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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TRIDINGS

IT TAKES GRACE...

"And He did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief."

[Matthew 13:58]

Can you imagine? The people of Nazareth, Jesus' hometown, couldn't get over the idea of Him acting the way He acted. They just could not (would not) allow themselves to see in Jesus what was obvious. As a result, it was them, not Jesus, who suffered. "Because of their unbelief" Jesus didn't do many mighty works there. Their own lack of faith robbed the Nazarenes of experiencing "many mighty works."

I wouldn't wish that on anybody, and I certainly wouldn't want it in my own family or community. The issue is not God withholding miracles from us; the issue is whether we believe God is capable of miracles in our lives.

Have you ever wondered, "Why, God, don't You do more in our church?" Could it be connected to unbelief? Maybe we believe, but we just don't act like it. Maybe we act as if it's up to us to do all we can and that's all we'll get. Instead of praying, doing all we can, and believing God will bless our efforts by going further in more miraculous ways than we ever imagined... Maybe.

Possibly, we might need to consider James' sharp wisdom: "You have not, because You ask not. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly" [James 4:2b-3a].

Faith, I think, might be the key to all this. Have you ever noticed that God's promises seem to be activated by our faith? *Activated by faith – Faith is active.*

Nowhere are we instructed to think, "Well, I'll just wait and see. Maybe God will work; maybe He won't." We can't just sit in our basements and pray for something to happen. Determine your part, then do it.

I'm amazed at the number of people who worry and want to hear a word from God, yet spend little time in God's Word. Most of our worries (and joys and questions) are covered somewhere between Genesis and Revelation, yet we wait "to hear from God."

The next time you have a conversation with folks about needing more rain, how about including God in the conversation...and then pack an umbrella to use on the way home! If our faith is real, it is active.

Remember the poor widow in 2 Kings 4? She collected jars from her neighbors to hold the oil God promised her. She did what she could (faith enough to find some empty containers) and God did what He could (filled them all).

We have a wonderful God. Let's rely on Him. We have good things happening here. Thank Him. We also have our issues to deal with – evangelism, finances, worship attendance, to name a

few. All of these issues have fairly easy answers, *if we each acted on our faith in God.* Have you ever considered, though, how, if we just took our faith seriously and did what we can do, what awesome "many mighty works" Christ might accomplish... things we haven't yet even considered?

Maybe we should do some faithful considering on these things. You think?

Blessings, RevLon

It's sobering, Lord, to think that my unbelief might limit Your work in my life. Please forgive me and grow my faith. I need to start carrying an umbrella to prayer meetings, anticipating the many mighty works only You can do. In Christ's name, amen.

We are so grateful that God has allowed us to live in Madisonville and minister here at First Presbyterian. The blessings happen every day through our friendships, mission, and worship. For you all to make the effort to extend your kindness of Rob, Pete, and myself in so many kind, generous, and unique ways during Pastor Appreciation month is truly heartfelt. May the Lord continue to bless (and do many mighty works) among us. Thank you, Lon and Pat

From the Outreach Committee

It's getting that time of year again, time to get all our Christmas Baskets together, If you would like to make a monetary donation please see Ann Hofmann. More information to follow...

Each Christmas we have an opportunity for an unique ministry: Operation Christmas Child. Each box represents a child who is pre-school, school age, or an adoles-

cent. You decide which age child for which you would like to buy and fill the box with things appropriate for that age child. You may choose a boy or a girl. Go to the Dollar Tree, the Dollar Store, Wal-mart, Roses, etc. The contents of the box need not be expensive, just appropriate. Please do not send toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, mouthwash, liquid soap etc. Liquids do not travel well over hundreds of miles. We hope to have the boxes available this coming Sunday. Howev-

er, if you would like, you may purchase a plastic shoe box. The children can reuse the plastic boxes for carrying water if necessary.

Please consider being part of this very fun ministry. Dedication of the boxes will be November 15, 2015.

CONTENT AND THANKFUL

“How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn’t have the chance to help me. Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:10-13

As I reflect over the past 9 years and all that you have done for Denise and me I am truly content. Not content that I don’t think anything more can happen, but content in knowing as Paul did, that I have everything I need in Christ Jesus our Lord. Paul was so thankful that these people had shown an interest in his life, not that he really needed anything, but that they just cared was an expression of God’s love for him. People caring for one another are a sign of God’s love for all of

us. They knew then and we know now that caring about one another is an expression of God’s love. We don’t do it out of obligation or for recognition but our generosity towards others is done out of gratitude and humility.

