



A MESSAGE FROM THE SESSION...

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” [Colossians 3:17]

Last night the Session of the church met in a called meeting. Good parliamentarians know that the purpose(s) of a called meeting is to be stated and that only those purposes are to be dealt with at that meeting. The purposes of our meeting last night were:

1. to discuss and deal with the financial issues we are facing here and,
2. to discuss and deal with issues of membership, outreach, and evangelism.

As you would know from previous postings in this newsletter and worship bulletins, our fixed expenses – unified giving, personnel, utilities, and insurance – have averaged just over \$18,000 each month year-to-date. Total spending – fixed along with all other spending, ie assistance, outreach, supplies, building and grounds, etc. – for the same time period has averaged just over \$21,000.

In looking at the expenses, the Session is determined to save everywhere we are able in an effort to be the kind of stewards we need to be of the generous

donations we receive. You need to know that the generosity of this church family is wonderful, particularly of those who attend regularly.

What we admittedly need a better handle on is the participation on all levels (financial and otherwise) of those who are members, yet regularly are not involved in the life of the church. Why we have only half of our membership present for Sunday morning or Wednesday activities and worship is a concern we all should be taking more seriously, and I am as much at fault as anyone in that regard. We will be in better contact with marginal and non-present members going forward. As honestly as I can state it, I am sorry it has taken funding issues to bring this to full light.

The same goes for our efforts of outreach, evangelism, and focused church growth. We on the Session are learning more about the makeup of our community and how we all can better reach people and families currently missing out on opportunities God would intend for them as His beloved children. It is not *our choice* to do evangelism; it is *Christ's command*, assuming we take Him seriously. And to that end, I pray that we all might be speaking out in the community regarding the good ministry of Christ that is carried out here at FPC.

One simple thing we will begin to do immediately has to do with our newsletter. We will continue to create one monthly, just as we have always done. And, as we have done for some time now, it will be accessible every month on our website (newfpc.com). The savings of not sending it out via mail will not salvage our financial deficit, but it is one sure step in reducing our monthly expenses. It also will give us and others a good and regular reason to take a look at our really good website and all it has to offer. You can read the newsletter there, download and print it if you like, or pick up a printed copy at the church office or on Sunday mornings. If you are on our email or text info/prayer line, you will receive notice each month of when you can go to the website (newfpc.com) for viewing. (By the way, if you'd like to be added to our email and/or text info/prayer line, simply call the church office and give us your email address or correct phone number to use.)

As with everything going on at the church, we the Session invite your thoughts on this or any issue. Blessings,
Lon.

IT'S BANQUET SEASON AGAIN!

The Great Banquet, Chrysalis, and YES weekends for the fall season begin this month. Pray for their success in bringing folks closer to Christ. Consider, too, who it is that you know that might benefit from a weekend away totally focused on their relationship with the Lord and how that plays out in our lives.

September 9-11, Girls YES (here)
September –9-11, WKCC GB#16
September 23-25, Men's MCD#11
October 20-23, Men's GB#174 (here)
October 27-30, Women's HCDC #24

November 3-6, Women's GB#175 (here)
November 17-20, Vienna #47
November 25-27, Chrysalis #55 (FUMC)

FROM THE INSIDE:

When I defended my faith statement before Presbytery, I stated that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. Even though my good friend 'DM' asked me if I was serious and then voted "No" against my Commission, I still believe that.

At Presbytery today, I read the faith statements of three young people desirous of Presbytery approval, and all three said that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and that it is the Living Word. Also today, I was told that we Presbyterians are reformed and always reforming.

In Romans 12, Paul tells us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. However, he doesn't mean we should always be reforming our belief. Paul tells us we need to die to the world and live for Christ Jesus. John tells us that the Word was in the beginning, Jesus is the Word, and that He is God, and always

will be God. We learn that God's Word never changes even though we may change. Paul tells us that we can do anything; including believing that God's Word changes as we become more enlightened, however, not everything is beneficial.

The Bible is not a living document. It is not updatable. It is the same as it was. It is the Truth. As the shift sergeant on *NYPD Blue* told 'em: "Let's be careful out there".

On the Inside, Pete.



A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

Brent Vernon was here in our sanctuary for a public concert. We were greatly entertained by his singing and music, his humor and a guest appearance by his puppet friend, Sam. It was a good night of family fun. We even had a few folks from the community come for the concert.

