It Is Not Good To Be Alone

I know my title verse is tied forever to Genesis and Adam and Eve. But the point is bigger than that and bigger than marriage. I spoke to an old friend this morning about all the time we have spent at work and church. Time which family needed more. We often put family and friends second – thinking they will always be there. We find out too late and often too vividly that time missed can never be reclaimed. Family moves away, drifts emotionally, or dies before we ever get around to doing and saying all those things we meant to do and say.

For instance, my Dad was a hospital Doctor and a workaholic. From time to time he would try to do something involving the whole family – it rarely went well. But he tried. The things we did do don’t make many memories in my brain. But, I remember acutely the times when he was conspicuously absent. I played Varsity Football two years – he saw me play once. I wrestled three years – he saw me wrestle once. He was at work the night I graduated from High School.

This is not a poor pitiful me article, I’m just opening that can of worms for all of us. We all have times when we have felt alone and it was not good.

That is why yesterday meant so much to me. I rode the Assault on Mt. Mitchell for the seventh and (probably last time - theassaults.com). When I got to the top of Mt. Mitchell on my bicycle after 11+ hours of suffering I was greeted by my wife Caroline, my best friend Perry, my daughter Christina and my grandson Walker (who is 4) wearing his superhero cape and mask. He ran alongside me when I crossed the finish line and the time clock suddenly did not interest me anymore. He drew a poster of me riding up the mountain (and for some reason a dolphin riding a bicycle behind me). For those of you who complain that I never smile – see my Facebook. (www.facebook.com/jim.dennis)

This was the most rewarding trip up the mountain I’ve done in seven years. Knowing that I had people waiting on me at the top gave a fullness to my heart that did not improve my time, but made it a magical, mystical, memorable day.

Thank you to Jeff Harrison for putting me up the night before and getting me started in this sport. Thank you to Ty Granger for starting with me – sorry I lost you at a rest stop along the way. Thank you to Cynthia and Darren Altman and Charles Donaldson for being friendly faces and fellow riders. Thanks to my extended family and to the Grace UMC family who wished me well and thought me old enough to know better.

And one more verse by way of thanks to Perry Weinberg for recording some keepsake photos of the day. Proverbs 18:24b “...there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

Spend some time with people you love. You think you have more important things to do. You don’t.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Jim Dennis, Jr.
CHILDREN’S MINISTRY: Making Young Disciples of Christ

Lesson Plans for: May 21
Sunday School for grades 1st - 5th
UNIT 2: Peter Rocks!
“Peter and Cornelius!”
Memory Verse:
“I tell you that you are Peter. And I’ll build my church on this rock”
Matthew 16:18

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Registration has begun!
For Children who have completed 3K - 5th grade
JUNE 19 - 23, 8:45 AM - 12:00PM
“Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God”

Special Missions class for 5th Graders
They will learn all about how...

VBS WORKERS NEEDED!
Children’s Recreation Leader needed!
Preschool teachers, music leaders, and storytellers needed!
Contact Beverly Blevins or Allison Outlaw to help.

Prayer Cubes Available
Mealtime and Bedtime Prayer Cubes $2.00 each
These cubes will help families establish family prayers for both mealtime and bedtime. Purchase them for home, grandparents’ house or as gifts. Proceeds to benefit Ronald McDonald House.

See Allison Outlaw if you would like to purchase one.

Grace Summer Guitar Classes
Taught by Beverly Blevins

Children who have completed 2nd grade and up who would like to be a part of a summer guitar class, please contact Beverly Blevins.
You will learn basic chords and learn to share God’s word through song!

YOUTH: Passion for Christ | Passion for people

AMPED Activities:
MAY 21 - 11:00 AM
Graduation Sunday
Register NOW for Salkehatchie! (see below)

Summer Bible Study
Starting in June, TBD (see below)

GET INVOLVED WITH AMPED

Student Summer Bible Studies
THE RESCUE
discovering how the Gospel rescues and redeems us
Each Sunday!
YM360
Middle School Students 6-8 p.m. @ SONIC
High School Students 6-7 p.m. in various locations (Registration will be in the youth wing)
Contact Michael@ymc@graceumtn.org for more info

11:00 AM - Worship Service, Sanctuary
12:00 PM - Graduate Luncheon, Wesley Center (Register)
GRADUATION SUNDAY MAY 21ST
WINGS MEALS through May 31
Please make your reservation by noon on Tuesdays before the meal.
On Wednesday evenings in MAY...
LET PAM, RODNEY, and the KITCHEN Crew pamper you with a wonderful “home-cooked” meal & enjoy the fellowship TOO!

