



# Markham Messenger

By: Pastor Joe Wendorph

## Silhouettes of Faith

The John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award is a private award given to recognize displays of courage similar to those John F. Kennedy originally described in his 1956 book, *Profiles in Courage*. The award was created in 1989 by members of President Kennedy's family to honor President John F. Kennedy and to recognize and celebrate the quality of politically courageous leadership that he admired most.

Did you know there is also a "Profiles in courage for Christian living?" The stated purpose of these profiles is this; *"Everyday life requires courage. From physical challenges to moral and spiritual ones, Profiles in Christian Courage tells the stories of inspiring figures whose lives can encourage us in our own struggles."*

One such profile on Elaine Grant begins with, "I am so sorry, but it is a brain tumor." As the tumor grew, so too did Elaine's spiritual strength and spiritual reserves. But always the threat of surgery and brain damage loomed ominously in her mind. Doctors had warned that the coming surgery would be so invasive and so damaging that in many ways her condition following the surgery might be worse than her condition going in.

Once completed, the surgery that had saved her life had permanently devastated her body. She would never be able to live without assistance. She would never stand or walk again. Her arms and fingers were severely limited. She would never regain the ability to swallow and, therefore, would never again be able to eat or drink. To this day, the only thing she can have in her mouth is toothpaste. The author of the profile shares the rest of the story.

*"A short time ago my mother visited Elaine and asked how she deals with all that she has suffered. Elaine looked at her quizzically and said, 'But I don't feel like I have suffered.' She acknowledges that she has endured great challenges and great physical pain, but she cannot and will not see herself as essentially a sufferer. She knows Jesus Christ and Him crucified and now waits patiently and joyfully for the day when her body, soul and mind—all she is—will be perfected in his presence. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away'" (Revelation 21:4).*

Elaine's medical hurdles mounted. She was diagnosed with breast cancer and had a mastectomy. She has fought pneumonia more than once and endured another complicated neurosurgery to remove an infection from just outside her brain. One time she had to be revived after nurses found her unconscious and not breathing. Despite the many complications, the most revealing and heartbreaking trial of all was yet to come. From the time she was very young, drawing had come naturally, but now Elaine was about to discover that she had lost the ability to hold a pen. What she had done so naturally and so well for more than sixty years was now impossible. She would no longer be able to sketch or paint with the ease and skill she once had.

## Continued from page one

However, she discovered that an iPad and an app called Brushes allows her to express herself artistically. All she needs to paint on that iPad is one finger, rather a good thing because one working finger is all she has! With that same finger she can type emails, check Facebook, and surf the web to satisfy her insatiable curiosity.

Those who know her, and those who spend time with her, attest to her strength, to her love, to her perseverance testifying, "A deep and sweet spiritual maturity has developed within her, not despite, but through her suffering. Where her body grows weaker and weaker, her spiritual strength continues to grow. She is a model of godly, joyful endurance. She knows joy because she knows the Source of joy." Recently she wrote, *"Christ is with me always—his Holy Spirit lives in me. I must admit I am feeling rather battle-worn, but trust God is using me for his purpose. We live in a broken world that is full of disease and tragedy and we can't escape this, but we can trust God to help us through it. One day, Jesus will return and there will be a new Heaven and a new Earth and all will be well."*

Elaine is no different than any follower of Christ. She shared what many Christians know, "It was my faith in him that got me through this tough time." To read more of her story, visit <https://www.challies.com/articles/nothing-more-to-need-a-profile-of-christian-courage/>.

I have lived and worked alongside the faithful at MWPC. I can tell you, there are many in our faith community who could make similar statements. So, this fall, we will explore how R.E.A.L. Churches live courageously. I hope you will gather strength for the coming days as you read in our annual R.E.A.L. Church magazine and listen in worship to our new sermon series as we profile courageous Christians right here! God is good, all the time, and I can't wait to see what God will do through us next!



# Thank You

A great big thank you to everyone who helped raise funds over the past few years to purchase the new playground equipment for the preschool age playground.

HCA team would also like to thank everyone who helped move equipment, unload the new equipment and install the new equipment. It took many hands to make this happen. A special thank you to David Beck for working on the install and to Tim Kemp for helping with the concrete.

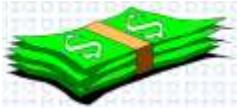
★ *Happy* ★

**LABOR DAY**



By: Bryan Southard

- ◆ Session examined John and Kristi Lommerse and accepted them into membership.
- ◆ Session ratified the e-vote taken to authorize the landscaping of the Memorial Garden.
- ◆ Session ratified the e-vote taken to authorize the use of Anderson Hall for Connections Sunday
- ◆ Session approved sponsoring Jennifer Beck for seminary for a single payment of \$940 from the 2021 budget.



