

First Presbyterian News

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First Pres. Family,

As we begin yet another September under the dark cloud of the COVID Pandemic our church continues to meet and minister to the community with far fewer people and diminishing financial resources. The Pandemic has exacerbated a declining trend that had already begun in the church. At a time when our society needs spiritual support more than ever we have less to offer than in years past. I spoke about my concern for this situation with another clergyman. He felt that the trend was just evidence of a normal cycle of growth and decline in churches. His reply reminded me of the following story of lifesaving stations along our nation's east coast:

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur, there was once a crude little lifesaving station. The building was no more than a hut, and there was only one boat; but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea. With no thought for themselves, they went out day and night, tirelessly searching for the lost. Some of those who were saved, and various others in the surrounding area, wanted to be associated with the station and give their time, money, and effort to support the work. New boats were bought and new crews trained. The little lifesaving station grew.

Some of these new members of the lifesaving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those who were saved from the sea. They replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in the enlarged building. Now the lifesaving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they decorated it beautifully and furnished it exquisitely because they used it as sort of a club. Fewer members were interested in going to sea on lifesaving missions, so they hired lifeboat crews to do this work. The lifesaving motif still prevailed in this club's decoration, and there was a memorial lifeboat in the room where the club initiations were held.

About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boatloads of cold, wet, half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick, and some of them were foreigners. The beautiful new club was in chaos. Immediately, the property committee hired someone to rig up a shower house outside the club, where victims of shipwrecks could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's lifesaving activities because they felt they were unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal social life of the club. A small number of members insisted upon lifesaving as their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a lifesaving station. The small group's members were voted down and told that if they wanted to save lives, they could begin their own lifesaving station down the coast. They did.

As the years went by, however, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old station. It evolved into a club, and yet another lifesaving station was founded. History continued to repeat itself, and if you visit that seacoast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore.





Prayer List - Continued prayers for Donnell Corelle, Keith Gilliam's family continue to need of prayers. Del Pool can still use prayers as he continues his journey of healing. Marge Nelson continues to improve. Ed Fraser continues to need prayers as he makes progress and heals after his hip surgery. Dan Koutsos can use continued prayers as he continues dialysis. Carol Foster fell during the month, but luckily didn't have serious injuries. Mark Foster has spinal pains and is receiving spinal injections to help alleviate. Lynn Freshour, Mike's father has fluid in his lungs. We learned of several who went to be with the Lord in August: Margaret 'Peggy' Fuller; Brenda Spencer McPeters; Corinne Williams, Janet Adams' cousin; Mac Hazelwood, Danny Hazelwood's uncle; Mac Allred, Terri Hazelwood's cousin. Prayers for the families of these. Patricia Burton is having vision issues. Debra Sanders, Kay Lewis' sister, has been recuperating and cleared from stage 1 throat cancer, but a new lump was found. A biopsy is scheduled for September. The Harrell twin girls were born, Caroline has been the strongest and is now home. Joanna is still in the hospital at the time of this writing.

Communion - Our next observance of the Lord's Supper will be October 3. Mark your calendars and make sure you come to church to observe this holy sacrament.



Flower Calendar - The 2021 flower calendar has many openings. Call or visit the church office door to request your favorite dates for providing flowers in the Sanctuary. Remember birthdays, anniversaries, special dates... all are wonderful reasons to beautify the sanctuary. Flowers can be from your home garden as well. All of God's nature is beautiful, and we can enjoy it all in various settings.

Rally Day - Save the Date - We will plan to have Rally Day on Sunday, September 12. We will mark the day with celebrating Sunday School and the beginning of a new year.



Haiti Relief - The Session approved a special offering to benefit the victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti. We collected funds the last two weeks of August and forwarded the fund to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) which is working to provide relief in the area. We are grateful to the Lord for our many blessings, and for those who provided funds to help Haiti at this devastating time.

Learn from Leaves - As you're enjoying the fall colors and sipping apple cider, ponder this saying: "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."

When leaves stop producing chlorophyll, they turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange and red. This yearly spectacle makes way for the leaves to let go and fall. It also serves as a good reminder of things we may need to drop: clutter around the home, a desire for control, commitments that no longer bring joy, personal expectations that cause added stress, a need to always be right and so on.



Just as the Israelites had to let go of their past as slaves in Egypt and Saul-turned-Paul had to abandon his persecuting ways, we, too, can let go of what weighs us down and gets in the way of God's best for our lives. Embrace fall as a season of change and see just how beautiful it is to let things go! ~ Janna Firestone



Jesus loves me
this I know
for the
Bible tells me so.



