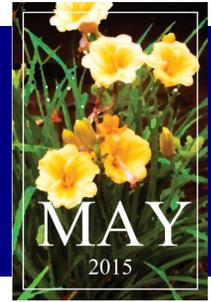


First Presbyterian Church

# TIDINGS



## IT TAKES GRACE...

### Special Dates of Interest:

- National Day of Prayer, May 1
- Christian Family Week May 5-11
- Mother's Day, May 11
- Armed Forces Day, May 17
- Memorial Day, May 26
- Ascension of the Lord, May 29

*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket... Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*  
[Matthew 5:14-16]

There's much going on in the news today, wouldn't you say? Looking through the lens of orthodox Christianity, it would seem we've left planet earth and landed on Bizarro World – that weird place where everything seems to be the opposite of what a sane person might anticipate. Everything from negotiating a nuclear deal with a country determined to eradicate America, to suicide bombers and beheadings, to a culture expelling traditional values as quickly as possible...

It's obvious from many polls on the subject that, for the most part, our culture just doesn't care much about what the

church has to say. And where the church does stand its ground in today's environment, it is seen as bigoted and out of touch with the mainstream.

In the midst of all this, it is important that we remember God has never called the church to take part in something easy. T-shirts and bumper stickers of fish swimming against the flow used to be popular – not so much any more. There was a time when witnessing to your faith was normal, even expected. Now, we have to sift our words through a politically correct sieve to be sure as to not offend someone. The culture has always assumed Christians should be tolerant of its behavior. Today, that has evolved into a war on our faith if tolerance doesn't get in line and become acceptance.

Being the church is no tougher today than it's been in other times and places; our 'persecution' is actually pretty tame in the U.S. compared to

most places around the world. Still, it is wearing to realize how far, as a society, we've strayed from even what our own parents and grandparents would have called sensibility.

It's not an easy task to be the light Jesus referred to in His sermon on the mount. We need to remind one another, though, that our light (if it's a true light) will not be blown out by the winds of culture, regardless of that wind's strength. You see, ultimately, if we are the light Jesus spoke of, we are actually a *reflected light*. You cannot "blow out" a reflection. Our light is a reflection of His light. It is as if Christ is the sun and we are the moon. What folks see in us is not any light we've created. We simply reflect the light of the Son...and His light will not be snuffed out.

Blessings,  
RevLon

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
THURSDAY, MAY 1 -- 11:45am  
AT THE STEPS OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE  
COME JOIN IN A TIME OF PRAYER FOR OUR NATION**

## “ASK”

Recently I heard an explanation on asking for things in prayer. Scripture tells us several times that people were healed of blindness, deafness, demons and death by simply asking. In John 14 Jesus makes reference to asking for anything in His name and it will be answered. He even goes on to say that you will do even greater things than He had done. So I've been wondering and pondering this for a while and hopefully my enlightenment will open your eyes or remind you of what God is capable and willing to do.

Now let's clarify what we ask for first. A common request of mine is for blessings on Denise and the rest of my family. That they will use words of encouragement not criticism, that their actions will bless not curse, that they will be aware of God's constant presence in their lives and receive that peace that only comes from Him. And of course I pray for their health, but I must say that I don't always include that unless one of them is sick or hurting. Now that brings me back to where I began. When we ask God

for healing why doesn't it always happen exactly as we ask?

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!” John 14: 12-14. Jesus words to us are pretty clear but as we study these words we see much more than just asking? Is the request bringing glory to the Father? That is what we must ask ourselves as we petition and intercede on behalf of others. You see we are mostly western in our thought process and western thought tells us that we are the source of what gets done. But where Jesus is doing the most miraculous healings are in places and situations by those seeking to bring glory to God. For instance, we prayed that those people that were killed by ISIS would be freed instead of executed. But in that horrific act we saw God deliver and receive them into Himself. And because of that strong faith displayed there will be

people who will trust in the truth of Jesus and do greater works. Are we praying for the glorification of God to be magnified?



It is challenging I know but we are called to live a life that brings glory to God and why wouldn't we want to? Daily walking and talking with the One who gives us everything we could ever hope for or imagine is the best gift we've ever been given. So keep praying and keep asking but let's remember that our requests are answered when we are asking to bring glory to God in that request. God is good, all the time and all the time, God is good!

In Christ's Love,  
Rob  
Romans 12

## YOUTH NEWS

May 20<sup>th</sup> will be our annual Grill Masters/Senior Celebration youth fundraiser meal. This year we've added best dessert category for those gifted in making dazzling desserts. Presentation is not important, but taste will be the deciding factor. Come out and enjoy the fun and festivities as we celebrate a milestone for those heading on to life after high school. Our two seniors this year are Brandin Stokes and Aubri Brown.



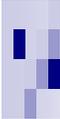
## May's Birthdays & Anniversaries

2nd	Merry Brooks	25th	Chrissy Barker
4th	Tem Major	26th	Joyce George
8th	Chesley Wilson		Michael Milam
14th	Rob & Denise Wilson (A)		Josh Pohlman
15th	Calvin Griffith	27th	Madison Duncan
16th	Emily Fischels	28th	Alan Johnson
	Rick & Susanna Lee	29th	Pat Bonney
	Linda Shanks		
18th	John Ewing		
19th	Monty Crawford		



## May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
				Women's Great Banquet #167 →		
3	4	5	6 BLOOD DRIVE	7	8	9
	9:30AM Norma Siria Cricle 7:00 GB Team Mtgs	7:00PM Session Mtg	5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Xoy Agape Party 7:00 Choir Rehearsal		WKCC Great banquet #14	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	7PM GB Team Mtg		5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	Women's Great Banquet #168 →		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			5:15 Grill Masters Cook Off 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
			No activities			
31						



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