Menus for May
Includes our Kid’s Surprise bags each Wednesday

May 17: Chicken pot pie, vegetable, mixed salad, biscuits, dessert
May 24: Italian night, spaghetti & meatballs in marinara sauce
Caesar salad, garlic cheese bread, dessert
May 31: Grilled burgers & hot dogs, all the fixings, ice cream bar

COST OF MEALS:
$6 per adult, $3 for children 3-10, free for children under 3.
Family max cost: $20; First time visitors receive a free meal.
To-go boxes: Please make a reservation so we are prepared.

WINGS Programs Coming this fall:
Financial Peace University led by John Travis
Marriage Enrichment led by Caroline Dennis

DRAMA

Christi McClintock and I are catching our breath for a couple of weeks before Drama Camp. We will be working on taking your kids on a “3-hour tour” where they get trapped on an island. If only there was on old TV show to get ideas!

Drama camp is June 26 - 30
9:00 - 12:00 noon

WHAT DO WE NEED?

- kids
- Workers and teen helpers too!
- Smooth tin can lids, large cardboard carpet rolls
Contact Jenny Lou Jones at jlou7@comcast.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

THIS Tuesday, May 23 at 11:30
In the Wesley Center
SPEAKER: Mary Anne Bigger
Director of North Augusta Forward
Speaking on Downtown Greeneway Connector, Bark Park, Frog Stop, and Junior Leadership

“It’s 5 O’clock Somewhere!”
Concert for ALL ages by Ed Kilbourne (see below)
Sunday, August 27 at 5:00 PM

Don’t let the kids have all the fun at VBS!
Vacation Bible School for “Grown-ups”
“The Gospel According to You”
Coming to Grace, August 28-30
10:00 - 12:00 noon, followed by a light lunch

Led By:
Singer/Songwriter Ed Kilbourne
Save the dates and watch for details!
For Adults 50 +

SANCTUARY MUSIC

Rehearsal Schedule Change
Wednesday, May 24th,
Chancel Choir: 7:00 - 7:45 PM
Men of Grace: 7:45 - 8:30 PM

Men of Grace is open to any male voice interested in singing, but not able to make the weekly Chancel Choir commitment. We practice several times a year.

Choir Retreat Planning
SAVE the DATES: September 2 - 4.
Looking forward to another great time of singing and fellowship.

Come and support the many events we have planned for your enjoyment at GRACE UMC!
**May 21—28**

*Please be prayerful for the families and all involved with making this a success.*

This is a 30-90 day program designed to provide safe comfortable housing for families as they work to secure jobs and housing and provide for themselves. Family Promise provides training, day care, education, budgeting, job assistance and other services as local churches provide overnight shelter and meals. Strict screening and expectations assures families are motivated to be successful.

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**Volunteer Receptionist and Substitutes needed.**

We have a permanent opening on Wednesday afternoon and / or will gladly welcome YOU to our substitute list.

**Duties include:**

- Answering the phone, helping those who enter the office building, covering lunch hours, and odd jobs from time to time.
- Contact Karen at 279-7525 or please come and see me.
We promise to uphold Grace with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness

**OUR PRAYER and PRAISE REQUESTS:** week of May 15, 2017

**Sympathy to:** Ruth Dickens in the death of James Dickens 5/10

**University Hosp:** Lou Ann Sink

**At Home:** Bob Young, Bobby Oliver

**Prayer Request:** Bobbie Rushton

**NHC Rehab:** Mildred Weeks, Ruth Ballard

**OUR PRESENCE:** May 14

**Worship:** 557  **Sunday School:** 281

**OUR SERVICE:** May 21

**Acolytes:** Bradley McCabe, Alex McCabe

**Crucifer:** Tyler McCabe

**Count Team:** 5/22 Barry Whitney, Melonia Cameron, Christy Jones

**Offertory:** Janis Collins

**8:30 Layreader:** Mary Pettit

**8:30 Greeter(s):** Dave & Frances Redmond

**11:00 Greeter(s):** (Main) Ed & Arlene Vincent  
(Ga. Avenue) Barry & Bev Whitney

**Doorstep Visitations:** Wilma Allen, Joyce Meyer

**LifeSong Refreshments:** New Life Sunday school class

**Flower Committee:** Betty Wilson, June Sullivan

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**ALTAR FLOWERS for May 21**

