



October ANCHOR

NEWSLETTER



EDITION 2017

“Loving the ellipsis...”

This month, I return to the idea of building a vision. A common theme shows up in many of the conversations I have with members of our church: “I have a person in my life. I love this person, but I don’t know how to...” The ellipsis (...) is where the unique situation emerges. For some of us, the person we love is taking advantage of us, for others, there are addiction issues we are trying to help them with, others have medical issues, sexual orientation issues we may not understand, or the person is just a difficult person to handle. Each ellipsis is unique and tells a story of trying to find a better balance of love, discipline, grace, mercy, and personal boundaries. Before I attempt to give a global answer, permit me a few observations:

If we weren’t a Christ-centered people, we wouldn’t have these conversations. But since we are disciples of Jesus Christ, we don’t slam the door on other people, though we may need to close it for some time. We are compassionate, sometimes to a fault. We are disciples, and we take the commandment to love God and neighbor with earnest seriousness. It shapes everything about how we live.

Our faith has made us competent in handling life. We are also people who have it “together.” Yes, I know, you forgot your phone in the refrigerator last night while you were hunting down the moldy cheese left there three months ago, and your keys are locked inside your car right now while you wait for a locksmith to get you back inside. I don’t mean we have no faults or problems, but people trust us. We have successfully navigated through life (because of our faith, by the way!), and people perceive us as powerful enough to ask for help. After all, we have a moral compass, and we live by principles, and we have discipline enough to have something to give to our community.

We make a difference. It can be hard to see when it feels like we don’t have it together, or when we make mistakes, or when people reject our help, but we make a difference. How many children would have gone hungry if we hadn’t provided meals to Merrimack and Cary for so long? (The food bank now does what we did, by the way). How many

families would be on the street if not for our personal and communal generosity through the pastor’s fund and our own personal gifts? How many debts have been reduced? How many people have come through our doors looking for something, and discovered family in our midst? How many of our members contribute to our community through all the organizations they bless, from the Lion’s Club, to city commissions, to Scouting ministries, to school organizations, coaching, agencies, and untold hours of volunteer work? We have been blessing our corner of Hampton for well over one hundred years, and I am not aware of a single member of our church who has not given back to the community in some significant way. That’s how we roll: We give. We serve. We bless.

So, how can we love the ellipsis..., the people we want to love, and do love, but don’t know how? Friends, if I gave you three observations, let me give you three ideas: First, we have conversations. Chances are, someone in our congregation has been where you are, and they have some insights that will help you. Second, we recognize that we have power. Our power comes from Christ, the body of Christ, and the experience we have on the way. Some of the situations we face have solutions, but some may not. No matter – we still have the power of Christ! Where our hands or minds are too small, God’s hands and power is unlimited. Third, we use the power at hand. That is, we pray, and we ask for prayer. We receive insights from people we trust. And we use the body of Christ, the church, to help us. We are not alone. We are disciples who make a difference. How’s that for a vision of who we are and what we are about?

Here’s a scripture that can help in every circumstance: “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:17) Sometimes, we have to change what we’re doing to make it work. Sometimes, we simply need to give thanks and trust the Lord to bring about the change for which we pray.

Your fellow servant in Christ Jesus and partner in making disciples who make a difference,

Brian K. Sisk



Defying Gravity

Beginning September 24, we will be starting a new sermon series on "Defying Gravity," which has to do with stewardship of our lives, not just money. On October 29, we will conclude the series with Consecration Sunday, which will be a combined service Sunday, Sunday School at 9:15, Worship at 10:30, and a fellowship meal to follow.

During the Sunday School hour, the FaithLink class will be working on the material, and the Searchers class is coming into the fellowship hall so any guests can have a class to join that is talking about Defying Gravity. If you aren't in a class yet, please join one of these, or our other classes this fall. You will be glad you did!