Door of Hope Walk for Life

Door of Hope Walk for Life is Saturday, September 24, 2016 at 9:00 AM at the First United Methodist Church, 200 E. Center, Madisonville, KY. Please consider walking and/or sponsoring with a pledge to the Door of Hope Pregnancy Care Center which offers a comprehensive, practical response to women in unplanned or crisis pregnancies ministering to their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Through these services many lives will be saved! The Walk for Life helps to keep the doors open to the abortion vulnerable women of this community. *All funds raised will be used to support Door of Hope as they offer all of their services...FREE of charge!*

- Medical Pregnancy tests
- Ultrasound to verifying a viable pregnancy
- Confidential peer counseling/mentoring
- Accurate information about choices

- Earn While You Learn Pre-natal & Education programs and Bible Studies (including Men's curriculum for Fathers-to-be)
- Blessing Closet: maternity, baby clothing, car seats, cribs, diapers and other supplies
- Abortion Recovery and Pregnancy Loss support.

All gifts are tax-deductible according to IRS guidelines.

Door of Hope also has volunteer opportunities which include mentors and staff opportunities. For more information call Door of Hope at (270) 821-9825.

Sponsor Pledge forms are available in the narthex and church office. It is not necessary to collect pledges. Door of Hope will send an invoice after the walk.

To my Church family,
On July 5th, I had both of my knees replaced and I have been overwhelmed with the amount of love shown me by my friends at church. I want to thank you for the prayers, the wonderful meals, visits, cards, calls, emails and for taking me places until I could drive again. I appreciate you all so very much. This has definitely been a challenge but having so many great friends to offer help has made it possible to get back on my feet.
Thank you all so much!
Love,
Cheri



YOUTH NEWS: YOUTH NEWS

★ Our first fundraiser for the youth groups this year is September 28th with our Soup & Sandwich meal plus homemade desserts. If you're interested in

helping out we would greatly appreciate it. And thanks for all the support and encouragement you've given us for so long! Contact Rob if you want to make something to contribute.

WISDOM

I've been studying recently on wisdom. Scripture reminds us that man's wisdom that is void of God is foolishness. That same scripture also tells us that those that are proud of their own wisdom see us as fools. Our worldview is determined by our faith, yes even fools have faith. But those that hope in the Lord have a wisdom that doesn't always equate with their years of experience. Daniel and David and Timothy come to mind when I consider the young that showed God's wisdom was within them. But there is something to be said for life experience as a means by which we gain wisdom.

Recently I heard a sermon that talked about our plans and God's plans by Tim Keller. He mentioned that as he reflected on his own life that his decisions made from a point of wisdom was at a low percentage. I can relate, can't you? In retrospect I look back and agree that in those years' poor choices and foolish decisions were probably 70-80 percent compared to at best 20-30 percent wise choices. And it was based on a worldview that held God not as my Lord, not as my Savior, not as the One I trusted totally. So what we have now though should be a higher percentage not just based on our experience but God's wisdom imparted to us. So, I need help, a lot of help to guide me through these times. And this is what I've found.

I realized that no one can discover everything God is doing under the sun. Not even the wisest people discover everything, no matter what they claim. Ecclesiastes 8:17

Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom. All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom. Praise him forever! Psalm 111:10

Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing. Proverbs 12:18

So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give

you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. Colossians 1: 9-14

This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2: 13-16

"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Matthew 7:24

May you grow deep in your love, knowledge and understanding of our living God as He shapes your whole being into His image for His glory! God is so good all the time and all the time God is good!

In Christ's Love,

Rob

Romans 12



All women are invited to join the Norma Siria Circle for a time of fellowship and Bible Study.

Our study for this year is "Who is Jesus" in which we will join together on a "journey to expand our understanding of who Jesus was and is." We begin on Monday, September 12 at 9:30am in the fellowship hall and continue on the 1st Monday of the month through June. Study books will be provided.

LIVING WATERS YUCATAN TEAM MEETINGS

Have you gotten interested in the mission we are a part of in the Yucatan, building relationships and helping bring clean water to communities in the peninsula of Mexico? If you'd like to jump in or just learn more, come to the next planning meeting on September 15. We'll meet in the fellowship hall at 7:00PM.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ARE UP AND RUNNING!

With the school year, comes the return of activity on Wednesday nights. There is definitely something here for you and your family! The normal schedule is a fellowship meal at 5:15PM prepared by our great home-style cooking team. At 6:00 we break up into the following groups: Elementary Bible Detectives in the basement, Jr. and Sr. High Youth in the youth rooms and chapel, and an adult Bible Study (Max Lucado's workbook on Galatians) in the fellowship hall. At 7:00 you are invited to join in with the choir as they rehearse each week. A nursery is provided for the evening.

