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First Pres. Family,

Nourishment for The Soul

Singing in the choir gives me the opportunity to look out over the congregation during the service. From this position it is easy to see the number of us who have come to church on any given Sunday. Of course, Christmas and Easter services are known for good attendance, but this Easter Sunday I was inspired to see that we had approximately 60 worshipers in attendance. While maybe not an unusual number, it was significantly higher than the normal count of between 35 and 50.

It is encouraging that folks come out for the major celebrations of the Christian church, but it started me thinking about why people come to church. Certainly, there are many and varied reasons depending on the individual. I was reminded of the time during our former pastor, Dr. Russell Lee's, tenure that he disseminated a small card entitled "Why Church". This card which I have copied, (see page 2) lists 21 reasons. If one examines these what stands out is that church is the place where we come to nurture and strengthen our relationship with God. Psalm 42: 2 states the following: "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God", and asks the question: "Where can I go and meet with God?" In other words, where can I go to create a closer relationship with the Lord. Where can I go to nourish my soul?

Deuteronomy 4:29 tells us that "... if you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul." Jesus, in replying to the Pharisees' question about which is the greatest commandment in the Law, said "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37) Where can we best develop a closer relationship with the Lord and nourish our souls?

Modern secular society, while rejecting Christianity, still recognizes the necessity to nourish our souls. A quick internet search will show a multitude of ways to intentionally nurture and nourish our souls. These recommendations usually contain such things as positive thinking, feeding it with mindfulness, finding your purpose, spending time in nature, meditation, and many more self-help instructions. However, while acknowledging that humans have souls that need nurturing, what all of them fail to address is how we came to be endowed with souls in the first place. In Genesis 2:7 it is written that: "Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." Thereafter the Bible mentions the soul many times. Jesus told us the importance of our souls in Mark 8:36 when he said "What good is it for someone to gain the whole world yet forfeit their soul?"

The secular idea of nurturing one's soul without acknowledging the soul's Creator would logically, therefore, be impossible. One may be able to create better feelings or attitudes by adopting the secular approaches, but true nourishment for the soul can only come from the Lord our God who created it.

In order to create a closer relationship with Christ and to receive his nourishment it follows that we must spend more time with him. Church offers the best opportunity for that to happen. In support of this I reference a few reasons on the list below; (1) The Church is the body of Christ on Earth; (2) Worship is the intersection between us and heaven; (3) "For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them." Matthew 18:20; and (4) The Church is divinely appointed by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Secular and evil forces will always try to separate Christians from God. There are many dangers in our world today, but let us heed the words of Jesus in Matthew 10:28 "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell." And let us remember the words of the Apostle Peter in 1 Peter: 8-9, "Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

The nourishment and salvation of our souls through a closer relationship with Jesus Christ is what it is all about. There is no better place for that to happen than in fellowship with our church family in worship. Wouldn't it be great to see all our members in those pews as much as possible on Sunday mornings?

See you at church!

In His name,

Michael M. Rand
Elder



Spiritual Nourishment



June 4 - Trinity Sunday

2

Sermon Title: "Father, Son, Holy Spirit, in Us"

Scriptures: Psalm 8; Matthew 28:16-20

June 11 - Second Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "He Called Me, A Sinner"

Scriptures: Genesis 12:1-9; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 18 - Third Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Hope Does Not Disappoint"

Scriptures: Genesis 18:1-15; Romans 5:1-8

June 25 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Waging Peace"

Scriptures: Psalm 116; Romans 5:1-8, 6:12-23

July 2 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "The Ministry of Hospitality"

Scriptures: Psalm 13; Matthew 10:40-42



Why Church?

- God created us and the universe and is to be worshipped.
- The church is where imperfect people become forgiven sinners.
- The church is the body of Christ on earth.
- In the church, God's people grow together.
- Worship is the intersection between us and heaven.
- A place where God brings people together to serve others.
- God's work through the church is higher than any other.
- "Where two or three gather in my name, and agree, there I am". ~ Jesus
- Church is the best place I can pass my faith values on to my kids.
- God's people are the church, not a building made with hands.
- The church is designed to bring people together.
- Joy comes from God's people worshipping and serving together as the church.
- The church is divinely appointed by Jesus Christ our Lord.
- The church is the most important institution on earth.
- God commands us to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
- There is no other place on earth like the church.
- Our purpose is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.
- God commands the church to go out and make disciples.
- The church celebrates the sacraments.
- The church offers eternal life through Jesus Christ.
- What's your answer?