The beautiful flowers on the altar are to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bill Wisenbaker

by Mary Jane Wisenbaker

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**Memorials through May 7, 2017**

**IN MEMORY OF...**

**Sara Ruczko Bell, mother of Suzanne Fletcher**

(WC Debt Reduction) E.J. Holgate  
Dick & Harriett Day, Martha Claire Farmer

**Loice & Raymond Hargroove**

Mike & Vicki Millians

**Raymond Hargroove**

Buddy & Margaret Key

**Jamie Hiott**

(UMW Scholarship) Charles & Linda Smiley  
Dick & Harriett Day

**Charlotte Klein**

Diana Brissie

**Mr. & Mrs. Ed Merritt**

(Epworth) Dr & Mrs. J. Ronald Jowers

**Amos Steedly**

(UMW Scholarship) Charles & Linda Smiley  
(WC Debt Reduction) Erin & Hope Williams

**Don Zippler**

(WC Debt Reduction) Erin & Hope Williams  
Dick & Harriett Day

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**Our Gifts: The Lord’s Treasury**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017 General Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requirements to date 05/14/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receipts through 05/14/17</td>
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<td>$25,836.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Received 05/14/17</td>
<td>$25,248.00</td>
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**Small Groups**

**“HEAL WITH GRACE”, A ChristCare Group**

Our group is for those impacted by cancer. We will meet on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 in the Wesley Center Parlor. If you are a survivor or caregiver, please consider joining us as we lend support for those struggling with this disease.

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU**

The **GIFTS group (Gathering in Fellowship to Share)** wishes to thank the individuals who have donated yarn and fabric to GIFTS over the last few months. The GIFTS group in the morning is steadily working on fidget blankets, pillow cases, and other projects. The GIFTS group that meets in the evening is working on lap robes and hats in preparation for hosting our veterans at Thanksgiving. Both groups continue to create hats which will travel to Bolivia in June with Grace’s mission team.

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**PSALM 121: 1-2**

_A song of ascents:

1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?  
2 My help comes from the LORD, Maker of Heaven and earth._

Your own Rev. Dennis, literally climbing the mountain, with God’s strength pushing him forward his 7th time, with his family by his side!

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The **Assaults**

May 15, 2017

Climbing Mt. Mitchell

What are you striving to accomplish? Let your Lord God help!
UPCOMING EVENTS

Programs and Activities:
- WINGS meal, May 17, 24, and 31
- Graduation Sunday, May 21
- Bolivia Golf Tournament, May 22
- Hosting Family Promise, May 21 - 27
- Sunday - Funday at the Lake, June 11
- Vacation Bible School, June 19 - 23
- Creative Arts Camp, June 26 - 30

Grace United Methodist Church
639 Georgia Avenue, North Augusta, SC 29841

Main Office: 803-279-7525
Child Development Center: 803-279-7528
Fax: 803-279-1434
Email: info@gotgraceumc.org
Website: www.gotgraceumc.org
Rev. Dennis: 864-910-0664 (daytime) 803-426-8500 (evening)

GRACE STAFF
Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr., Senior Minister
Rev. Tyler Strang, Associate Minister
Dr. John M. Newell, III, Honorable Location
Dr. Joe Lusk, Pastoral Care Minister
Dr. John M. Younginer, Jr., Pastor Emeritus
Karen Bach Mays, Church Secretary
Yolanda McCabe, Financial Secretary
Allison Outlaw, Preschool Ministries
Beverly Blevins, Children & Family Ministries
Marjorie Hart, Church Administrator
Cameron Quinn, BST Director
Susan Burgess, Choir Director/Organist
Barbara Seaborn, Special Services Organist
Michael Keitz, Director of Contemporary Worship & Youth Ministry
Shannon-Rose Forde, Director of Recreational & Sports Ministries
Jenny Lou Jones, Drama Director
Dana Lykins, CDC Director
Linda Dolar, CDC Finance
Pam Rawlinson, Kitchen Manager
Rodney Rawlinson, Kitchen Cook
Szeemore Security Services

Bottom of label goes along bottom line