

“I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.”

**Psalm
57:9-11
(NIV)**

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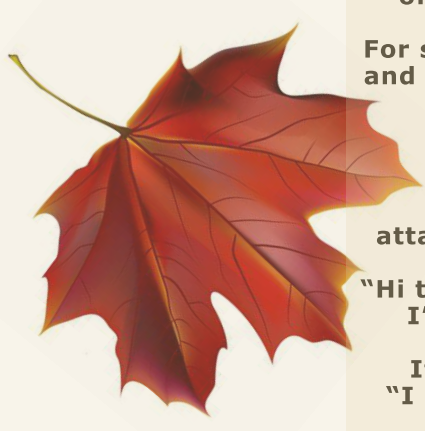
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Every Wednesday afternoon, 4:30 - 6 pm the church doors are open to anyone who wants to spend time in prayer. Come and go as your schedule allows.

Prayer sheets are available. So many are in need of prayer.

The Leaf



Autumn is here as if you didn't know, and soon the trees will all be aglow.

There are whiffs of fragrance in the air, of nature's grand finale lingering out there.

For soon a cold harsh winter will then take hold, and the lovely countryside will take a new mold.

So let's take on the beauty that shows, enjoy it today before it all goes.

I'll tell you a tale of a particular leaf, attached to a branch, its beauty beyond belief!

"Hi there," said I, "You'd look great on my table, I'll take you and your friends, if I'm able."

It swayed out of reach, saw me as a thief, "I shall not be plucked and suffer that grief!"

Then the leaf went on and boasted a lot, of how great and super superior it had got.

"The greatest in all these woods am I, my reign will go on forever, I shall not die."

Silly leaf! You're like the human race of late, computers in space we seem so great.

Time has run out, fall down you must, and so many Bibles are covered with dust.

There is a God, a Creator on the throne, to forget that fact, man is utterly alone.

Ever so sadly mankind has drifted away, so stop, turn around and live for the LORD today.
Sid Hiemstra

Plan to bring a covered dish and join us for a meal and time of fellowship at 5 pm. . . before the concert.

Mercy's Well

**Sept 18
6:30 pm**

Grace Community Church
342 Macedonia Church Rd
Sparta

A love offering will be taken during the Concert



invite your friends



One more packing party will be scheduled for late October. This will be the wrap up for our group effort this year. We will gladly continue to collect any additional shoeboxes you want to pack on your own. Boxes are available at the church if you need them.

Thank you all for your support in making this year-long campaign a success. We are still counting boxes and with prayers of praise & thanksgiving - expect to exceed our goal for the year!



Kate Alexander Huie
Born 8/22/22

James & Sharon Alexander are proud to announce the birth of their granddaughter.

This is My Story: Amy & Chris Huysman

Amy is a NC native, having lived throughout the piedmont and foothills. She spent her free time as a child playing in the woods and creek in her suburban neighborhood. After earning a degree in Forestry and Wildlife from VT, she ventured far from home to work the beaches of New York, searching for nesting shorebirds.

Chris grew up in Michigan and coastal Connecticut. Chris' parents took the family camping in Adirondack State Park, instilling a love of the outdoors in him and his 5 siblings. He dreamed of growing up and being a park ranger. After completing a Biology degree at UCONN, he fulfilled his dream and became a biologist with the NPS. While working at Fire Island National Seashore, Chris and Amy met on the beach. Their first impressions were far from flattering. When Amy returned to NC, Chris followed, and being a smart yankee, Chris did not bring his ideas with him. Chris and Amy were married in 1994. Both had fallen in love with the mountains of NC many years before and moved to Sparta in 2006 with their family.

Chris and Amy have 2 children. Ben lives in Surry County and is a welder and machinist. He builds shiny things that go fast. Gretchen currently lives on the family farm in Sparta, but plans to move to her own land in Rockingham County very soon. There she dreams of having her own self-sustaining farm.


Chris is self-employed as an environment consultant, specializing in private property rights. Traveling throughout the state, he looks for puddles and pretty flowers. Really.

Amy, being the smarter of the two, figured out early in their marriage how to send Chris to work so she could stay home. She has raised children, goats, turkeys, dogs, and vegetables Chris does not like to eat.

Chris was raised Catholic and Amy Lutheran. Both Ben and Gretchen had attended Grace Community Church with friends as teenagers. When Chris and Amy were hungry for God's Word and Biblical teaching, the Lord led them to Grace.



Chris & Amy Huysman



Our church library contains 524 selections for you to choose from, whether you're interested in a book, or a movie I'm sure there is something that would spark your interest.

The book reviewed below, **The Robe**, was written by Lloyd C. Douglas
Belinda Hiemstra

The Robe

My future mother-in-law gave me her copy of The Robe shortly after I met Susan in 1976. I was so distracted with my new-found Love of My Life that the book rested on my bookshelf for several months. When I did read it, it blew me away. Since then, I've probably read it at least five more times. The Robe is my favorite book. Over the years I've bought many copies and have given all of them away, the most recent one to our church library.

Marcellus Gallio, a young Roman Tribune (officer) and privileged son of a Roman Senator offends a member of the emperor's family and is banished to command a remote military post in Judea. He takes his personal slave, Demetrius, who also has a prominent role in the story, with him. He is ordered to Jerusalem where he is put in charge of the Crucifixion. Not believing Jesus to be guilty, he follows orders. The soldiers gamble for the Robe and Marcellus wins. Goaded to put it on, he does and racked with guilt, becomes severely depressed. Diana, a friend of his sister's has a close relationship with the emperor and convinces him to order Marcellus home. Demetrius suggests to the family that he take Marcellus to Greece to study sculpturing and hopefully recover from his deep depression. In Greece, his depression deepens, and he contemplates suicide. While reaching for Demetrius's dagger he touches the Robe that he had told Demetrius to destroy. His depression vanishes. He returns to Rome and tells the emperor about his experience. Thinking that the Robe has some sort of power, Tiberius sends Marcellus on a quest to learn more about the Galilean whom he crucified.

As I write this, our pastor is taking us through a study of the book of Acts. This is a great time to read this book. In The Robe we see the dawning of the early Church through the eyes of an initially unbelieving Roman noble. His encounters with believers who give him eyewitness accounts of what they lived while Jesus walked are especially wonderful when we already know the stories from the Gospels. People we know from the Scriptures are woven into the story. Marcellus becomes convinced that Jesus is divine. Transformed, he continues his journey through the region, now in "giving mode" sharing the love of Christ with the people he meets. Their lives change, too.

The book is extremely well written and not a quick read by any means. That's good. Truly, I didn't want the book to end. The character development is superb. I got to "know" the characters...and like them (or not). I must stop here. You'll get no spoilers from me; you just need to read it. It's in the church library. I've ordered another copy from www.thriftbooks.com for myself. Now I want to read it again.
Mark Parker