Prayer List - Barney Newberry undergoing chemotherapy. Bob Hughes-Bronchitis - getting better, though slow. Clarence Morris - in hospice with brain cancer. Luanna Daniel; 3-4 week old baby, Nova. Katie Bowes' family after her passing. Bob Riley returned from overseas, had multiple surgeries: rotator cuff, and emergency hernia. Cynthia Coleman's nephew, only 32, in the military, and has a young family, diagnosed with an enlarged aorta, concerns for career and health. Luanna Daniel, Tricia Burton's daughter, had severe infection, being transferred to a distant hospital for treatment. Glenn Coleman had several procedures, finally got some good news, though testing continues; Dabney Gilliam in Commonwealth Assisted Living. Chris Jones' friend overseas in a motorcycle accident, broke several bones, took time to find a Dr. Dale Vaughn's family after his passing. **Prayers continue:** Kim's sister, Sherry; Kerri Hughes and Kathy Choate, Janae Butterworth and family, and Chris Jone's friend, David, who's mom, Rosa, was diagnosed with breast cancer.





PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

PNC Update - From time to time, I choose to add a verse of scripture to one of my emails that I feel is appropriate for the message being conveyed. Recently in a communication from our PNC, I chose to include the scripture passage from **Jeremiah 29:11** *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* It seemed apropos in this situation.

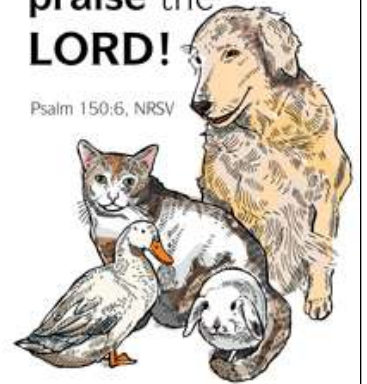
Fast forward to this past Sunday. My son, Patrick, preached a sermon at his church in South Carolina as they recognized the graduates from their congregation. He pointed out that during this time of the year Jeremiah 29:11 is often mis-quoted in cards of congratulations, commencement addresses and by well-meaning family members.

He then went on to point out the importance of understanding the context of any scripture to ensure that it is being used properly. In this passage the Prophet Jeremiah is sending a letter to the exiles from Jerusalem in Babylon who had been enslaved by Nebuchadnezzar. So, as it turns out this message from God is specifically intended for the Israelite priests and elders with instructions to settle in, build houses and have children because they were going to remain away from Jerusalem for 70 years.

Busted! Maybe using verse 11 out of context is not the thing to do. The sermon goes on to share that *“¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV)*. Patrick states that the Bible was not written for us but that it was written to us. Never read just a verse. Every Bible verse must be placed in its proper context. The entire Bible points to Jesus and that framework helps shape all of our interpretation. If we are not careful, we can grossly mis-interpret passages and get the wrong idea.

Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!

Psalm 150:6, NRSV



Thank you, son, for setting me straight. <https://youtu.be/m-KaC9vb6kc?t=2055>

This month we are continuing a conversation with the candidate presented to us by Vanderbloemen in April. We will conduct a second interview via Zoom and bring them to South Boston for an in-person visit. Our prayer is that God is ready to reveal to us His choice for our next pastor.

In His saving grace,

Don Cherry, PNC Chairman



Greeting Card Ministry - We are having such a great time creating new and beautiful cards to send out to our fellow church family and friends. If you have not had a chance to come out, please do. Our next meeting will be June 7, 2023. We meet in the youth classroom across from the nursery. Come join us! No talent is required.

The origin of Father's Day - One Sunday in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd listened to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died some years before, so her father had raised her by himself. Dodd wondered why there wasn't a day to honor fathers, so she arranged a tribute to her father at a church in Spokane, Washington. The date was June 19, 1910. Many people believe this was the beginning of Father's Day.



Another account holds that a West Virginia church held a tribute service for fathers in 1908, following a mine explosion that killed 360 men. Regardless of which story is correct, President Calvin Coolidge was the first president to designate a special day to honor fathers. In 1924, he proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.



Becoming Like Christ

As I have been reading and studying the New Testament this year⁴ for Sunday School. An interesting point was brought to my attention. Which apostle of Jesus Christ has a nickname that Christ did not give? Christ gave uplifting nicknames, such as: Sons of Thunder, Beloved, and Cephas (or Stone), but one disciple we know by a nickname that was not given by Christ... Thomas, yes, we know him as Doubting Thomas.

