

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

February 25, 2024

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A BOX FULL OF BUTTONS

By Launius Poole

My cousin Christie's husband gave her a box of used buttons. The following are her thoughts about the box full of buttons. Christie writes:

"I see so many things when I look at these buttons. First and foremost, I think of my sweetheart who thought of me when he came across them. He knew I'd love them. He knew I'd be as proud of them as if they were silver or gold. They were a wonderful surprise and I've already spent a great amount of time looking over them. I could never pick one favorite. Each one, beautiful in its own way. Thank you Mr. Poole for thinking of me.

I think about what the clothes must have looked like from which they came. No doubt, some from women's dresses, baby clothes and men's shirts. Where did they go? What did they see? Did the lady wearing these buttons stand in front of a wood cookstove 3 times a day? Did a little one take her first steps in a dress adorned with those? Someone took the time to remove them from their garments before disposing of them. Some of these buttons are so old, they started to crumble when handled. Some are as strong as when they were made. Some are worn and scratched. Others are shiny and bright. Many are soiled and need a little TLC. Some are still carrying the thread that attached them to the garment.

This got me to thinking. Aren't we a lot like these buttons? All so very different. Some of us needing just a little TLC so we can shine again. Others looking bright as a new dime. Some of us are bound by threads we just can't seem to get free from. Oh, but God. He can cut those threads away. Like an old button, He can clean us up and give us purpose again. He can see the beauty in each individual, no matter the flaws. I'm thankful for His grace and love because I fall short every day. I'm glad to know He loves me, just as I am."

**Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth! Psa. 46:10**

Pray for the sick: You may not know some of them but God knows them and their needs, so let's lift them up to Him!

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Terry Hastings, Sandi Holt, Pat Tucker, Myra's sister, Connie; Norma Hudson, Ruth Banks, Michelle Tucker
On-going personal Bible studies
World turmoil; people of Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Guyana, Cameroon
Cipolla family
"Celebrate Recovery"
AIM missionaries, Carolina Aguilar, Miguel Javier Dale and Maddy
Latin American Missions
Sue Banks (Jean's niece)
Brenda Pepper; continued prayers; making progress
Butch and Jenny's daughter, Robin had successful brain surgery. Please continue to pray.
Julia's Dad, Haines; broken hip surgery went well
Charles Fooks (Jean's brother)
Noah Donahoe's niece, Lottie; doing better, stable.
Dave (Shane's friend); cancer
Expectant mothers to be: Lauren (Ellis) James-3/15; Elizabeth Hudson-June; Jess Hudson-July.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY each Monday evening from 6-8 in the FLC.

WOMEN'S STUDIES— "The Good News" study is at Cathy's each Fri. morning; coffee and fellowship 10:30, study at 11:00. Ladies' Tuesday evening Zoom study on Hebrews at 7:00 pm .

REQUESTING MOVING HELP; Dan and Christina, Mar. 2. Contact Dan if you can help out.

POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP MEAL today following worship. Please stay and enjoy your favorite Italian foods and some good company.

CHILDREN CLASSROOM SUPPLIES; Please let Cathy know of any supplies we need when we get back into our downstairs classrooms.

MEN TO SERVE;
Welcome/Scripture; 2/25-Danny; 3/3-David Prayer; 2/25-Vinny; 3/3-Christian Table; 2/25-Philip; 3/3-Daniel Song Leader; 2/25-David; 3/3-Troy Announcements/Closing prayer; 2/18-3/17-Shawn

Opportunities for study and worship

Sunday: (In person and virtually at: www.laurelcoc.org)

Bible Classes	9:00 a.m.
Worship	10:00 a.m.

Tuesday:

Women's Zoom Study	7:00 p.m.
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Wednesday

Men's prayer (Shawn's)	7:15 a.m.
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Bible Study at building	6:30 p.m.
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Friday ladies' Paul study	10:30 a.m.
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We invite you to attend any of our service times, and we look forward to welcoming you, and pray that you might find a home here with us in Laurel and with God in heaven as His child.

If you need Media help — connections, addresses, or general questions contact: Don Trader or Julio Brennick

WHO WE ARE

The body of Christ in Laurel, Delaware is a family of believers knit together in love (Colossians 2:2), striving to serve God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and carrying the gospel to the lost (Matthew 28:18). We are an autonomous body with Christ only as our head, and elders shepherding the flock of God (Acts 20:28).

We have been entrusted with the gospel (I Thessalonians 2:4) and so it is that we speak. The congregation seeks to uphold the doctrine and practice of the first century church using the only true standard, the Bible, as our guide (2 Peter 1:3). It is our prayer that all would come to a knowledge of the truth and partake in that divine fellowship in the body of Christ, being immersed for the remission of sins, and beginning life anew with Christ as Lord (Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1). Our plea is that we might be one in Christ, and serve the Lord faithfully unto death to receive our crown (Revelation 2:10).