Young Adults

Even though Hannah Sibole has moved to Tampa for her two-year work as a Global Mission Fellow, our young adult ministry is continuing. We are thankful to Josh McNutt and especially Lynne Bunting for keeping Thursday Life Groups going from 6:30-8:00pm. We are also glad for the group

continuing to schedule special events, and for Wayne and Judy Grigg, who will help them get the Sunday School class off the ground again this fall. New meeting location for the Sunday School class is in the Edith Spencer Room

Bible Studies for the Fall

There are multiple Bible studies besides our Sunday School classes going on. Monday from 12:30-2:00pm, Pastor Brian teaches a class on the Bible in a year program. Anyone can join. Wednesdays from 9:30am on, the Soul Sisters meet for Bible Study in the Tri-X room. Wednesday evening, starting at

7pm, Jim Bly teaches a class. Finally, Pastor Brian has an identical class on Thursdays from 6:30-8:00pm. In addition, there are life groups, which are Bible-based, for youth and young adults on Thursdays from 6:30-8:00pm.

Staff Changes

We are thankful that God has provided us with Colette Quinn to staff the office as Administrative Assistant. Colette has many years of experience at the shipyard (in different positions) and at Davis Bridal and Lowe's. If you haven't yet met our highly qualified and skilled Administrative Assistant, please stop by the office between 9am-4pm, call in, or send her an email.

We are also thankful for Andrew Blackmon, who is our interim accompanist. Andrew also works at NASA and is the accompanist for St. Marks' United Methodist Church. He has been a frequent substitute for us, and we are glad to have him more often at 8:30.

Bazaar Saturday, October 7, 2017 from 8am-2pm. Flea Market, Bake Sale, Chili Sale.

Remember, when you are in the garage, attic or just cleaning out a room, please bring those items to the church Fellowship Hall Wed., Oct. 4 3pm-6pm, Thurs., Oct. 5 3pm-6pm and Fri. Oct. 6, 9am-12pm. Bazaar Saturday, Oct. 7 8am-2pm. We have a lot of wonderful cooks in this church!!! First UMC Fox Hill Cooks can start making chili and freezing it and can bring to the church during the week of the Bazaar and putting it in our freezer. It all goes in the same pot and it is always yummy!!! Ladies and gentlemen you can bake your specialty. Bring to the church during the times on Friday or Saturday morning. I plan on being there at 7am on Saturday. UMW will have a knife and jewelry

sale. Proceeds this year from the Bazaar will be going to Hannah Sibole and for those who have been struck with the disasters of Hurricane Harvey and Irma. Hannah is on a two year "Global Mission Fellows" serving children in Tampa, FL. The money to support her in this ministry was raised by the person who preceded her. Now she is responsible for doing the same for the next person who will follow Hannah. Left over items from the Flea Market will be picked up by DAV. This is a wonderful time to get together and have Fun and Fellowship!!!! Tell your neighbors, family and friends!!!!
Contact person Marilyn Eubank

THE PUMPKINS ARE HERE!!! THE PUMPKINS ARE HERE!!!

Yes – It is now PATCH SEASON. Thanks for your help in unloading the truck. Hope you enjoyed the meal. The Annual Pumpkin Patch is a Momentous Time! It is a fantastic opportunity to share fun and time with your fellow church members and the community that surrounds us. People come from far and wide to shop, play, and photograph in the FUMC Fox Hill Pumpkin Patch. We get a chance to share with them and earn substantial funds for our programs and ministries. **We have unique events setup** for each weekend in the month. Still finalizing details. Specifics will appear in the weekly bulletin.



We need your help for this short, one month, effort!

- **Saturday, September 30 – Tuesday, October 31:** Work the patch; it's fun and easy.

Look for Signup Sheets in the Narthex – Sign early, sign often! We'll teach you all you need to know. **Be ready to participate in this, our Thirteenth Annual Pumpkin Patch. LET'S MAKE IT THE BEST PATCH EVER!**

VIRGINIA CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

The United States premiere of "*Song Cycle: vive la vélorution*" by Alexander L'Estrange is scheduled for 3 performances by the Virginia Choral Society on Oct 6,7 and 8. With over 90 singers, the VCS along with our jazz quintet and our talented accompanist, Ms. Diane Snider, is delighted to present the US premiere of this delightful and wonderful composition. Additional short subjects will include: Blue Skies, They Can't Take That Away From Me, Autumn Leaves, and When the Saints

... Concert Schedule: Fri, Oct 6, 7:30pm = TNCC, Mary T. Christian Aud, 99 Thomas Nelson Drive Hampton, VA 23666; Sat, Oct 7, 4:00pm = Trinity Lutheran Church, 6807 Huntington Avenue Newport News, VA 23607; Sun, Oct 8, 4:00pm = Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 1589 Steeple Drive Suffolk, VA 23433
additional information or advance sale (discount) tickets - please visit our web site: vachoralsociety.org or see/call Jim Branstetter (851-8388) or Ann Maninga.