### MARKHAM WOODS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

By: The Finance Committee

This is the church's financial position through July. The financial actual cash flow for the church remains favorable year-to-date by \$11,000 down from last month by \$23,000. The majority of the positive cash flow is due to lower program costs. Per media reports, the Covid-19 cases are trending down which speaks well for forecasting activities and budget for 2021. The focus remains on cash flow going forward.

As projected, Heathrow Christian Academy (HCA) is negative of \$20,000. HCA class enrollment is lower and the staff is making adjustments to minimize costs. Current enrollment projections do show negative cash flow for the remainder of the year. The staff feels hopeful about increased enrollment once classes start, which should decrease the potential loss of funds as previously stated.

Church Budget (Does not include HCA)	Actual	Budget	Favorable (Unfavorable)
Church Income	\$433,000	\$452,000	(\$19,000)
Church Expenses	\$422,000	\$449,000	\$27,000
Overall (Income less Expenses)	\$11,000	\$3,000	\$8,000

### MWPC Endowment Fund Status

As you may recall, the Session and Finance Committee jointly announced the creation of Markham Woods Presbyterian Church endowment fund in May 2020. As a refresher, this endowment is established for the perpetuity of the campus. As an update, the Holistic Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce that a church member has donated the "seed money" for initial investment. Those funds were invested, thus the Endowment Fund is active.

### A Wish List Request

MWPC is in need of a self-propelled yard lawn mower. The previously donated lawn mower has been in use for some 16 years and is beyond repair and is not in operating condition.

Therefore, we are in need of a new self-propelled lawn mower. Please contact the church office if you would like to contribute to the cost of the lawn mower shown below. If you do have a self-propelled lawn mower in good working order that you can donate to the church, please call the church office. The yard maintenance team of the Property Committee would greatly appreciate your donation.



Toro Recycler (22") 60-Volt Lithium-Ion Cordless Self-Propelled Lawn Mower (w/ 6.0 Ah Battery & Charger)

**Approximate Cost: \$675.00**

## It's on the Internet, so it must be true...

By: Pastor Jody Mask

"God's goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ. As a result, we aren't supposed to be infants any longer who can be tossed and blown around by every wind that comes from teaching with deceitful scheming and the tricks people play to deliberately mislead others. Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let's grow in every way into Christ, who is the head. The whole body grows from him, as it is joined and held together by all the supporting ligaments. The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part." —Ephesians 4:13b-16 (CEB)

I was listening to a podcast about the growing vitality of the QAnon conspiracy theory. In its three years of life, the fringe belief system has produced ardent followers not just in America, but around the world. I spotted a telltale "Q" window sticker on a nice pickup truck on Markham Woods Road recently. At least one person who fully supports the conspiracy is a shoo-in for Congress this year.

An academic institute within West Point called the Combating Terrorism Center recently published a report called *The QAnon Conspiracy Theory: A Security Threat in the Making?*

The report's abstract follows:

The QAnon conspiracy theory, which emerged in 2017, has quickly risen to prominence in the United States. A survey of cases of individuals who have allegedly or apparently been radicalized to criminal acts with a nexus to violence by QAnon, including one case that saw a guilty plea on a terrorism charge, makes clear that QAnon represents a public security threat with the potential in the future to become a more impactful domestic terror threat. This is true especially given that conspiracy theories have a track record of propelling terrorist violence elsewhere in the West as well as QAnon's more recent influence on mainstream political discourse.

The CTC report cites an FBI report from May 2019 that "emphasizes that the internet allows for a 'crowd-sourcing' effect wherein 'conspiracy theory followers themselves shape a given theory by presenting information that supplements, expands, or localizes its narrative.' This effect appears particularly salient with QAnon, where followers are directed to take interpretation and action into their own hands, rather than at the explicit direction of the anonymous user (known only as Q) behind the movement. QAnon is thus markedly different from other far-right extremist groups and jihadi groups, as it lacks both a clear organizational structure and a centralization of interpretive duties."

At this point, you may be wondering why I am devoting newsletter space to this theory. Part of the podcast from which I learned about this CTC report featured discussions with pastors of Evangelical churches who are concerned about QAnon making inroads into the spiritual lives of congregants. In a commentary by Katelyn Beaty of Religion News Service called *QAnon: The alternative religion that's coming to your church*, Jeb Barr, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Elm Mott, Texas, had this to say: "Why would we listen to my friend Joe ... who's telling me about Jesus who also thinks that Communists are taking over America and operating a pedophile ring out of a pizza restaurant? ... Why would we be believed?"

Beaty, interviewed on the podcast, was asked if the people she interviewed really see QAnon as a belief system comparable to organized religion. She replied, "They do. They are picking up on the overt spiritual language that Q is using in his messages, and they see that as connecting directly to the Bible and that they are supposed to take up a spiritual battle to reveal truth."

