

TIDINGS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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It Takes Grace...

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the same works I have done,

and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.”

[Jesus, John 14:12]

Would you say you're trying to do life in a way that shows you believe in Jesus? To hear Him speak, Jesus is pretty clear that our accomplishments in His name will be substantial, don't you think?

Many of you, I would guess, recognize the name Russell Wilson. He is one of the NFL's best known athletes. Russell Wilson is a Super Bowl winning quarterback of the Seattle Seahawks. You may not have known that Russell Wilson is not shy about doing life in a way that shows his belief in Jesus.

A few weeks ago, he was interviewed at a San Diego church. That conversation made headlines because he simply stated that he and his girlfriend (pop star Ciara) are not having sex. You can imagine the critics had much fun with Russell Wilson's Christian values...

One commentator tweeted:

“I think Americans value chastity in a

way I find silly, problematic, and ultimately, counterproductive.”

Another critic: “America's fascinated with puritanical/evangelical Christianity, but it's not hurting anyone except Ciara and Russell.”

Good Morning America also covered the story. With everything that is going on in the world these days, they spent three minutes of “news coverage” to delve into this fascinating story (with more than a couple smiles and smirks). Finally, the GMA panel came to the wonderful conclusion:

“Whatever works for you.”

Now I know why GMA is the most popular morning “news show.” Those four words from their astute panel of commentators speak the American mantra, don't they?

Whatever works for you...

Whether it's same-sex marriage or pre-marital sex, abortion, euthanasia or marijuana...our culture has decided that whatever you want to do is what you should do. Clearly, the GMA experts on sociology were saying, if the Word of God works for you, fine – if not, that's fine, too.

There has never been a time when open

rejection of biblical authority has not been reality. I'm wondering now, though, if it is any longer shocking to even Christians.

None of us get it right all the time. In fact, I'd just like to know, like Rev. Steve Brown, that what I do causes the Father to smile from time to time! Our faults are not the issue here. We all have them. Russell Wilson and Ciara have their faults. We all are sinners needing the forgiveness and grace of God. The issue for me is what am I accepting as true guidance in my life – cultural norms of the day or biblical standards of the ages?

We all make that decision first in our heads and hearts. Then our actions show the truth of where our beliefs lie. I'm glad I have the church to live out my faith with. I'm really glad I have you all to lean on for support. Hopefully, you'll find in this newsletter opportunities for us all to be the church, to truly act out the belief we have in Jesus.

Blessings,

RevLon

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BACK!

School is back in session this month...So are our Wednesday Nights!

Our first Wednesday Night at church will be August 12. Our Catered Supper will be at 5:15PM, followed by

Children and Youth activities and the Adult Bible Study at 6:00.

(The Adult Bible Study will be going further into Gary Inrig's book, The Parables: Understanding What Jesus

Meant. Our study on August 12 will be chapter 5, “Finding My Master.”)

What is our Hope?

I have recently not been watching the news as often as I once did. It's not really that I have chosen to do so intentionally it's just worked out that way. Most of you have your routines probably of what you watch or listen. In the news I know have been some historical events like a redefinition of marriage by the supreme court and the removal of the confederate flag from South Carolina and just today I saw where Cuba and the United States will again have embassies opened in each other's country after 50 plus years of not. There's more I know that I could include but that's just what came to mind.

When I talk to some of you it seems as though the weight of the news is almost too heavy to bear. It can cause people to not sleep very well with all this news of global warming and failing economies and let's not forget a nearing presidential election. All of this news is for us to gain some knowledge and not be ignorant of the happenings around us but it's also a reminder that we have a different

outlook and hope than the world has. And let's face it, the media giants who spin the news have their opinions and world views and just reporting hasn't happened in a long, long, long time.

As school start dates soon arrive we get reminded of what is beyond our control. Time is ever clicking away and you have just grown a little older. And with age comes experience and hopefully with experience comes understanding and with understanding comes wisdom. We have 6 students going into their senior year of high school and I know that for some of them the pressures of this time in life can overwhelm the pleasures of living life. So I want to share with you a catechism or teachings that I've just begun to go through called new city catechisms. 52 questions that we as followers of the Way of Christ need to ask and answer ourselves. The first question is this: "What is our only hope in life and death?" How would you answer? Pause and think on this and ponder your response if this

flashed before you on the evening news instead of this newsletter. How would you answer in that avenue? Here is the answer that I'm sure you already know, "That we are not our own, but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ."