FIFTY PLUS

On **Thursday morning, October 12**, we will head to **Yorktown** where we will start our American history tour at **Grace Episcopal Church**, built in 1697. After a guided tour, we will move on to the **American Revolution Museum** where we will pick up with that period of our heritage. Following our guided tour we will stop for lunch. Cost of the outing is \$17 plus your meal.

On **Sunday afternoon, Nov 19**, we will head for the **Little Theatre of Virginia Beach** to enjoy their performance of the musical *Side by Side by Sondheim*. Get ready to laugh, cry and fall in love with lyrics that are heartbreakingly true and music that captures the

soaring emotions of a new generation with *Side by Side by Sondheim*. Simple and unpretentious, this Tony Award-winning musical is a perfect introduction to the work of this contemporary master and a must for diehard fans. Afterwards we will stop for dinner. Cost is \$16 plus your meal.

Watch for upcoming announcements detailing our **spring trip to Atlanta and Myrtle Beach** with some fascinating stops en route. We expect to travel **April 30 – May 5**.

For questions or reservations on any of our outings, contact Anne or Bill Bryan at 851-0748 or by e-mail to abandbb1@cox.net.

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SEXTON: Julio Aviles



Church Calendar for October

Sun Oct 1

8:30am Worship (S)
9:45am SS/SG
11am Worship (S)
12pm New Member Class
6p Youth Fellowship
6:30pm Four Corners Bible Study Group (ESR)

Mon Oct 2

12:30pm Daylight Bible Study - Tri-X
1p Soap Making Kitchen
5:30pm MOPS
7:00pm Stewardship (PP)

Tue Oct 3

10am Shawl Makers (ESR)
10:30am Staff Meeting (Dunkin Donuts)
5:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal
6pm Venture Crew (Choir Room)
6:30pm Girl Scouts Troop Meeting
7pm Wesley Bells Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7pm Boy Scouts
7pm Cub Scouts
7pm Reunion Group (Pastor Tommy's Office)

Wed Oct 4

Info. Submission deadline for Bulletin

9am Clergy Group
9:30 am Soul Sisters Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Tri-X)
3pm Bazaar Set Up
3pm New Creation Kidz (Choir Room)
6pm T1071 - GS (SS) - (SS)
6:30pm Karate for Christ - FH
7pm Chancel Choir
7pm Wednesday Night Bible Study (ESR)

Thu Oct 5

9am District Clergy Meeting - District Office
3pm Bazaar Set Up
5pm Young People Praise Band
5:45 Thursday Night Life Worship
6:30 TNL Study
6:30pm Young Adult Thurs. Night Life Group

Fri Oct 6

9am Bazaar Set Up
6:30pm Karate for Christ - FH

Sat Oct 7

7 Fall Bazaar
3p Blessing of the Animals

Sat Oct 14

Youth Mission Project Weekend

Sun Oct 8

8:30am Worship (S)
9:45am SS/SG
11am Worship (S)
12p New Member Class
5p 11am Design
6pm Youth Fellowship
6:30pm Four Corners Bible Study Group (ESR)

Mon Oct 9

12:30pm Daylight Bible Study – Tri % X
6:15p Finance Com (ESR)
6:30pm C.A.T (PP)
7:30pm Church Council (Tri-X)

Tue Oct 10

10am Shawl Makers (ESR)
10:30am 11:30am Staff Meeting (Dunkin Donuts)
5:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal
6pm Venture Crew (Choir Room)
6:30pm Girl Scouts Troop Meeting (upstairs classroom) - upstairs classroom
7pm Wesley Bells Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7pm Boy Scouts
7pm Cub Scouts
7pm Reunion Group (Pastor Tommy's Office)

