



CARRILEA'S CORNER

Dear Grace,

This past Sunday, we talked about boundaries—about the courage it takes to say *no* and how setting limits is essential to becoming healthy, whole people.

It is also clear how much of a challenge this can be—especially for those of us raised in Southern culture, where being “nice” is often valued over being honest or grounded. Many of us were taught to be polite, agreeable, and accommodating at all costs. But this version of “niceness” can sometimes keep us from honoring our own needs—or speaking up when something isn’t right.

And let’s be honest: **Southern culture is deeply entangled with racism, patriarchy, and Christian nationalism.** That’s the water many of us swim in. And yet, it’s also true that this culture holds a thread of something worth redeeming—a thread of hospitality, kindness, and what some call common decency.

The other week, I was reminded of this in an unexpected way on our camping trip.

I was driving a truck pulling a camper—by myself, with four kids (Andrew was joining us later that day). We were headed west on I-40 when we got a flat tire around mile marker 90. I managed to pull over in the grassy median.

Two of the kids had just fallen asleep, and—of course—their car seats were directly on top of the jack I needed. Between trying to maneuver them and FaceTiming Andrew to help me talk through how to work the jack I was worried we were going to be on the side of the road for hours.

That’s when a man and his wife pulled over to help.

To say I was relieved is an understatement! I thanked him profusely and he said, “There aren’t a lot of people with common decency anymore—and that’s all I’m trying to do.”

Based on a few context clues, I’m pretty sure we have very different worldviews. But in that moment, his decency—his willingness to stop and help—bridged that gap
(one that has felt like a massive chiasm lately)

And it left me wondering: How do we renew a culture of common decency and kindness—but root it in justice, honesty, and accountability? How do we reclaim a *better* Southern ethic—one that doesn’t silence truth for the sake of politeness, but that still shows up for neighbors with care?

It’s complicated. But maybe that’s the work in front of us—not ONLY rejecting what’s broken, but reimagining what could be beautiful and true.

Let’s keep asking these questions. And let’s keep becoming that kind of community—grounded in grace, courage, and the kind of love that tells the truth.

Gratefully,
Carrilea

P.S. Hope to see you at one/both of our upcoming gatherings on Thursday / Friday evening!

July 13-19, 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 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: \$55,776.00

Received year to date: \$52,851.12

UNDER budget: \$2,924.88

Weekly needs: \$1,992.00

This Week's Offering: \$3789.00



Use this PayPal QR code for easy
donations.