



CARRILEA'S CORNER

What a few days it has been! I'm still processing and trying to make sense of it all, but just wanted to say a few things.

I didn't fully know what to expect when I traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Moral Monday gathering at the Capitol. What I thought would be more like a protest became something much deeper—a pilgrimage, a funeral, a moment of profound grief and holy resistance.

The event, organized by Repairers of the Breach, began with a funeral procession from a nearby church to the steps of the Supreme Court, and then across the street to the Capitol. We carried 51 coffins, each one representing the 51,000 people projected to die in the coming year due to proposed cuts to Medicaid. Each coffin was labeled with the statistics for a different state—including how many would lose Medicaid, how many would lose SNAP (food) benefits.

I already knew the statistics. I've read the data.

But then I was handed a coffin. I looked at the clergy member holding the other end, he too in his clergy attire. I didn't know him, but I did know him. This was familiar. This is what we do—we officiate funerals, lead processions, lead people through the rituals of our faith as they grieve.

As we walked along the sidewalk, I shrunk beside the towering buildings. These are the most powerful institutions in our nation. And here I was holding a coffin beneath them on behalf of the most vulnerable. The sun was intense and the sweat was dripping. The procession stretched for blocks. The weight of it, both literal and spiritual, took my breath away.

The statistics weren't abstract anymore. The policy being debated inside that building—at that exact moment—was no longer a headline or a bill number. It was a matter of life and death.

And because our elected officials know this policy will kill people—and are doing it anyway—this was not just a protest, it was an act of moral clarity, of bearing witness.

Prophets in Scripture were rarely “successful” in the way we think of success. Often, they were ignored, ridiculed, or punished. But their role was not simply to persuade—it was to shine a light. To cry out. To say, I see what is happening, and I refuse to be silent. This wasn't about winning. It was about naming the truth. About refusing to look away. It was about resisting evil—not because we're guaranteed to stop it, but because if we don't resist it, we risk becoming numb to it. Or worse, complicit in it. It was about shining a light so clearly and truthfully that no one can pretend they didn't know.

There is more to share, but for now, what I know is this: bearing witness matters. And it's part of what we're called to do. At the risk of sounding cliché, I felt your presence with me these last few days and I'm glad we are walking this road together.

**With hope and conviction,
Carrilea**

P.S. I will not be with you in person this Sunday, however some wonderful faces of Grace will be sharing their stories. After this week things should slow down and I will see you every week for a while!

June 29–July 5, 2025

July Birthdays

- 3 - Renae Keesbury
- 4 - Paul Leonard
- 7 - Betty Isereau
- 10 - Emma Barnard Chesnut
- 10 - Chad Coarsey
- 11 - Elizabeth Brown Thomas
- 12 - Nancy Davis
- 13 - Aiden Jaxson Bowie Comer
- 13 - Xan Comer
- 14 - Janice Berryhill
- 15 - Saige Hall
- 16 - David Comer
- 24 - LeElaine Comer
- 24 - Marco Corcoran
- 26 - Phyllis Rogers
- 27 - Nichole Tilley

Anniversaries

- 14 - Brandon and Nichole Tilley
- 15 - John and LeAnda Barnard
- 27 - John and Andora Nicholson
- 30 - John and Linda Marshall
- 18 - Bob and Susan Rawls

**WE ARE IN OUR SEASON OF GRACE.
WORSHIP WILL BE AT 10AM, AND WILL
CONTINUE AT THAT HOUR THROUGHOUT THE
SUMMER MONTHS.
THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

**DURING THE SEASON OF GRACE, ARTWORK
ASSOCIATED WITH THE SERMON WILL BE
DISPLAYED IN WORSHIP FOR THE
CONGREGATION TO INTERACT WITH THROUGH
MEDITATION AND PRAYER**

**** THE MOWING LIST IS POSTED AT THE BACK
OF THE SANCTUARY. PLEASE SEE NEAL
GROSE OR HOLLACE SCANLON IF YOU HAVE
QUESTIONS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING TO MOW.**

*****THE GROUNDS COMMITTEE IS
COLLECTING CARDBOARD THE NEXT 2
SUNDAYS (JUNE 29 AND JULY 6)
FOR USE ON THE CAMPUS. WE CAN USE
MEDIUM TO LARGE BOXES OR SHEETS OF
CARDBOARD. PLEASE BREAK THE BOXES
DOWN AND REMOVE ANY TAPE, STAPLES,
ETC. THANK YOU SO MUCH!"**

**"THE GROUNDS COMMITTEE ALSO NEEDS TO
REPLACE ONE MEMBER TO SERVE THROUGH
THE REST OF 2025. WE TYPICALLY MEET
ONCE MONTHLY AT NIGHT DURING THE
WEEK. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, PLEASE TALK
TO ANDORA."**

BUDGET

Needed year to date: \$51,792.00

Received year to date: \$46,708.14

UNDER budget: \$5,083.86

Weekly needs: \$1,992.00

This Week's Offering: \$1730.00



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