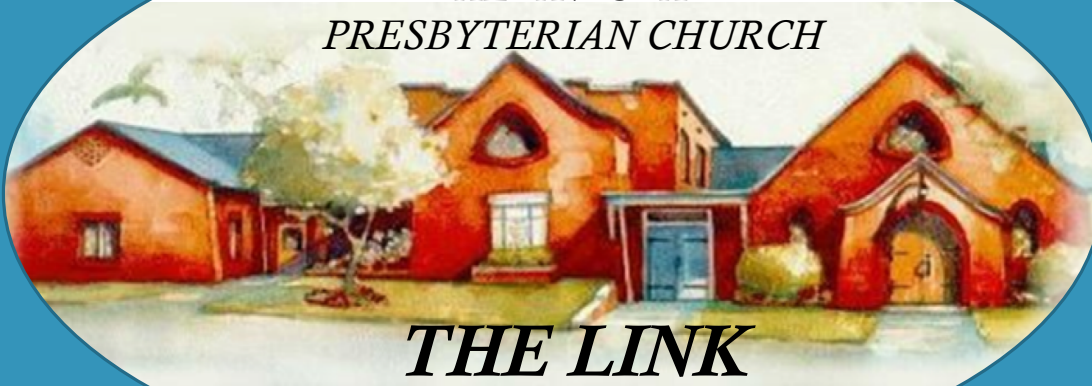


*ALTAVISTA
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*



THE LINK

July 1, 2020

OUR VISION, OUR HEARTS, AND OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS
OPEN



ALTAVISTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

707 BROAD STREET
P O BOX 126
ALTAVISTA, VA 24517
434-369-5286 – Office phone
434-369-1101 – FAX
office@altapres.org - email
www.altapres.org - web site
Rev. Eduardo Soto, Jr.
434-369-5286, office
434-219-5648, mobile

“I strongly encourage each of you to pray and read the Bible daily”



RECOVERING THE PASTORAL PRAYER

While private prayer is a necessity in the Christian life for sanctification, there is another avenue of prayer that God has given to help Christians. Jesus specifically spoke of His Father's house as a house of prayer. One of the greatest tragedies in American Christianity is the death of the pastoral prayer—prayer by the minister on behalf of the people during Lord's Day worship. For hundreds of years, Protestant churches made corporate prayer an essential element of worship. Today, this prayer has been replaced with more time devoted to music. Little attention is given in corporate worship to prayer.

There is something spiritually beneficial for God's people when they gather for corporate worship that is not acquired anywhere else. The Lord has promised to meet with His people in a special way. This is why prayer is an important element in corporate worship. Just as personal Bible reading does not replace receiving the means of grace in the preached Word of God,

personal prayer does not replace the blessing of corporate Sunday prayer. When the minister prays, he is speaking on behalf of the people as an ambassador of Christ. With one voice, the people's hearts are united together as their prayers ascend to the throne room of God.

I find the pastoral prayer to be a great blessing. If [J. C.] Ryle is correct that few pray in daily life, think of the help God gives to us when we gather together for prayer. In public worship, we quiet ourselves from the busyness of life and join our hearts in prayer as we are led by God's appointed servant. The pastor leads us in proper praise, in confession of sin, in the advancement of God's kingdom, in thanksgiving for God's good gifts, and in the specific needs of the church. God is ready to hear the prayers of His people through His servant. Corporate prayer is one of the most edifying blessings of worship. If our churches are to have greater effectiveness in the gospel ministry, there will be a place of prominence given to the pastoral prayer.

Adapted from "Prayer as a Means of Grace," by Rev. Christopher J Gordon, preaching pastor at Escondido United Reformed Church in Escondido, Calif., and featured teacher of the program *Abounding Grace Radio*. Published in Ligonier's *Tabletalk* Magazine, April 2020.

ONLINE SERVICES DURING PANDEMIC

SESSION' APPROVAL TO RETURN TO CORPORATE WORSHIP HAS NOT AFFECTED OUR ONLINE SERVICES.

Pastor Ed is offering a Weekend Bible Study, which is posted on Friday morning. He and Betsy are posting Midweek devotionals on Wednesdays. Both of these can be found at www.altapres.org/pandemic-bible-studies.

Sunday's service will continue to be recorded, though they will be posted later in the day or early Monday. These can be found at www.altapres.org/worship-services. There you can also watch past services going back to 2017!

You can also interact with us by liking our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/altavistapc) and sharing posts, pictures, and prayers



JULY BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

1	Rob Gilliam	
10	Cynthia Erb, Roger Giles	Roger & Linda Giles
18		Ed & Betsy Soto
19	Anne Mabry	
26	Essie Moore	
27	Beverly Eubank	
30	Gary Andrews	

**Altavista Presbyterian Church
Session Highlights
June 21, 2020 Meeting**

- Reviewed the May, 2020 Treasurer's report.
- Approved minutes of the May 16, 2020 Stated Session meeting & the May 19, 2020 Called Session meeting as presented.
- Elected John Erb as Commissioner & Cynthia Erb as Alternate Commissioner to the August 15, 2020 Presbytery meeting.
- Joys & concerns of the congregation were identified. Moderator Ed prayed for those listed & to close the meeting.

Sermons This Month

July 5th • Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Romans 7:14-25

Deuteronomy 5:1-5, 12-15

"Thou Shalt... The Fourth Commandment"

July 12th • Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Romans 8:26-39

Deuteronomy 5:1-5, 16

"Thou Shalt... The Fifth Commandment"

July 19th • Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Romans 9:1-5

Deuteronomy 5:1-5, 17

"Thou Shalt... The Sixth Commandment"

July 26th • Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Romans 10:5-15

Deuteronomy 5:1-5, 18

"Thou Shalt... The Seventh Commandment"

ON HOLD DURING PANDEMIC

Bible Study

Bible Study, which normally meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM, will be on hold during the coronavirus pandemic. Expect courses to resume after Labor Day.

Prayer Fellowship

Prayer Fellowship, which normally meets on the Second, Fourth, and Fifth Wednesdays in the Pastor's Study at 9:30 AM, will be on hold during the coronavirus pandemic. Expected return after Labor Day.

Youth Group

Youth Group, which normally meets on the Second and Third Sundays 5:00 PM, will be on hold during the coronavirus pandemic. Expect meetings to resume after Labor Day.

Session will decide at their August meeting whether and how to return to midweek gatherings.