"For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."

Romans 14:7-8

I hope that we all can put life into the perspective God intended us to have and live life to the fullest. God is good all the time! And all the time, God is good!

In Christ's Love,
Rob
Romans 12

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH NEWS: August 12 will begin our regular schedule of youth group for middle and high school students meeting from 6-7:30. We will, as usual, get a little wet on that first evening back together. Hope everyone has had an amazing summer and are looking forward to gathering together here with your family at First Pres.

FROM THE CREATORS OF FIREPROOF AND COURAGEOUS:

A really good movie is coming to Madisonville August 28. *War Room* is a compelling drama with a lot of humor, heart, and inspiration that explores the power prayer can have on every area of our lives. Evangelists and Bible study leaders, Beth More and Priscilla Shirer, star in this upbeat movie that will have you crying one minute, laughing the next, glad you were there, and thinking about how it pertains to your own life when you leave.

I was able to personally see a pre-screening of *War Room* at the pastors' conference I attended in May. It is a movie many in our church family will enjoy. I encourage you to attend the movie at our

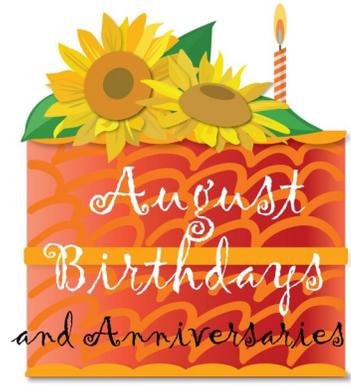
own Capital Theatre here in town. There's always talk about the "moral value of movies these days." Here is where your vote can make a difference. Buy a ticket to this genuinely good clean movie. It doesn't help to say we need more good movies without being willing to support the ones that are available in our community, does it?

Go see *War Room* this month at the Capital Theatre. You'll be glad you did, and you'll help a good cause for Christ along the way.

RevLon

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st	David Betts		Mike & Jo Shepherd (A)
	Mike & Nancy Franklin (A)	16th	Jeana Smith
	Mallory Hunt		Laura McAfee
	Craig Winstead	17th	Jerry & Phyllis Klym (A)
2nd	Mike Franklin	19th	Shari Winstead
	Dick & Mary George Peyton (A)	21st	Lanna Arnold
4th	Art Hall	22nd	Sandy Tucker
	Chaun Castleberry	24th	Jerry Kelley
8th	Susan Stewart		Mike Shepherd
9th	Shannon & Laura McAfee (A)		David Brooks
10th	Russell Fischels		Connie Skultety
11th	Thomas Franklin McKnight	25th	Val Dreusicke
14th	Bill Coates		Denise Edwards
		26th	Jackie Fazenbaker
			Lon & Pat Lorton (A)
			Cookie Porter
		27th	John & Cheryl Bushong (A)
		31st	Luke Ricketts



August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Church Rummage Sale
2	3	4	5 	6	7	8 Presbytery Meeting
9 2PM Stella Hoagland Baptism	10 Great Banquet Board Meeting	11	12 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	13	14	15
16 Congregational Meeting	17 7:00PM Great Banquet Team Meetings Begin	18	19 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Worship 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29
30	31					

FROM THE INSIDE

Imagine if you will, representatives of the people of the United States of America coming together to recognize God and our dependence on Him, and declaring their need to humble themselves, fast, and pray. Imagine political leadership acknowledging the truth of Holy Scripture and asking for forgiveness of our national sin. Imagine a president who fears the LORD and who asks his people to repent. 152 years ago we had them:

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Whereas the Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the supreme authority and just government of Almighty God in all the affairs of men and of nations, has by a resolution requested the President to designate and set apart a day for national prayer and humiliation; and

Whereas it is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord;

And, insomuch as we know that by His

divine law nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do by this my proclamation designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting, and prayer.

