

PERRY BAPTIST CHURCH

January 2018

My dear Friends

It is with very mixed emotions that I come to write this Pastoral Letter to you but I do so with a warm sense of privilege and gratitude. It has been a privilege to serve amongst you as Moderator and with gratitude for the love and fellowship we have shared in together. It all began in March 2015 almost three years ago. We have come to know each other so well and achieved many and varied good things. The hope of finding another Pastor quickly soon proved rather unrealistic, but the day must now be soon approaching when you will rejoice in having a new spiritual leader once again permanently caring for the Perry family.

Most books we read have their chapters and as one chapter closes so another begins with fresh scenes and events. Life is very much like this. For you as a Fellowship and for me in my own personal life and work for the Lord, so one chapter closes and a new chapter is now beginning. As our journeys in life continue both for the Perry Church family and in our own individual Christian lives, and my own personal life too – our Motto Verse for 2018 both challenges and encourages us to “*Walk humbly with our God*”. This verse tells us that we journey on yet not alone, but with God - “*our God*”. This means a personal daily assurance of God's presence and providence with us; the “*walk*” means movement and progress both in our daily life and in spiritual things – growth and maturity; “*humbly*” speaks of our attitude, that of a willing acceptance of God's way being the best for us as we submit to Him and His purposes for us. I pray this Motto Text will prove an inspiration and help to us all through this coming year.

I commend you all to God's loving care for the days ahead. Do support your new Moderator, David, and the Church leaders by your love and prayers. I shall always hold a warm and deep affection for the Perry Fellowship where both my late wife Olive and I worshipped and worked with you, and more latterly I served among you.

“Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.....”

With love in Christ Jesus and grateful thanks for your support
Roger

We do thank Roger for all his work and commitment in the Church and pray for him in this new experience in his life-Retirement and helping his Sister In-law Joy!
Then we welcome David and Kathleen as he takes up the office of Moderator for our Church. Our prayer is that both he and we will be blessed especially in finding that illusive new Minister!

Sunday Services 10.30am each week.

7th Jan 2018 Rev Roger Watkins: New Year and Motto verse.

14th Tony Whitlock. 21st Rev David Taylor (communion).

28th David Stokes. 4th Feb Rev Robin Giles.

Fellowship evening, Home Group Thur's at 7.30pm.

11th & 25th at 24 Glebe Road,

18th & 1st Feb.at 31 Roundhouse Drive.

The deacons would like to have a consultation about the future of this meeting. Please let us know if you could attend on a different day or perhaps during the day time rather than evening. We hope to produce a consultation document and questionnaire for you to fill in and return.

Friendship Circle

Church lunch on 22nd 12.30 in The Wheatsheaf.

Please give names to Tony by 21st Jan.

Prayer Diary for January 2018

7th Rev Roger Watkins: New Year and Motto verse.

Please continue to remember Roger as he adjusts to the future. We pray that he will still be with us regularly.

8th David and Ann Burditt

9th Don Chandler

10th Lara and John Campbell

11th Audrey Clarke

12th Joyce Denman

13th Mike & Liz Dive

14th Stephen & Grace Draper

15th David & Dorothy Haines

16th David Hawthorne

17th Joyce Jones

18th Pearl & Brian Lanham

19th Pauline Moody

20th Anne and Mac Macaskill

21st Viola Powell

22nd Mary Mullis

23rd Iris Mumford

24th Betty Presland

25th Howard & Ann Purser

26th Pam Sear

27th Marjorie & Doug Smith

28th Bob & Joyce Stammers

29th Dave & Sue Stone

30th Amanda Tyrrell

31st Ken & Marlene Turner

1st Feb David & Kathleen Taylor

2nd Jan & David Usher

3rd Ted & Marjorie Wady

4th Tony & Cilla Whitlock

Each day please remember those who are ill. Our Moderator, Deacons, Preachers and the future Ministry of the Church.

If I have missed anybody out, you are not sure who someone is or have any other concerns for prayer please see Tony.

Next Newsletter 4th Feb 2018 any contributions to Tony by 31st Jan.

Church Contacts.

Moderator Revd. David Taylor please contact through Tony.

Secretary / Treasurer Tony Whitlock 01480 810906//07746594542

Deacons: Bob & Joyce Stammers 01480 731532//07870841519

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"Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace."

Jerry Bridges, The Discipline of Grace

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9.

105 and Missing

A pious man, who had reached the age of 105, suddenly stopped going to church. Alarmed by the old fellow's absence after so many years of faithful attendance, the Pastor went to see him. He found him in excellent health, so the Pastor asked, "How come after all these years we don't see you at services anymore?" The old man lowered his voice. "I'll tell you, Pastor," he whispered.

"When I got to be 90, I expected God to take me any day. But then I got to be 95, then 100, then 105. So, I figured that God is very busy and must've forgotten about me, and I don't want to remind Him!

A Sermon Walking

Reporters and city officials gathered at a Chicago railroad station one afternoon in 1953. The person they were meeting was the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize winner. A few minutes after the train came to a stop, a giant of a man - six feet four inches - with bushy hair and a large mustache stepped from the train. Cameras flashed. City officials approached him with hands outstretched. Various people began telling him how honoured they were to meet him.

The man politely thanked them and then, looking over their heads, asked if he could be excused for a moment. He quickly walked through the crowd until he reached the side of an elderly black woman who was struggling with two large suitcases. He picked up the bags and with a smile, escorted the woman to a bus. After helping her aboard, he wished her a safe journey. As he returned to the greeting party he apologised, "Sorry to have kept you waiting."

The man was Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the famous missionary doctor who had spent his life helping the poor in Africa. In response to Schweitzer's action, one member of the reception committee said with great admiration to the reporter standing next to him, "That's the first time I ever saw a sermon walking."