Wed Oct 11

Info. Submission deadline for Bulletin

9am Clergy Group
9:30am Soul Sisters Wednesday Morning Bible Study
2p SAL Coliseum Park
3pm New Creation Kidz (Choir Room)
6pm T1071 - GS (SS) - (SS)
6:30pm 8pm Karate for Christ - FH
7pm Chancel Choir
7pm Wednesday Night Bible Study (ESR)

Thu Oct 12

8am 50 + (BUS)
5pm Young People Praise Band
5:45 Thursday Night Life Worship
6:30pm TNL Study - Tri~X
6:30pm Young Adult Thurs. Night Life Group
7pm Thursday Evening Circle (FH Stage Side)

Fri Oct 13

Youth Mission Project Weekend

6:30pm Karate for Christ - FH

Sun Oct 15**Youth Mission Project Weekend**

Submission deadline for Newsletter Information

8:30am Worship (S)

9:45am SS/SG

11am Worship (S)

12pm 50+ (BUS)

6pm Youth Fellowship

6:30pm Four Corners Bible Study Group (ESR)

Mon Oct 16

12:30pm Daylight Bible Study - Tri-X

6:30pm UMM Dinner (FH)

Tue Oct 17

8am Facilities Team Breakfast & Work - All over church

10am Shawl Makers (ESR)

10:30am Staff Meeting (Dunkin Donuts)

5:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal

6pm Venture Crew Committee (Adult Leaders) - Tri-X
or Pastor's Study

6pm Venture Crew (Choir Room)

6:30pm Girl Scouts Troop Meeting (upstairs classroom)
- upstairs classroom

7pm Wesley Bells Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

7pm Boy Scouts

7pm Cub Scouts

7pm Reunion Group (Pastor Tommy's Office)

Wed Oct 18

Info. Submission deadline for Bulletin

9am Clergy Group

9:30am Soul Sisters Wednesday Morning Bible Study

3pm New Creation Kidz (Choir Room)

6pm T1071 - GS (SS) - (SS)

7pm 8pm Chancel Choir

7pm Wednesday Night Bible Study (ESR) -

Thu Oct 19

5pm Young People Praise Band

5:45pm Thursday Night Life Worship - Sanctuary

6:30pm TNL Study - Tri~X

6:30pm Young Adult Thurs. Night Life Group

Fri Oct 20**Sat Oct 21**

2p Event in FH

Sun Oct 22

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

8:30am Worship (S)

9:45am SS/SG

11am Worship (S)

6pm Youth Fellowship

6:30pm Four Corners Bible Study Group (ESR)

Mon Oct 23

12:30pm Daylight Bible Study - Tri-X

7pm PPSRC (Tri-X)

Tue Oct 24

10am Shawl Makers (ESR)

10:30am Staff Meeting (Dunkin Donuts)

5:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal

6pm Venture Crew (Choir Room)

6:30pm Girl Scouts Troop Meeting (upstairs classroom)

7pm Wesley Bells Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

7pm Boy Scouts

7pm Cub Scouts

7pm Reunion Group (Pastor Tommy's Office)

Wed Oct 25

Info. Submission deadline for Bulletin

9am Clergy Group

2pm SAL @ Devonshire

3pm New Creation Kidz (Choir Room)

6pm T1071 - GS (SS) - (SS)

7pm Chancel Choir

7pm Wednesday Night Bible Study (ESR)

Thu Oct 26

1:30 Newsletter Preparation - Tri-X

5pm Young People Praise Band

6pm Hampton City Mayor's Meet and Greet

5:45pm Thursday Night Life Worship - Sanctuary

6:30pm 8pm TNL Study - Tri~X

6:30pm Young Adult Thurs. Night Life Group

Fri Oct 27**Sat Oct 28** 3pm Trunk or Treat**Sun Oct 29**

8:30am Worship (S)

9:45am SS/SG

10:30 Consecration Sunday

11am Worship (S)

6pm Youth Fellowship

6:30pm Four Corners Bible Study Group (ESR)

Mon Oct 30

12:30 Daylight Bible Study

Tue Oct 31

10am 11am Shawl Makers (ESR)

10:30am Staff Meeting (Dunkin Donuts)

5:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal

6pm Venture Crew Committee (Adult Leaders) - Tri-X
or Pastor's Study

6pm Venture Crew (Choir Room)