September 5 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Table Crumbs"

Scriptures: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Mark:7:24-37

September 12 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

with Mike Rand proving our sermon.

Sermon Title: "What Does It Mean to Follow Christ?"

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 28:1-8; Matthew 4:18-22

September 19 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "God's Word to the Wise"

Scriptures: Psalm 1; Mark 9:30-37

September 26 - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Don't Go to Hell"

Scriptures: Psalm 124; Mark 38-50

October 3 - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Curse God and Die?"

Scriptures: Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Mark 10:2-16

(continued from page 1 - Interim Pastor's message)



Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the passengers drown.

Is there any passion for rescuing sinners in our church today? The primary task of the Church of Jesus Christ is to go and make disciples. (See Matthew 28:19.) To put it another way, we are to go and save lives. Unfortunately, we sometimes forget our purpose. Wrecked lives are frequent in our society, but few care enough to man a lifeboat for their rescue. We need to recover our passion for lifesaving. We need to be doers of the Word and not hearers only.

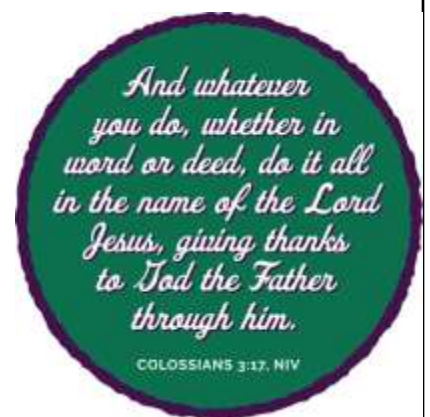
(See James 1:22.) by Theodore Wedel Submitted by Debra Stitt QEagle@aol.com, A Spiritual Archives Story from All-Creatures.org

Laboring for the Lord For many people, the pandemic redefined work, with more employees logging hours from a home office — or kitchen table. Boundaries between job and personal life blurred, as did any sense of being “off duty.”

Most of us prefer clear divisions between our tasks and time. While such separations may help with scheduling, they are artificial human constructs. “*Whatever* your task,” says Colossians 3:23 (NRSV, emphasis added) — whether in public or private, family or job, spiritual or worldly activities — “put yourselves into it as done for the Lord.” Verse 17 tells us to “do everything” in Jesus’ name, “giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

That means even work and worship interlock. As Rick Warren writes, “Work becomes worship when you dedicate it to God and perform it with an awareness of his presence.”

~ NewsletterNewsletter





Puzzling through Life

I was recently listening to someone who made the analogy of puzzles resembling life. I love puzzles, but frequently get frustrated, sometimes even bored with parts of life that seem too repetitious. His analogy made me realize that repetition is an essential part of life, and that we can and should utilize and appreciate the repetitions.

I had not put life and puzzles together in the same thought. But as we read the scriptures, we can find multiple instances where the Lord repeats Himself. He does this at times to emphasize its importance, sometimes we need to hear the information more than once to understand and "get it".

When we work puzzles, there is no "right" way, but each person has their favorite way to do it. But it always entails a lot of trial and error. It requires repetitious movements, such as turning each piece over, attempting to match a piece with the right spot. We can get frustrated and some may quit when the pieces do not go together quickly and easily, but as we are patient and consistent, we can slowly see the picture form in front of us.

In life we often have to be patient and consistent in our daily tasks to reveal the true picture of who we are, or the gifts our Father in Heaven has for us. We need the repetition of scripture study, prayer, and church attendance to help us "fit" into the picture God has for us, and wants us to enjoy.

Zig Zigler quote: "Repetition is the mother of learning, the father of action, which makes it the architect of accomplishment." In life we need to repeat new and desired skills to become better at them. A child repeatedly falls while attempting to walk, we must practice day in and day out to perfect a talent or skill, we need to read the scriptures daily so we can find essential nuggets of information and blessings that "weren't there before". As we go through life, we are hopefully growing and learning and we find "new" nuggets of truth in the scriptures that weren't pertinent to our life when we read them the first time.

However, we are told to "use not vain repetitions" Matthew 6:7, how do we make sure our repetition is the good, learning, retentive type, and not the vain type? If we do the repetitive things with thought and conscious effort, we will see and feel a difference in our growth. If we mindlessly pray, or read while daydreaming, those acts do not provide the benefit that they could have in our development and growth. We need to objectively look at our struggles, and mistakes, so we can learn and grow, then we'll see how our Father in Heaven has blessed us through that trial. As we put that learning into practice our repetitions can form a beautiful picture before our eyes. We can see the person God intended us to be. ~ *Sherolyn*



The PNC Update - The search continues! The candidate that we were talking with has decided to accept a call to another church.

