



**WELCOMING, SERVING, AND GROWING IN JESUS**

***December 12, 2021***

***Order of Service***

***Greeting/***

***Announcements***

David White

***Children's Time***

Justin Hatfield

***Song Leader***

Jon Ewing

#682

#732 (1,2,4)

***Prayer***

Dean Kirk

#76 (1,2,3,6)

In Christ Alone

***The Lord's Supper***

Brendan Carroll

#497

***Contribution***

Jeremy Thurkill

#468

***Message***

Bill McFarland

#107 (1,3)

***Announcements/***

***Prayer***

Scott Barton

#626 (1,3)

***Welcoming***

You can see it in the first paragraph of our daily reading for this Lord's day. It's in the interaction between Jesus, Zacchaeus, and the crowd. In a specific situation, Jesus maintained clarity about his mission. He had come to do his Father's will by acting to seek and to save the lost (Lk. 19:10; cf. Jn. 6:38). That was his purpose.

But in the case of Zacchaeus, the Lord also demonstrated a vision for how he might accomplish that purpose. He saw that he could move toward his mission by welcoming. Watch how he does it as you're reading the story.

Jesus welcomed Zacchaeus' interest in him. He saw a person who was seeking to see him, a man who was interested in who Jesus was and what he had come to do. Others may have disregarded him as merely a wealthy little guy of a disreputable class who belonged on the fringe somewhere, but not Jesus. The Lord gave him his attention, called him down from the tree, by name, and attached importance to him (Lk. 19:1-5a).

And we might say that Jesus then welcomed himself into Zacchaeus' house. Basically that's what he did—he invited himself (Lk. 19:5b). But he was honoring a person's interest and tending to his need. It couldn't have happened another way; the crowd and the timing would've prevented his ever being a guest in the home of Zacchaeus if Jesus hadn't himself been welcoming.

Then Jesus was welcomed by Zacchaeus, eagerly and joyfully, to be his guest in his house (Lk. 19:6). It was a welcome that meant something, too, for depending on how we're to take it, it either changed the way he was living or corrected the estimation of him that people had (Lk. 19:8). Either way, Jesus certainly attached a different meaning to this welcome than the grumbling crowd did (Lk. 19:7, 9).

The church shares the mission of its Lord. The mission stays the same; a vision fits the setting. Welcoming was then, and is now, a good first step in a vision of how we, here and now, can help to seek and to save the lost.

—Bill McFarland



Men's Fellowship is here at the building Saturday, Dec. 11th, from 8:00-10:00 AM. Men of all ages are welcome to come!

Contribution Envelopes for 2022 are now available in the church office.

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:16)*

**Stephen Ashcraft** will be here **Sunday evening** (Dec. 12) at 5:00 pm to give a report on the mission work in West Africa. Stephen always has a very interesting and informative presentation detailing the work he and Karen are doing. Please be here to encourage them if at all possible.



**OPPORTUNITY (Sunday is the deadline)**

Hillcrest High School has reached out to their community with a goal of giving all their staff and any students in need a card with a \$25 Wal-Mart gift card. If you would like to participate, buy a \$25 Wal-Mart gift card, place it inside a card with an encouraging note from the Water Mill church of Christ and turn it into our office by Sunday, December 12.

Shut-Ins

- Barbara Barnes
- Pat Blackburn
- Ron Bower
- Mary Bratcher
- Don Essex
- Clarence & Ola Jean Feeny
- Wanda Frost
- Betty Grabber
- Doris Iorg
- Hazel McDonald
- Jim & Ruth Reaves
- Dennis & Carolyn Smith
- Doris Tobler

Nursing Homes

- Ann Freeze
- Wayne Harmon
- Virginia Morgan
- Sandra Pingent
- Nancy Snider

**~Appreciate Your Prayers~**

**Larry Hatfield**, Justin's dad, is recovering from heart surgery.  
**Carl Tindall** is set to begin a series of 28 treatments December 14.  
**Jacquelyn Raines**, Pamela DeCarlis' mother and Kim Maples' grandmother, as her health is declining. Prayers and comfort for their family.  
**Sherrie Stern**, Shirlane Horton's sister, is recovering from surgery.

**Jim & Ruth Reaves**, **Ruth Raines**, **Meshell Fox**, (Coyeatte Ewing's sister), **David High** (Lucile's son), **Robert Raines** (Denzil & Ruth's son), **Karen Duncan**, **Bonnie Cole**, **Vicky Thomas** (Tommy & Betty Grabber's niece), **Dennis & Carolyn Smith**, **Wanda Lou Hurd & Dwayne Williams** (Nancy Snider's cousins), **Alice Daniels**, **John Alspaugh** (Ruth Lund's brother), **Linda** (Sue Aherin's sister-in-law), **Beverly Hammond** (Coyeatte Ewing's mom), **Sandie Shelby** (Lucile High's niece), **Chris Low** (Sheryl's son), **Steve Barnet** (Kerry Cole's brother-in-law), **Ima Coleman** (Sara Keener's friend)

Continued prayers for health:

**Marge Langston** (Virginia Hayter's mom), **Victoria Lacy** (Don & Ruth Essex's grand-daughter), **Gerry Tassett** (Lora Luna's mom),



The Youth Group and YFC will be Christmas Caroling at two assisted living facilities at 1 pm today. Lunch is provided in the fellowship hall after worship for those participating.

**THIS WEEK...**

- Elder's Meeting is Tuesday at 6 pm
- Sunday evening we will meet at 5:00 pm.
- Thursday Ladies Bible Class will meet on December 16th at 10:30. Jon Ewing will be teaching THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, lesson 4, In My Name.
- Quilters will meet at 9:00 am
- Card Makers will meet at 9:30 am



- 12-13 Dovia Evans
- 12-13 Seth Sekulic
- 12-15 Josh Brumfield
- 12-15 Austin McCutchen
- 12-18 Anna Luna
- 12-19 Wyatt Brill
- 12-19 Aubrey Cobb
- 12-20 Shirlane Horton
- 12-21 Beverly McCormick
- 12-22 Jennifer Epperly
- 12-22 Sue Lewis
- 12-24 Linda Tracy
- 12-28 Eddie Currier
- 12-28 Justin Hatfield
- 12-29 John Dutton
- 12-30 Lynn Luallin

**For The Record  
December 5**

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Bible Study:      | 243      |
| Morning:          | 317      |
| Evening           | 110      |
| Wednesday (12/8): | 155      |
| Contribution:     | \$14,145 |
| Weekly Avg.       | \$11,300 |

**Happy Anniversary**

- 12-20 Andy & Kirsten McFarland—13 years
- 12-22 Tom & Jammie Davis—27 years
- 12-27 Allen & Carol McCann—64 years
- 12-20 Barney & Debbie Crawford—49 years
- 12-31 Eddie & Linda Currier—50 years