6:30pm Girl Scouts Troop Meeting (upstairs classroom)
- upstairs classroom

7pm Wesley Bells Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

7pm Boy Scouts

7pm Cub Scouts

7pm Reunion Group (Pastor Tommy's Office)



*All submissions for the ANCHOR need to be submitted NO LATER THAN
the 15th of each month to be include in the next newsletter.*

Birthdays

Stephen Struck 10/01
 Riley Roberson 10/01
 Chuck Farmer 10/01
 Agnes Brett 10/01
 Dave Sharp 10/01
 Jaden Loyd 10/02
 Stephanie Routten 10/02
 Erin Bunting 10/03
 Carla Mingee 10/03
 Adrienne Soule 10/03
 Robert Wright 10/03
 Miriam Meyers 10/04
 Chloe Howell 10/04
 Michael Barnes 10/05
 Rick Nolin 10/05
 Don Hulton 10/05
 Bobby Weaver 10/06
 Andrew Walden 10/06
 John Pickin 10/08
 Tyler Chase 10/09

Robert Hoyt 10/09
 Cynthia Hearn 10/10
 Melissa Miller 10/10
 Zachary Struhs 10/10
 Ronald Mayo 10/11
 Abigail Holcomb 10/11
 Dawn Eanes 10/11
 Donna Francis 10/11
 Marsha Spencer 10/12
 Carolyn Bunch 10/13
 Doug Carr 10/13
 Brad Bauer 10/13
 Doris Dickert 10/14
 David Weaver 10/14
 Paolo Hawley 10/14
 Terri Greer 10/15
 Gladys Burt 10/15
 Emily Struck 10/15
 Cody Simpson 10/15
 Peggy Porter 10/16

Joann Sturk 10/16
 Erin Gillespie 10/16
 Megan Lindeman 10/17
 Kathy Brookman 10/17
 Jeff Sandford 10/17
 Victoria Haight 10/17
 Patricia Hayden 10/18
 Les Bollinger 10/19
 Calvin Vaughan 10/19
 Jeannie Hastedt 10/19
 Christopher Clinton 10/19
 Jennifer Musser 10/20
 Kathy Rogers 10/20
 Brett Palko 10/21
 Chase Womble 10/21
 Vicky Coiner 10/21
 Tia Barnes 10/21
 Debbie Bollinger 10/22
 Amber Palmer 10/22
 Alison Sheppard 10/23

Brian Ward 10/24
 Robin Davis 10/24
 Tiffany Roberson 10/24
 Susan Dow 10/25
 Abbey Snow 10/26
 Theresa Nystrom 10/26
 Kay Royster 10/27
 Patricia Wathan 10/28
 Wyatt Sheppard 10/28
 Corey Felix 10/29
 Luke Knaub 10/30
 Owen Carper 10/30
 Bill Drummond 10/31
 Elizabeth Apperson 10/31
 Paul (PJ) Soule Jr. 10/31
 Chris Foster 10/31
 Kathryn Hawley 10/31



Anniversaries

Ron & Debra Kravitz 10/01
 Don & Cindy Johnson Jr. 10/01
 Mike & Pam May 10/04
 Martin & Florence Dunn 10/04
 Preston & Nicole Lewis 10/04
 James & Nancy Johnston 10/05
 Bill & Ann Drummond 10/06

Mike & Lanie Avery 10/07
 Salvatore & Effie Nicosia 10/08
 Ed & Joyce Fly 10/10
 Dick & Kay Royster 10/10
 Berry & Gina Simpson 10/10
 Marc & Susan Nadeau 10/10
 James & Mary McAnally 10/10/

Mark & Melissa Doughty 10/14
 Lloyd & Kathy Cato Jr. 10/18
 Donna & Christopher Evers 10/19
 Ken & Jean Bernstrom 10/21
 Steve & Heather Riss 10/27
 Chip & Melissa Herncall Jr. 10/31
 Cecil & Beverly Hatchett 10/31

BIBLE STUDIES FOR THE FALL

Pastor Brian will be resuming the Monday afternoon (12:30-2pm) and Thursday evening (6:30-8pm) Bible Studies this fall. Both studies are following the course of the Bible Readings for the year, so you can join at any time.