In John chapter 11 we read another story with Thomas. When a message was sent to Jesus regarding Lazarus illness, Christ's disciples questioned His decision to go to Bethany, as "Jews ... sought to stone" [Him] (v. 8). Then in verse 16 of this same chapter we read, "Then said Thomas, ... Let us also go, that we may die with him." Now that is a courageous Thomas, a devoted Thomas. Why is it that we do not think of "that" Thomas when we hear his name?

Unfortunately, this is a very human, natural man, reaction. If 10 people give us a compliment one day and one person says something negative, we tend to dwell on that one negative comment rather than the many good.

But Christ is loving and compassionate with us. He is willing to continue to forgive us of our missteps, as long as we continue to repent and try harder to follow after His paths.

We can learn much from Christ's interactions with Peter. Peter had faith to get out of the boat, but then looked away (Matthew 14:29-30). At one point, Jesus called him Satan (Matthew 16:23), Jesus knew Peter would later deny knowing Him (Mark 14), and yet Peter was a chosen disciple. He would later hold the "keys of the heaven" (Matthew 16:19). It was through Peter that the gospel was preached to all (Acts 10). We know Christ loved Peter. He loves us. He knows our potential. He doesn't just look at one low moment in our lives and judge us from that moment. He gives us many opportunities to repent, change, and come unto Him. What a great lesson!

My prayer is that we will look at those we know and love, and even those we do not know, with more compassion and understanding. May we be more like Thomas and Peter, devoted, faithful, and ready to give our lives for Him who gave His life for us. May we reach out with open arms to welcome those struggling, to help guide them back to the Lord, who wants to see us all succeed and return to Him ~ *Sherolyn*



Come Join us as we Celebrate!

Sunday, June 4 -

Immediately following Worship

Recognition and Celebration of 2023
Graduates and Recognition/
Appreciation of Teachers.

Deacons will provide chicken and
beverages. Please plan to bring a
Side dish, Salad, or Dessert.



Women's Bible Study – Study from *Shack*, by William Paul Young continues. Meeting on the first Wednesday of each month. Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 7 at 10:30 am.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	29 - Office closed	30	31 12:00—AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	June 1 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	2 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	3
4 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	5	6	7 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	8 7:00 pm—Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	9 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	10
11 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	12	13	14 12:00—AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	15 7:00 pm—Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	16- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	17 AA 1-3
18 - Father's Day 5 Cents a Meal collection 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:30 pm Session	19	20	21 12:00—AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	22 7:00 pm—Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	23 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	24
25 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	26 Newsletter DEADLINE	27	28 12:00—AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	29 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	30 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	July 1



We want to recognize everyone. If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office and let us know.

* In Memory

1 Laylo Ridgeway
 1 Lorene Gilliam*
 4 Corinne Williams*
 6 Carol Foster
 6 Janet Adams
 7 Katye Temple Nelson
 9 Paul Edmunds
 12 Ken Cochran
 12 Lauren Henderson
 12 Jennifer Lee Miller
 13 Robert Guthrie
 16 Veronica Raney
 20 Carol-Ann Lawson*
 20 Scott Carter
 26 Jack Morgan
 29 Grace T. Seat



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

The Session met on Sunday, May 21, 2023

1. Rev. Coleman opened the meeting with prayer.
2. News of the congregation was shared.
3. Minutes from the April 18th Stated Session meeting were approved.
4. Presbytery Meeting Report from May 6, 2023, at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Vinton, VA, was made by Colter Wickemeyer – Commissioner.
5. PNC Report – We are continuing conversation the candidate presented to us by Vanderbloemen in April. We will conduct a second interview and bring them to South Boston for an in-person visit.
6. Property –
 - a) Mike Rand presented an update on the progress of the repair/renovation of the manse. Estimated completion is July.
 - b) The Session approved replacement of the AC unit for the upstairs Sunday School wing.
 - c) Mats have been ordered for the front of the north and south entrances to the sanctuary.
 - d) We are going to have the carpet on the stairs and both offices cleaned.
7. Budget & Finance – Financial report for April 2023 was reviewed.
8. Next communion date is Sunday, June 4th.
9. The Deacons are holding a covered dish luncheon for after church on Sunday, June 4th.
10. National Day of Prayer was held on May 4th. It was a great event and the NDP Committee did a wonderful job.
11. The Session approved donating \$50 to Wycliffe Bible Translators to purchase Bibles.
12. Rev. Coleman closed the meeting with prayer.



Women's Bible study - Wednesday June 7 at 10:30

Choir - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.

Greeting Card Ministry - June 6 at 10:30

5 Cents-a-Meal collection - Sunday, June 18

Session - Sunday, June 18. Elders at 9:00 am

No Diaconate meetings for June or July

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