



From the Pastor's Desk...

MARCH 2020

"Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion."

George Washington

Dear Cup family and friends,

Leave it to the first president of United States to say – in a VERY diplomatic way – that God and politics SHOULD mix – or at least be on speaking terms. In our current day and age, it seems that we're more fearful than ever of bringing up either of these 'hot button' topics, and yet we're more perplexed than ever by the claims of politicians when it comes to matters of faith and morality. What role should our faith play in our politics? How do we evaluate our views on community and personal morality using the Bible? Is there a place for our faith in making public decisions? And is it even possible that someone who holds different political views from mine could be using the Bible in a legitimate way to come to their conclusions?

Join myself and fellow teacher Brian O'Roarke as we take an eight week journey with the scriptures and the kingdom of heaven interacting with the kingdoms of earth. We will begin on March 1, looking at politics as understood in the opening chapters of Genesis, through the Old Testament, and on into the New Testament. On March 8, we'll examine the way different faith traditions have understood the interplay between faith and politics. From there, we'll take time to examine how Democrats and Republicans of faith use scripture to support different policy positions.

Our goal is to provide a place to understand views that may be different from our own, and to deepen an appreciation for how the Christian faith can inform and guide our common life as Americans. While we will provide some space for discussion and questions, it is our hope that we can demonstrate Paul's vision that 'there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.' (Galatians 3:28) May that be true of 'red and blue' as well!

Blessings,

Pastor Scott

'The Donkey, the Elephant, and the Lamb' will meet in fellowship hall March 1- April 26 at 9:15 am.

All are invited.



Dear Cup,

I want to thank you all for welcoming me into your family. I have thoroughly enjoyed being your secretary for the past 10 years. Although I leave you in Jenn Cox's capable hands, I plan to still take part in church activities and possibly even sub for her if needed. (So you won't be rid of me totally!) Thank you so much for the kindness you have shown me and the wonderful experience of your friendship.

Cindy Wilson

Weekly Meetings...

Monday 1:00pm **Adult Bible Study**
March 2nd

Second Wednesday 1:00pm **Game Day**
March 11th

Thursday Morning 9:00am
Women's Small Group

3rd Thursday at noon **Lunch Bunch**
March 19th at Harry's

Saturday Morning 7:30am
Men's Group @ Eat 'n Park

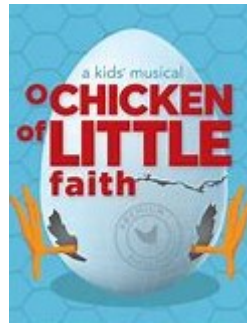
My Trip to Fintonia, Sierra Leone

From February 10-20, I had the opportunity to travel back to Sierra Leone to visit with the six churches and 14 schools that make up our mission (along with the Presbytery of the Alleghenies). Rev. Samuel Sesay, our in-country director of the schools and the leader of the EPC in Sierra Leone had shared with us last summer of the many challenges that were facing our mission in Fintonia. Fortunately, both the school and the church situation have stabilized, and the Fintonia congregation, along with all of the others, are once again experiencing growth and vitality. I was able to participate in over 75 baptisms with the churches, including several Susu tribe believers and 16 Kuranko tribe believers, some of the first in the world.

In addition to the church and school visits, I provided some training for the new class of ruling elders in the churches. God is doing exciting things in West Africa, and your prayers, school student sponsorships, and interest are allowing the gospel to be received in places it has never gone before. What an amazing Lord we serve!



SHINE SPRING MUSICAL



Saturday, April 25th 7:00pm
Sunday, April 26th 2:00pm

Sometimes fears and anxieties can make us feel like the sky is falling! On her last day on grandma's farm, Faith falls into an afternoon nap after a busy day of playing, and into a dream where she thinks she has fallen asleep at night and forgotten to lock grandma's chickens safely in the coop. In a panic she looks for them, and quickly finds them — now human-sized chickens wearing party hats, celebrating their “freedom” from the coop. Concerned to get them back home safely, she discovers they must cross the Pit of Fear, the Mountain of Expectations, and the Forest of the Unknown — exaggerated “dream versions” of things she is dealing with back home in real life. While facing these dangers (along with an unending stream of chicken jokes and puns), Faith is reminded of all she has learned from God's Word which arms her, and her new poultry-pals, to trust God no matter what the fear or anxiety. ***O Chicken of Little Faith.***