Recently you showed your appreciation to Denise and me with cards and gifts and words of encouragement during pastor appreciation. Now I would just like to take this opportunity to say how appreciative we are for this body of believers here at First Presbyterian! There are many days that I look around and reflect on just how blessed I am to be right where I’m at. Now I know that someday God may move me again but I am content that where-ever He moves Denise and me, this congregation will always hold a special place in my heart. You have mentored me with your knowledge and life experience. You have encouraged me with your smiles and your patience. You have inspired me with your tireless expressions of being the

hands and feet of Christ. And you have accepted me to be who God made me to be and have not expected me to fit some mold that someone has made. And I am so grateful!

So with deep appreciation and a humble full heart we say “THANK YOU” and “WE LOVE YOU”! And don’t ever forget that what Paul goes on to say in verse 19 of this same chapter, “And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.” May you truly be overwhelmed by these glorious riches in your families and may the God of peace bless you abundantly! God is good all the time and all the time God is good!

In Christ’s Love,
Rob
Romans 12

YOUTH NEWS

November 6-8 is our W. KY Youth Fall Retreat at Camp Loucon. Keep in your prayers all those participating and leading our time together. Our theme this year is “Runaway” based on the story of Jonah and God’s call on him.

November 18th is our Angel Tree fundraiser meal. Please come support our youth group’s mission of providing gifts for children in our community through the Salvation Army’s Angel trees. Our meal will be spaghetti, salad, bread and desserts. We will be doing

our Angel Tree shopping on December 2nd if you would like to make a contribution and can’t make the meal. Thanks so much for all your support of our youth and what they do here!

November Birthdays & Anniversaries



3rd	Jim Agin	19th	Daniel Carter	25th	Burl & Paula Milligan
	Doris Thomas	20th	Alice Kelley		Becky Moore
	Renaë Roberts		Charlie Hoskins	26th	Connie Conover
5th	Sam Waddell	21st	John Betts	27th	Erlene Ewing
6th	Lance Millard		Janet McClain	28th	Floyd & Rhonda Gordon (A)
7th	Austin Walker		Heather Ricketts	29th	Becca Wilson
13th	Lindsey Peyton Zanetti	22nd	Luanne Cole		
14th	Dave & Val Dreusicke (A)	23rd	Bill George		
	Ruth Hendrix	24th	Mike Hofmann		
18th	Ross Thomas		David & Merry Brooks (A)		



From the Fellowship Committee

We will be having our Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, November 22nd right after church. Turkey and dressing will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert. As we come to give thanks together!

We continue to be blessed as we give to the Grapevine staff each month. In November, we will provide a dinner for them. If you would like to donate money, please bring it to the church office or to Susie Jackson, by November 1st. Thank you for all your support!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting in the gym at 9:00AM on Sunday, November 8th. There will be a time of fellowship, our Finance Committee's review of the budget for 2016, and an election of elders and a trustee to the Session. We'll have some light treats and drinks available. In order to allow our time together to not be rushed, there will be no Sunday School on the 8th of November.

FINANCE SUMMARY

	July	Aug	Sept
Faith Promise	\$22,794.00	\$19,634.00	\$14,420.00
Other Income	5,508.47	4,591.12	2,410.00
Expenses	31,726.70	22,715.02	20,559.13
Operating Account	-760.41	-587.61	-4,243.80

Our income has decreased steadily in the last few months leaving our operating account with a negative balance.

From the Inside

Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Luke 18: 16-17.

Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein

There is a place where the sidewalk ends
And before the street begins,
And there the grass grows soft and white,
And there the sun burns crimson bright,
And there the moon-bird rests from his flight
To cool in the peppermint wind.

Let us leave this place where the smoke
blows black
And the dark street winds and bends.
Past the pits where the asphalt flowers grow
We shall walk with a walk that is measured
and slow,
And watch where the chalk-white arrows go
To the place where the sidewalk ends.

Yes we'll walk with a walk that is measured
and slow,
And we'll go where the chalk-white arrows
go,
For the children, they mark, and the children,
they know
The place where the sidewalk ends.

I like that poem. I like to think like a child every now and then. Often we need to learn how to be child like in our faith. Here are some things, from a Paul Fritz sermon, we can learn like a child, without being childish:

1. **HUMILITY** - Children understand that they are dependent upon adults to help them so they are not too proud to receive instruction. Let us humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God so that He can exalt us at the proper time. Do not be so proud as to think you can not mature more in various aspects of the Christian life.

