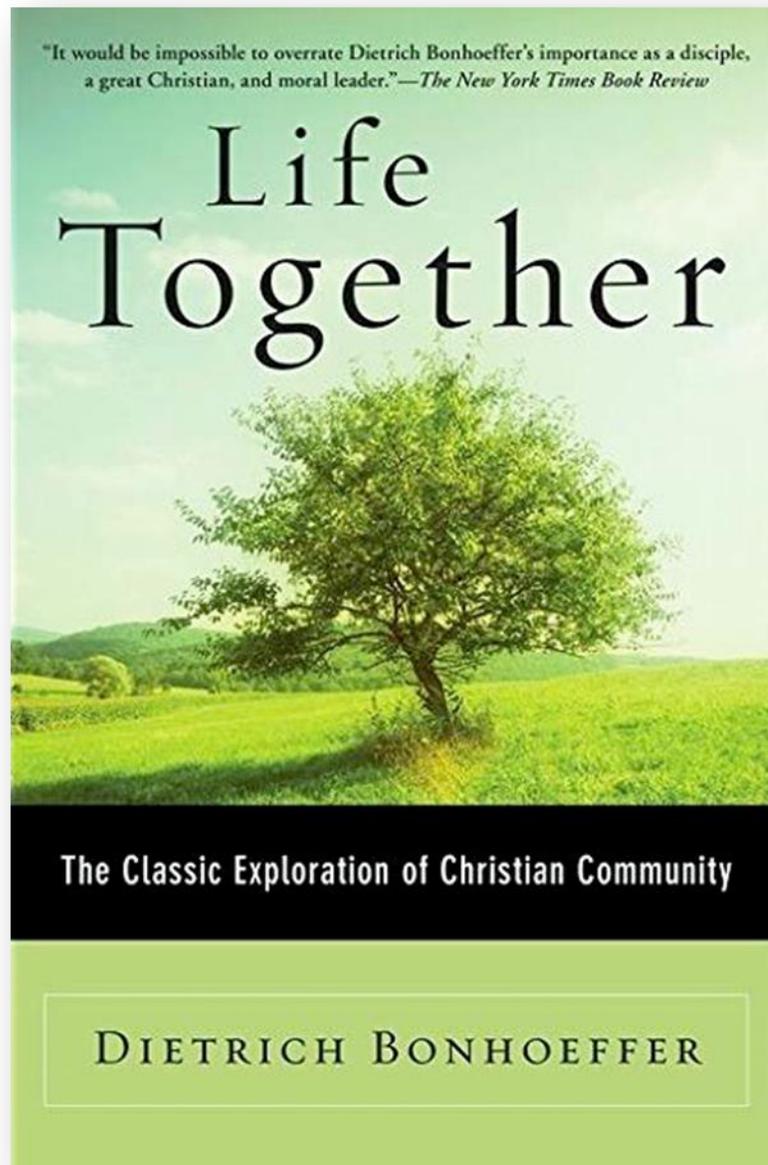
(Not so) lazy river tubing

**July 20-24**

MS Retreat



# APC Book of the Month - *August*



“After his martyrdom at the hands of the Gestapo in 1945, Dietrich Bonhoeffer continued his witness in the hearts of Christians around the world. In his book *Life Together* we learn of Pastor Bonhoeffer’s experience within Christian community. This story of unique fellowship in an underground seminary during Nazi years reads like one of Paul’s letters. It gives practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups. The role of personal prayer, worship in common, everyday work, and Christian service is treated in simple, almost biblical, words. *Life Together* serves bread to all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship. “

(Publisher’s Description)

Written out of his experience under Nazi persecution, *Life Together* speaks winsomely to the challenge of Christian community in the face of overwhelming obstacles.

As we find ourselves still in the midst of a global pandemic with the way we “do life together” significantly altered, this book is a timely, refreshing, and inspiring read.

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is  
for brothers to dwell together in unity”

*Psalm 133:1*

Whether you prefer at to avoid public contact due to concerns over the virus, are engaged in socially distanced in-person fellowship, or have been forced to refrain from social interaction due to health limitations, our hope is that all will benefit from the valuable wisdom offered in this timeless Christian classic.

Together in Christ,  
Your Christian Education Committee

P.S. Each book will be properly sanitized once it is returned before being made available again for check-out.

*For more information about this book, please visit the church website at [Ardendpres.com](http://Ardendpres.com)*

# JUNE 2020 PRAYER CALENDAR

Praying for the kingdom of God all over the world

GO, PRAY, SEND

*"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14*

## Our Church

## The World

1. God's Pastor for APC
2. Pastor Dwight Basham
3. Elder Brett Callaway
4. Deacon Zach Holcombe
5. Assimilation Committee
6. Elder Chris Wright
7. Deacon John Sexton
8. Elder Sherrill Babb
9. Pastor James Buckner
10. Our Nation
11. Elder Bill Resh
12. Missions Committee
13. Hands of Faith
14. Deacon Kenneth Dupee
15. End Abortion
16. Pastor Gabe Malloy
17. Elder Steve Jennings
18. Deacon Bill Miller
19. Pastor Search Committee
20. Elder John Dean
21. Deacon Larry Kidd
22. Elder Monty Baker
23. Pastoral Intern David Livernois
24. Elder Jim Wilde
25. Deacon Mike Neese
26. APC Prayer Ministry
27. Elder Kees Auer
28. Deacon Garrett Pittman
29. Elder Tony VunCannon
30. APC
31. Elder Sammy Johnson

1. Dr. Apum Vashum India / Trin. School of Theo.
2. David & Bridget Walls N. Dir.Must. Seed / WNC
3. Gary & Lois Watanabe Japan / MTW
4. West Africa Reformed Mission West Africa
5. Donnie & Kara Williams West Africa / MTW
6. Tom & Lucy Wright Africa/Haiti/USA - MTW
7. Pastor Yavuz Middle East / Asia Minor Part.
8. Kate Anderson WCU / RUF
9. Phillip Baron Cru
10. Jack & Diana Brinkley WNC / Sports Outreach
11. Brooks & Riva Cain Japan / MTW
12. Bill & Susan Carr North America / MTW
13. Garry & Anita Chambers Carr. / Nat, Am.- MTW
14. Greg & Leanne Doty Scotland / MTW
15. Charles & Bonita Davidson Mexico / MTW
16. Michelle DeLeon Philippines / MTW
17. Roger & Laura Dye L. Am. - Cru/Family Life
18. Esaie & Natacha Etienne Haiti / MTW
19. Doug & Rachel Flaherty WNC / Intervarsity
20. Nathan & Lori Francis Cane Bay, SC / MNA
21. Jim & Carin Frederes USA / MTW
22. Ed & Vicki Germann Int'l Students, Inc. / USA
23. Rob & Mary Lee Herron ASU / RUF
24. Scott & Ruth Hill Cherokee / MTW
25. Joel & Cindy Hylton Prague, C. R. / Serge
26. David & Marcia Jones Western Europe / MTW
27. Scott & Brooke McMinn TN / Young Life
28. Mountain Area Pregnancy Services WNC
29. Vladimir Nikitenko Belarus Christian Ministry
30. Keith & Ruth Powlison Peru / MTW
31. Bill & Suzanne Scott USA / MTW

GO, PRAY, SEND

*"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Psalm 46:10-11*