All of this nonsense reminds me of a lesson that my wife, an elementary school media specialist, shares every year about a website called "Help Save the Endangered Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus." It teaches media literacy to kids. It's a deliberate hoax, but it presents as absolutely serious. (And it's hilarious—take a look and test your loved ones with it: <https://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/>) It serves as an obvious reminder that just because it's on the internet doesn't mean it's true.

As crazy as I (and I hope you!) see the QAnon theory to be, clearly many others believe it. As followers of Jesus Christ, Paul teaches us in Ephesians not to be blown about the winds of schemers and deceivers. This is true whether they are individuals like Q or the decentralized collective musings of his followers. As a pastor, I am particularly called to speak this truth in love: do not fall for this hoax.



The Missions Committee has been busy faithfully helping the Grace n' Grits program distribute food and meals in lieu of the Wednesday night meal program. We are thankful for the support of the congregation as the needs have skyrocketed this year. Volunteers sort food into bags every Thursday at First United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Sanford with distribution on Fridays and Sundays. The Wednesday night meal program is discontinued until at least December. Every Friday, volunteers help Kevin pack 115 meals and then deliver 50 meals to FUMC Sanford for Grace n' Grits distribution while 65 meals are picked up by Action Church for distribution to the homeless camps. Additional volunteers help hand out the food bags on Friday mornings.

We have an exciting update from Love Missions. MWPC sewers have delivered 98 messenger-style bags. Love Missions fills these "freedom bags" with full-size hygiene products, clothing, snacks, and a word of encouragement. The bags are distributed to survivors of human trafficking in Seminole County (Sanford, Lake Mary, Altamonte, etc). The sewing just keeps going! There's more news from Love Missions; we met with Tina Kadolph to find out about their new facility (opening in October) by SR 46 which will offer training and therapy. More details later about the volunteer help we might be able to provide.

For the upcoming holiday season, here's a sampling of what we expect to do:

- ◆ Distribution of shoeboxes for Love Missions
- ◆ Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes
- ◆ Angel Tree gifts for children
- ◆ The ever-popular gathering of the frozen turkeys for Rescue Outreach
- ◆ A project for foster kids aging out of the system (Florida United Methodist Children's Home)



If you'd like to join in Mission activities, contact Jane Allingham at jaham56@yahoo.com.

By: Kurt Leinenkugel

### **How are we connecting during this time of COVID-19?**

Wow, it's August 2020 and we still aren't out of the woods in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. As many of you know, it is also the time we connect with everyone. Connection Day is typically when everything gears up for the coming year in the life of the church. We went ahead and planned for Connection Day Sunday, only it was a virtual Connection Day format this year.

In the meantime, your Deacons and Congregational Care Committee members have been doing their best to keep our church family connected by phone calls, e-mails, texts and cards to members during this time. We hope you all feel safe and cared for by not only your immediate families but also by your MWPC family. Never hesitate to call any of us or the church office with your concerns and your joys. We miss you all, especially those that still have not been able to attend a service in person.

**God Bless**

# Happy Birthday!

2	Jim Ellis	16	Randy Parks
3	Jody Mask	16	Rosemary Robinson
4	Sharon Steele	17	Anthony Thornton
5	Marge Stenstrom	17	Chris Proudfoot
7	Althea Schneiderhan	18	Brian Doyle
7	Joshua Whitehead	20	Billie Giffin
8	Doriann Rodriguez	20	Diane Groover
8	Mindi Robinson	22	Claroy Campbell
8	Tom Menziuso	22	Daniel O'Callaghan
9	Katie Spera	22	Noy Rivers
11	Kathy Brown	26	Cara Wendorph
11	Kathy Smith	27	Jennifer Gagne
12	Jessica Smith	27	Kacy McMurry
12	Kelli Timmons	28	Logan Herrick
12	Tim Kemp	29	Kayli Taylor
13	Tyler Neckles	29	Winnie DeGraaff
14	Susan Reid	30	Linda Tharpe
15	David Steele		

# Happy Anniversary

3	Dave and Cindy Anderson	22
<b>5</b>	<b>Owen and Karen McCarron</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Arthur and Donna Chamberlin</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Bob and Nel Schickofke</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Frank and Marge Stenstrom</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Jim and Kathy Leavitt</b>	<b>42</b>
18	Robert and Kim Dove	16
<b>19</b>	<b>Dan and Cindy Winzeler</b>	<b>28</b>
21	David and Jill Minton	18
24	Matthew and Ashley Pedersen	9

### TO VIEW NEWSLETTER ONLINE

<https://www.mwpcusa.org/messenger-newsletter>

### TO VIEW THE WEEKLY BULLETIN ONLINE

<https://www.mwpcusa.org/church-bulletin>



By: Cindy Teetzel

### Kick-Off Celebration

**September 9, 2019 from 4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.**

Join us! We will have a waterslide/bounce house, pizza and snow cones! Bring your towel and bathing suit.