2. **TRUST** - Children are apt to trust those who in authority over them. It does not take a lot to convince children

of their need to rely on those who have greater power, wisdom and resources. Learn to approach the Lord with a greater child like trust that He will supply all your needs (emotional, social, physical, financial, vocational, spiritual, activities, etc) according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:19)

3. **SIMPLICITY** - Children do not require complicated explanations before they are willing to believe. Let us not put on such an air of pseudo-sophistication that we are unwilling to learn something from the Lord about growing up in all aspects into Christ as we speak the truth in love. Thankfully children just want to know the essentials. They are not so sophisticated as to require lengthy explanations before they are willing to believe and receive truth, love and hope in Jesus.

4. **PROBLEM-SOLVING** - Children are ready to admit that they have problems and are not ashamed to admit that they need solutions. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6) Let us appropriate the fact that Jesus provides us with the best pathways, truth knowledge and the eternal life giving Spirit. Let us stop looking around through all kinds of philosophies, literature and platitudes and realize that all of the solutions to life's problems are found in Christ. In a relationship with Christ are found all the necessary wisdom, knowledge and treasures we need for life and godliness. (2 Pet 1:3-4)

5. **RESPONSE** - 85% of the people who come to Christ are people under the age of 18. Let us realize that the greatest mission field in the world is children. Let us ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into this great harvest field. Let us sow our seeds where they will yield 30,60, and 100 fold results.

6. **IMPORTANTANCE** - Some people think that children are less important than adults, not so. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me for of such is the kingdom of heaven." The kingdom of heaven is comprised of people who are poor in spirit and dependent as they

recognize how much they need Jesus for all things. Let us realize that we too often overlook children or simple people because we have not developed enough of the mind of Christ and His perspectives.

7. **PRACTICALITY** - Children do not have to be given a lot of theories before they are convinced that something is good, truth and beneficial. Let us not be like an intellectual who needs to have everything proven to him before he is convinced of the merit of truth. Stop being so skeptical and be more willing to look to the Bible and to Jesus as your commander.

8. **PERSISTENCE** - Children are not easily dismissed. The reason that Jesus loves to bless children is that they are often persistent. Children have to learn to overcome naysayers who insist that they cannot contribute anything of real worth. They learn how to convince people of their worth, usefulness and value. Let us learn how to not be dissuaded when others try to hinder us from developing an intimate relationship with Jesus, our blessed Savior and Lord.

9. **MINISTRY** - Unlike a lot of adults who seem to be too busy for Jesus, children are available to anyone who will take the time to give them attention. Let us be like children and be available to our Lord and our church. And give time and attention to those who we may have been in a habit of overlooking.

10. **THANKFULNESS** - Children also thank you for gifts on a timely manner, therefore, Thank You for your generous Pastor Appreciation gift, your prayers, and your support.

From the Inside, Pete.

Poinsettia Order Forms Available November 2nd

Again this year we will be taking orders for Christmas poinsettias to decorate our church. Beginning November 8th through November 22nd forms will be available for your order. The cost will be \$15.00 each. Please use one order form per flower. If you have any questions please call the church office (821-6426).



We are SO proud to have a pastoral staff that models our “Good Shepherd” Jesus.

Thanks Lon, Rob, and Pete for all you do.

November 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 <i>9:30 Norma Siria Circle</i> <i>7PM Team Meetings</i>	3 <i>7PM Session Meeting</i>	4 <i>5:15 Fellowship Meal</i> <i>6:00 Activities</i> <i>7:00 Choir Rehearsal</i>	5 <i>Women's Great Banquet #170</i>	6 <i>Loucon Youth Retreat</i>	7
8 <i>9AM Congregational Meeting</i>	9 <i>7PM Team Meetings</i>	10 <i>Presbytery Mtg in Franklin, TN</i>	11 <i>5:15 Fellowship Meal</i> <i>6:00 Activities</i> <i>7:00 Choir Rehearsal</i>	12	13	14
15	16 <i>7PM Team Meetings</i>	17	18 <i>5:15 Angel Tree Meal</i> <i>6:00 Activies</i> <i>7:00 Choir Rehearsal</i>	19 <i>Vienna Great Banquet #46</i>	20	21
22 <i>Thanksgiving Dinner</i>	23	24	25 <i>No Activities</i>	26 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	27 <i>Chrysalis</i>	28
29	30					



**Star
Search**
Church-Wide
Annual Talent
No Talent
Show

Are you a “star of wonder”, a “shooting star”, or a “lone star”? Bring your talents, skills, and humor to the church-wide annual Talent, No Talent Show December 9th following the Wednesday night supper. To sign up see Janet Agin.



Once **Again** we deck the halls.

Come to the **Agin's** one and all.

We **Again** celebrate church family Christmas parties past.

Come to the **Agin's** December 5th at 7:00PM for our holiday blast!

Please bring a favorite Christmas snack or sweet to share at 730 Lakeside Drive.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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