



FAITH NOTES

November

Gadsden Cumberland Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 2055, 1200 Piedmont Cut-Off, Gadsden, AL 35903
Phone 256 492-2556

2020

www.gadsdencp.com

office@gadsdencp.com

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR

Rev. Daniel Barkley

WORSHIP LEADER

David Gramling

CHILDREN'S

MINISTER

Debbie Bobo

YOUTH MINISTER

Jonathan Edwards

SECRETARY

Betty Bone

SESSION

MEMBERS

Richard Dean

Ann St. John

Jane Matlock

Amy Edwards

Carole Edwards

Mike Ray

ELDER of the

MONTH

Richard Dean

GREETERS

Glenda Langley

Kenneth Boarders

USHERS

Kenneth Boarders

Chris Bobo

Randy Nickels

David Ray

Church Family and Friends,

I think this is a first for me. I don't think I have ever been this far inland and yet still experienced tropical storm force winds all around. My neighborhood was unscathed. The two mighty oak trees in my front yard held on to even the smallest of limbs. Yet, despite the good fortune of my neighborhood, plenty of others experienced power outages due to multiple trees taking out the power lines.

Isn't it amazing how powerful wind can be. It is fascinating to think of those times when it is simply a gentle breeze that brings a refreshing coolness in the heat of the day. Other times, such as we just experienced, it can be so strong that it topples the strongest of trees with ease. It can be so slight that only the rustle of a few leaves tell of its presence, or it can be so strong that you can even hear it as it howls.

In John 3, as Jesus was explaining to Nicodemus the need to be born again by the Spirit, Jesus used the example of wind to relate to the power of the Spirit to accomplish this new birth. And there is a good reason He did so. In the Greek, the word for wind and for spirit are one in the same; *pneuma*.

John 3:5-8, *Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind(pneuma) blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit(pneuma)."*

The Spirit of God is powerful, just as the wind is powerful. The Spirit may move in powerful ways, such as raising Jesus from the dead or convicting the souls of men, driving us to our knees to repent and be born again. He may move in gentle, subtle ways, guiding the believer out of harm's way or nudging us to say or do the right thing at just the right time. And isn't that the best part of it all. That powerful Spirit of God resides in us, those who believe and confess Jesus as Lord, teaching and guiding, comforting and urging us to live out the will of God.

Though at times we may fear the wind because of its power, we need not fear the Spirit as He works in us. Oh, He may lead us to places that are uncomfortable, He may challenge us to work outside of our norm, but He will never lead us astray. He will simply move us closer to our Savior, the one who even speaks to the wind, Peace, be still.

In Christ,
Bro. Daniel