On August 4th our Account Executive from the Vanderbloemen Group present two new candidates to the PNC. What was different this time was that both candidates had applied to the job listing at Vanderbloemen as opposed to having to be recruited. Both applicants are well qualified and have a wealth of experience. Initial interviews have been conducted with both. This is encouraging and we look forward to our continued dialog with them.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

We covet your prayers and encouragement as we continue down this road to complete the task entrusted to us. We constantly seek God's will and guidance as we labor.

Grace and peace,

Don Cherry, PNC Chairman

SEPTMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship 6:00 pm NA	30 6:00 pm NA	31 12:00 PM NA	September 1 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	September 2 8:00 pm - AA	September 3 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	September 4
5 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship 6:00 pm NA	6 - Labor Day Office Closed 	7 12:00 PM NA	8 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	9 8:00 pm - AA	10 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	11
	13 6:00 pm NA	14 12:00 PM NA 6:00pm Deacons 7:00pm Elders	15 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	16 8:00 pm - AA	17 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	1
19 - 5 Cents a Meal collection 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	20 6:00 pm NA	21 12:00 PM NA	22 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	23 8:00 - AA	24 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	25
26 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship 6:00 pm NA	27 6:00 pm NA	28 12:00 PM NA	29 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	30 8:00 pm - AA	October 1 12:00 PM AA 7:00 pm NA	October 2

SEPTEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mike Koch
- 6 Connie Marvin
- 6 Salli Pool
- 7 Connie Cox*
- 8 Michaella Fraser Freshour
- 8 Doris Koch
- 8 Harman Saunders
- 10 Sam Lewis
- 10 Julianna Berry
- 10 Carole Woodward
- 11 Tommy Wilkinson
- 14 Matthew Lee
- 16 Eric Roberts
- 17 George Burton
- 17 Sallie Adams
- 18 Dylan Berry
- 18 Jeremy Luedtke
- 21 Nan "Tee" Godbold
- 21 Courtland Thackston
- 22 Mike Freshour
- 24 Grace McAbee
- 24 Parker Harrell
- 25 Joe Ferguson*
- 26 Fred Collins*
- 28 Shirley Blackmon*
- 29 Latane' Saunders
- 29 Susan Chandler



If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office and let us know.

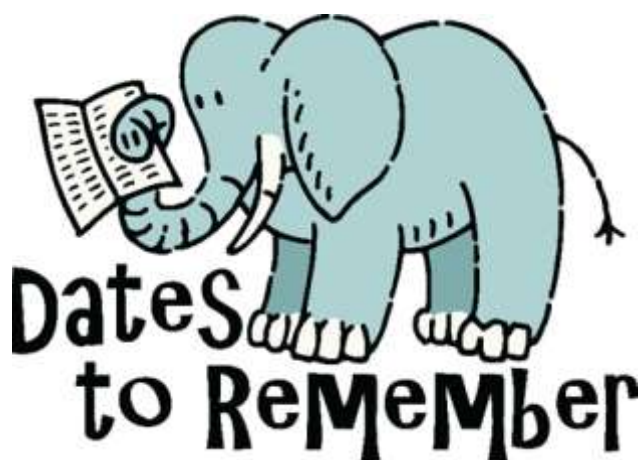
* In Memory

From the Elders

Session Notes: **Since our last Newsletter, our Session discussed:**

The Session met on Tuesday, August 17, 2021.

1. Rev. Glenn Coleman opened the meeting with prayer and updated the Session on congregational news.
2. Membership Roll – Brenda Spencer McPeters went to be with the Lord on August 16, 2021. Five names of people who have moved away are being removed from the roll.
3. Mike Freshour reported on the virtual Presbytery Meeting held on Saturday, August 14th.
4. PNC report - Previous candidate has accepted a call to another church. The committee is currently interviewing two new candidates.
5. Work continues on developing the Church Operations & Policy Manual. Quorum limits for Session meetings and Congregational meetings were established.
6. Christian Education - Rally Day will be Sunday, September 12th. Due to concerns over growing COVID-19 infection rates, there will be no meal served for Rally Day. A recognition will take place during the worship service.
7. Finance Committee - First seven months financial reports were reviewed. Giving is down, we are nearly \$18,000 behind year-to-date vs. the 2021 budget.
8. Worship Committee - Next communion will be Sunday, October 3, 2021. Mike Rand will preach on Sunday, September 12th while Rev. Coleman is away on vacation.
9. Rev. Coleman closed the meeting with prayer.



Upcoming :

Ladies' Circle - Tuesday, September 7 at 10:30

Choir - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.

Deacons - Tuesday, September 21 at 6:00 pm

Session - Tuesday, September 21 at 7:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church
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