

CARRILEA'S CORNER

Dear Grace Family,

Last Sunday we talked about letting go of cynicism and cultivating hope and I asked y'all for additional ideas about how we do this work. After the service, someone came up to me and said, "Humor is a great tool for that."

And I couldn't agree more.

Humor and laughter are medicine for the soul.

They don't ignore reality—but they keep it from hardening us.

They soften the edges.

Monday morning I was trying to get Maya dressed for school. I was trying to get her to hurry but she had pushed a button on something and it was making noise—she was busy laughing and dancing to the sounds.

My girls laugh at the simplest things every day—and it reminds me how easy it is to move too fast to notice joy, to be silly, to laugh.

Maybe part of letting go of cynicism isn't just thinking differently—but also

Letting ourselves laugh.

Noticing what's good.

Allowing small moments of delight to interrupt the weight of the world.

Hope doesn't always come in grand gestures.

Sometimes it sounds like laughter in the kitchen, or giggles in the backseat.

What might help you laugh?

Where might joy be trying to find you?

Gratefully,

Carrilea

P.S. Hope to see you this weekend for a picnic at Lake Norman State Park!



March 15-21, 2026

March Birthdays

5 - Zoe McMillan
7 - Gina DeLong
9 - Donn Wardo
10 - John Marshall
10 - Terry Hamby
13 - David Rogers
17 - Louise Grose
28 - Lisa Wardo
31 - Sam Scott



The Mission Board will be "Cultivating Young Minds" by collecting books and money for Speak Life and Live's summer reading camp. The camp is completely free to the kids who participate, and books are available for them to take home and keep. We are asking for donations of money (the cost for the camp is \$150/child), and new or gently used books, beginning reader through young adult levels. Thank you for your generous support of our special offerings!

ICM NEEDS CEREAL, RAMEN NOODLES, AND MAC-N-CHEESE.

Upcoming events

Saturday, March 21: Family Picnic at noon at Lake Norman State Park.
Picnic Shelter behind Visitor's Center.
Bring your own lunch. Water and dessert provided.

Next Sunday-(March 22), you are invited to meet at the labyrinth in the front yard of the church to walk the labyrinth (in silence) any time between 9 and 9:30 a.m.
Materials will be provided to use for reflection.

March 22—Church conference after church.

Thursday, March 26th: we will be doing a Beer & Hymns at 6pm at Red Buffalo.

Maunday Thursday Meal: April 2- 6:00pm. Light meal.

Easter Saturday: April 4 Egg Hunt and Easter Party on the church grounds.
1-2:30pm. With Ice Cream Truck!

Easter: April 5 - Sunrise service at 7am, with a lite breakfast, no Sunday School, then worship with Contata at 11:00am.

BUDGET

Needed year to date: \$23,298.00

Received year to date: \$23,192.85

UNDER budget: \$105.15

Weekly needs: \$2118.00

This Week's Offering: \$1650.00



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