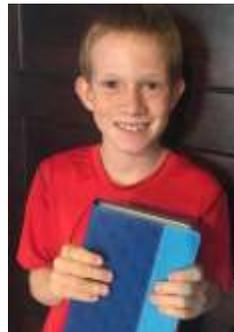
### Rooted Kids Wednesday Program

**Begins: September 16, 2019 4:00 p.m.— 6:00 p.m.**

Rooted kids is a unique program free of charge and open to the community. Every Wednesday beginning September 16 in Anderson Hall from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. children in kindergarten through fifth grade learn and actively participate in Bible stories, crafts, games, and snacks.

Markham Woods Presbyterian Church will present Bibles to the following third grade children. Our church family continues to honor the promise of their faith formation.

- ◆ Johnathan Andrus
- ◆ Inali Kinnear
- ◆ Tiffany Krummick
- ◆ Taylor Lesley
- ◆ Rachel Lester
- ◆ Jake Thornton
- ◆ Avery Wehmeyer
- ◆ Charles Welscher





By: Chris Leinenkugel

### Connection Day Update!

If you have not had the opportunity to check out Connection Day 2020 webpage, please do so NOW! Add this link <https://www.mwpcusa.org/connectionday2020> to your web browser to see the fall schedule of classes.

Also, check out the reviews from previous class attendees. You can then register for these courses/activities/missions or if you want additional information on any class/activity or mission contact Chris Leinenkugel at [cleinenkugel@mwpcusa.org](mailto:cleinenkugel@mwpcusa.org).

Some examples of what will be available are: disciple courses, small group Bible studies, The Marriage Course, G.O.D. time class, and our weekly prayer connection plus much-much more.

Register early, as many courses are starting up in early September. Please do not hesitate to contact Chris Leinenkugel at [cleinenkugel@mwpcusa.org](mailto:cleinenkugel@mwpcusa.org) or the church office 407-333-2030 if you have any questions.



### Men's Prayer Breakfast Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

Meet at Cracker Barrel on Hickman Dr. just off SR 46 in Sanford. All men are welcome! Contact Mark Roberts 407-718-7837 or [Markroberts0622@gmail.com](mailto:Markroberts0622@gmail.com) for more information or call the church office at 407-333-2030.



By: Clayton and Cassidy



I hope everyone is adjusting to their back to school schedule. Whether you started back online, in-person, or home schooling this year, Clayton and I hope the school has started off great!

This month we are offering an in person event along with our Zoom hangouts. Check out the upcoming events below and don't forget to mark your calendar for our upcoming movie night in Anderson Hall!

### Upcoming events:

**Zoom Hangouts:** If you are interested in joining one of our Zoom hangouts, email [impact@mwpcusa.org](mailto:impact@mwpcusa.org) to learn more about how to join.

**Movie night:** On September 18 from 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Impact is hosting a movie night in Anderson Hall! This event is RSVP only to ensure we have the proper room capacity. If you are interested in joining, email Cassidy at [impact@mwpcusa.org](mailto:impact@mwpcusa.org) so we can save you a spot for this event. This event is mask mandatory and we will be doing temperature checks at the door. We want to make this a fun and safe event for all our Impact teens.

We hope to see you at movie night on 9/18 or on one of our Zoom calls!

Cassidy & Clayton



*Growing the Faith of the Whole Family of God  
Inwardly Strong, Outwardly Focused*

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MID-FLORIDA  
PERMIT #0064

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



## Mark Your Calendars



The second annual Great Pumpkin Patch is coming to MWPC. The pumpkin patch will be open from October 17 through October 31. Mark your calendars for October 17 at 3:30 p.m. for pumpkin delivery day. We need many hands to unload the truck and get the pumpkins set up in the pumpkin patch. Volunteer opportunities will be outlined in the October newsletter. All proceeds from the pumpkin sales will go towards replacing the fence around the youth playground.

Contact Cheryl Beck at [cheryl.beck@hcamwpc.org](mailto:cheryl.beck@hcamwpc.org) or 407.333.2045 if you have any questions.

**Markham Woods Presbyterian Church Fall "Pumpkin" Festival  
October 25 from Noon – 4:00 p.m.**



MWPC's outreach to our community is fast approaching! What a fun way to kick-off fall for our community and church family. We need lots of volunteers, donations for prizes for the children's games, and new items for the silent auction. Please contact Cindy Teetzel at [cteetzel@mwpcusa.org](mailto:cteetzel@mwpcusa.org) if you have any questions. Stay tuned for volunteer sign-up link.