SCRAPBOOK FUNDRAISER

MONDAY, MARCH 30th

5:00pm-9:00pm

BENEFITS YOUTH MISSIONS

\$10/TABLE

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER WITH JOEL

MARCH Calendar

<u>March 1</u>	12:00pm Soup Sale
<u>March 3</u>	5:45pm DEACONS
	7:00pm WORSHIP Committee
<u>March 9</u>	7:00pm TRUSTEES
<u>March 11</u>	1:00pm Game Day
<u>March 16</u>	TRUSTEES Work Day
<u>March 17</u>	7:00pm SESSION
<u>March 19</u>	12:00pm Lunch Bunch Meets at Harry's on Route 51
<u>March 30</u>	5:00pm Crosscurrent Youth Scrapbook Fundraiser for Youth Missions
<u>Every Monday</u>	1:00pm Adult Bible Study
<u>Every Tuesday</u>	6:30pm Mini's Youth Group (NO Mini's 3/24 & 3/31)
<u>Every Wednesday</u>	3:30pm SHINE After School Program followed by Family Dinner at 6:00pm
<u>Every Thursday</u>	9:00am Women's Small Group 7:00pm Choir Practice
<u>Every Saturday</u>	7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Eat 'n Park
<u>Every Sunday</u>	6:00pm Crosscurrent (NO Crosscurrent 2/22)



Don't forget to
"spring" your
clocks ahead one
hour before bed on
March 7th!



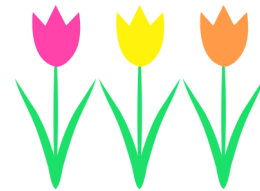
April 5th 10:30am Palm Sunday Service

April 7th 6:30pm Seder Meal

April 9th 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service

April 12th 10:30am Easter Sunday Service

Easter Flowers are for sale. See
the bulletin for order forms. Last
day to turn in orders is **March 15th.**



SHINE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM
Wednesdays at 3:30pm

FOLLOWED BY FAMILY DINNER
at 6:00pm

Upcoming SHINE SUNDAYS
March 1st
March 22nd



CUP LIBRARY NEWS

A small book that was placed in our church library fifteen years ago is titled "Holding On To Hope" by Nancy Guthrie. I read it then and was very moved by Guthrie's story. The wisdom that it imparts to the reader is still so true today. This book is written for anyone who suffers and has been hurt by life. It is the true story of a young mother, her family and the child they lost. Through the book she paints a picture of victory through faith. Framing her own story with the biblical story of Job, she reaches out to her readers and guides them on a pathway to the heart of God and there finds hope. As I said, it is a small book, easy to read and will greatly enrich your spiritual life.

Another book published in 2018 and given to the library much more recently is "It's Not Supposed To Be This Way" by Lysa Terkeurst. She is the president of Proverbs 31 Ministry and some of her books have been on the New York Times Bestseller List. In this book Terkeurst tackles questions like – What do you do when life looks so different than what you hoped for? She discusses the disappointments and disillusionments that we all face at one time or another. Her book can point you to God's plan for a whole new way for your life. The book is accompanied by a DVD that consists of six sessions, each one about 15-30 minutes long.

These and many other books and videos for young and old are available in our library. Come and check us out!

Paula Keefer, Cup Librarian

Spring??

Well are we into the Spring weather yet? Winter is so confusing at times. But it seems that March might be coming in like a Lion! The past two months of Children and Youth Ministries have been busy! Crosscurrent had 10 youth attend Winter Retreat with 5 other EPC Churches. It was a beautiful time spent with God in a cold yet winter white setting. We can't thank the congregation enough for helping us get there. The Spaghetti luncheon and donations to help sponsor us are very much appreciated! Our time together has been busy like I said after winter retreat we had a super bowl party, attended a night of bowling fun, celebrated love and kicked off Lent. Looking ahead we have much planned for the next few months. Youth check out the Crosscurrent Facebook page for a calendar of events!

Mini's Youth Group is busy diving into God's word. Right now our Mini's are memorizing Psalm 1 together. It's been a great time together and we look forward to what's ahead! We have lots planned so please keep an eye on the Facebook Page for updated calendar. See you there! (grades 4-6th)

SHINE has kicked off and we are running full speed ahead! We have already had our first Shine Sunday where the Little's shared a silent drama with us. I am not sure how many dry eyes were in the sanctuary that day. Our older kids are now preparing for their upcoming skits for their presentations. Our musical was announced this past week and we hope you all will mark your calendars and attend. April 25th at 7pm or April 26th at 2pm. You have two chances to see these kids share God's love on stage. Don't forget to bring a friend and hear the story of "O Chicken of Little Faith".

As always I ask you please continue to keep both our Children and Youth as well as our community in prayer!
There are so many great and wonderful things happening!

Your sister in Christ,

Joel Cunniff

CUP Children and Youth Director