And I do hereby request all the people to abstain on that day from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite at their several places of public worship and their respective homes in keeping the day holy to the Lord and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion.

All this being done in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the divine teachings that the united cry of the nation will be heard on high and answered with blessings no less than the pardon of our national sins and the restoration of our now divided and suffering country to its former happy condition of unity and peace. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this 30th day of March, A. D. 1863, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-seventh.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

So much for the separation of Church and State.

Jeremiah 17:9-10:

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

On the inside, Pete

AN OPPORTUNITY TO NURTURE...

We are excited to let everyone know that Stella Hoagland will be baptized and join the church on August 9. Stella has grown in Christ through our Wednesday nights, our Sunday mornings, and by her family upbringing. One of Stella's first points of participation here was lighting the candles for worship. She continues to grow into the daughter of Christ God wants her to be, and we are thrilled that she has come to Pastor Lon

asking to join and be baptized!

Stella, like her grandmother Delight Alexander several years ago, will join the church during morning worship at 10:15, then be baptized in the swimming pool of Tom and Judy McLean at 2:00PM on Sunday, August 9. Everyone is encouraged to be a part of this big step for Stella in her faith journey. The temptation on Sunday afternoons is to find other things (or no things) to be busy with. It is our hope that you might

instead, this one Sunday, choose to be a part of the nurturing faith community we promise to be for one another. The McLean's pool is at 119 Highland Drive in the Grampian Hills subdivision.

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE AUGUST 8th

Too much fun will be had on August 8th as the Presbyterians will be having a Church-wide rummage sale!

Go through your closets, garage, basement, under the bed, every nook and cranny that you can imagine.

Items we most especially need are kid's clothing, shoes, etc for back to school kids. Anything and everything that you don't use or want we'll take off your hands.

You can start bringing your items to the church gym August 3-7th.

The funds will be going toward the account set up for the gym/kitchen maintenance. We will need workers for set up, working the sale, and take down, if you're interested in volunteering please call Brenda Millard 245-2451 or Connie Skultety at 322-0265 or if you have any questions.



BEING MISSIONAL

Our church has done many things missionally without us probably even stopping to consider what that word means. We've been there for our community time after time during tornados and storms. We're the location of The Great Banquet, likely the largest evangelical and discipleship effort in our area for decades. We assist school programs. We are in the hospital and nearly every nursing home with worship on a continual basis. Our Vacation Bible School has reached many children in the community over the years. And most

recently, our small church worked with the local congregation in Xoy, Mexico to provide clean water for their community...

With all that being said, how can we better hear what God's missional call is for First Presbyterian Church? If we truly do not want to miss the blessing of meeting Christ where He is ministering and joining Him there, it may serve us well to better know the sound of His voice as He calls. It may serve us well to consider every possible avenue of mis-

sion work that may be available to us. We just might discover new opportunities of mission and outreach in a world that is so needy of God's hand reaching out with His love and grace.

Wednesday, August 19, following our supper at about 6:00PM we'll have a time of worship as we consider all this before God and petition the Lord for wisdom as to our next steps. We are hopeful of having a good crowd there as we seek out our direction for following God's lead.



LIVING WATERS FOR XOY, MEXICO

Dios es Bueno! After a slight glitch in the regeneration cycle of the water softeners at Xoy and Peto, both are producing purified water. These pictures are the latest we have of the building in Xoy and 3 of their 6 operators. They are proud of their plant and we are blessed to be their partners. They have already established a relationship with the operators of the Mani plant,

less than 40 km away, and these folks will be a valuable resource for the new Xoy plant. Our follow-up "Shareholders Meeting" here last month was well attended, but if you didn't get to see the slide show, let us know and we'll get you a copy. We have recently sent funds to Xoy to help them drill a new well, since their first well has been plagued with problems. We have

also sent some "seed" money to help them purchase a delivery vehicle for their plant. Please continue to pray for our partners in both Xoy and Peto, and we'll keep you informed as to how they're doing.

Paz

First Presbyterian Church

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