Thursday Night Life Worship have resumed. Each week, we'll pray, have a devotion, and sing songs led by our Young People's Praise Band, from 6-6:30pm Thursday evenings (except for Thanksgiving and other holidays)

BIBLE READING IN A YEAR

Choose your own translation to make this experience engaging and exciting.

Invite others to join you on this journey.

October 1 Malachi 1-4
 October 2 Matthew 1-4
 October 3 Matthew 5-6
 October 4 Matthew 7-8
 October 5 Matthew 9-10
 October 6 Matthew 11-12
 October 7 Matthew 13-14
 October 8 Matthew 15-17
 October 9 Matthew 18-19
 October 10 Matthew 20-21
 October 11 Matthew 22-23
 October 12 Matthew 24-25

October 13 Matthew 26
 October 14 Matthew 27-28
 October 15 Mark 1-3
 October 16 Mark 4-5
 October 17 Mark 6-7
 October 18 Mark 8-9
 October 19 Mark 10-11
 October 20 Mark 12-13
 October 21 Mark 14

October 22 Mark 15-16
 October 23 Luke 1
 October 24 Luke 2-3
 October 25 Luke 4-5
 October 26 Luke 6-7
 October 27 Luke 8-9
 October 28 Luke 10-11
 October 29 Luke 12-13
 October 30 Luke 14-16
 October 31 Luke 17-18



Financial Fundamentals This periodic report briefly addresses finances at FUMC Fox Hill. The latest weekly and year-to-date information is printed weekly in *The Sail* available at every service or in the church office.

The **financial picture at FUMC Fox Hill** continues to be strained and mixed. We are up-to-date with our primary operational bills, and had caught up on our Conference Apportionment obligations through July, but have fallen behind again in this latter area. The General Fund needs your help to cover a variety of both every day and somewhat unusual expenses including some significant general maintenance work to our parsonage. The Pumpkin Patch income in October will certainly help as will your generous General Fund support.

Our **mortgage** balance stands at \$424,564 as of the end of August when we paid an extra \$40 on the principle from memorial contributions received.

Do you shop on **Amazon.com**? You should know that you can **support First UMC Fox Hill through your purchases** at no extra cost to you. Simply access Amazon by going to **smile.amazon.com**. There you will have the opportunity of selecting the charity of your choice. Simply enter First United Methodist Church Fox Hill (or go there directly at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-0738937>) and we will receive 0.5% of your purchase amount; that's not much, but it can add up at no cost to you.

An important note about **contributions for the chiller** (HVAC system). Our congregation has been VERY generous with contributions to fund the major work that is being done to the heating and air conditioning system. We totally thank you! At this point, that work has been fully funded so we encourage you to direct any additional offerings to the General Fund to help address other areas of continuing need.

We are wrapping up the **annual "spending plan"** (budget) for 2018. The input from all work areas has been compiled by the Finance Committee, and will be voted on by the Church Council at the October 9th meeting prior to submitting the numbers at our Annual Charge Conference. And the **annual Stewardship Campaign** is in full swing. Be sure to fill out your estimate of giving card when the time comes.

Total One Fund - Through August 2017		
Income For Planned Expenses¹	\$371,133	
Total One Fund Expenses (excludes pass through ²)	Planned	\$425,955
	Actual	\$379,315
Income for Chiller/HVAC (2017)	\$47,834	
Expense for Chiller/HVAC (2017)	\$15,436	
Pass Through Income ²	\$5,319	
Pass Through Expense ²	\$5,292	
"Pay-It-Forward" Contributions	\$4,074	

¹Includes regular and memorial contributions, building use income, interest, etc.

²This item represents funds contributed, but passed through to non-budget items, e.g., flowers, Advocate subscriptions, special mission programs, etc. [Some pass through income was received in 2016; paid 2017.]

And all of us need to remember that funds to meet our plans and obligations come only from the portion of God's gifts that we return for His work.

If you have any concerns/questions about FUMC FH finances, please contact our financial staff through the office or Bill Bryan, Finance Chair, at 851-0748 or by e-mail to billb-1111@cox.net.



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Assistant Pastor: Tommy Markham

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