On various Wednesdays, we will alter the routine for special events and occasions – one of those is highlighted in another article of this newsletter. There's lots of fellowship and friendship, learning and loving going on! Come take part!

IT TAKES GRACE...

“And Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” [Matthew 28:18-20]

So, can I make the assumption that you are a Christian? If that's true, you understand we've been commissioned by Jesus as His "Ambassadors of Good News," right? What that means is that you and I are representatives of a message of good news about God. This is important because many people have an impression of God as bringing bad news to us in the form of judgment. This is unfortunate because God has been improperly represented. But, that is exactly why you and I are so important. We are called by God Himself to change that impression. The biblical word for "gospel" simply means good news. And why is it good news? Exactly because it is the opposite of what people think is bad about God. God is not all about judgment. He is all about love, forgiveness, grace, empower-

ment, and acceptance. Yes, He is the judge, but He's already taken out His judgment on Himself in the form of His Son, Jesus – the One who was punished on a cross precisely so He would not have to punish us. So then, in fact, we are doing God a great disservice when we think of Him as that angry old man in the sky who is ready to stick it to the next guy who sins. To think and promote that kind of image on God is to discount Christ's death, saying that He died in vain.

Our message is that God is not mad. He is waiting like an anxious father, out in the front yard, staring down the street, looking for any sign of his children coming home. He is waiting to welcome us – to run out into the street to smother us with a hug even before we can get a word out. Then He cleans the dirt of the world off us, dresses us in His royal robe, puts the family ring on our finger, and (the furthest thing from anyone's mind) He throws a party for us! Does that sound anything like the God most people outside the church picture in their minds? So, that is why we are so important. If you and I don't spread the word of truth about God, who will? We are here to share the good news about God with people who have it all wrong. The easiest way to do that is to share your own story of being welcomed home. To hold back that good

news is like knowing the cure for a disease and not sharing it with folks who need healing.

“And then Jesus told them, ‘You are to go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere.’” [Mark 16:15]
Blessings,
RevLon.

R.P.M. (A NEW THING FOR THE MEN OF FPC)

We are putting together a new monthly R.P.M. for the men of the church. The planning meeting will be Wednesday, September 7. Come eat supper at 5:15, then join together for
R. Relating
P. Planning
M. Ministry/Mission

Mark Your Calendars!

GIRL TIME GROUP!

A day of Treasure Hunting

The ladies are planning a trip to Miss Lucille's Antique Mall in Clarksville, TN. The plan is to meet at the church at 9:00AM on September 17. Call Shirley Michael to confirm your participation 270-619-5035.

It's that time again! We are going to show our support for the Grapevine School staff beginning in September. For that month, we are taking a basket of apples. If you would like to bring some, drop them off in the small kitchen by Monday, September 12. We are also going to give \$10 gift cards in our December treats, so please start picking some up now, and we should reach our goal by then. You can turn them in to Dawn or Susie Jackson. Thank you for your support!



Grateful Threads will be collecting home made (knitted or crocheted) scarves and hats for school age children. They will be taken to preschool and kindergarten children at Grapevine school. Please contact Susie Jackson if you wish to contribute. Cold weather will be here soon and unfortunately, many children don't have these things!

UPDATE:

On August 2, there was a breakfast given by the community for every Hopkins County School employee, from teachers and administrators to bus drivers and cafeteria workers. Every employee was treated to a breakfast at the new archery center as a token of appreciation as the new school year began. There were nearly 200 tables, each averaging seven to eight employees, with a "community host" at each table. At no expense to the church, two of our members served as First Presbyterian Church hosts for one of the tables. As a token of appreciation each of the employees at your table received a

loaf of homemade bread and a jar of homemade peach jam. On August 8, this letter was written to our church... To the congregation of First Presbyterian Church: I want to thank you so much for the wonderful gift I received at the Hopkins County Salute to Education Breakfast. My hostess that represented your church was AWESOME!! The homemade bread and jam were delicious! I know it took a lot of time and hard work to make them. Thank you so much for your support for the education system.
Sincerely,
Susie Clark, FMD CIA

Southside Elementary
On August 15, this note was received...
Thank you so much for being an awesome hostess at the breakfast. The table was very nicely decorated and I loved the loaf of bread and homemade peach jam. It was amazing! You did a great job.
Thank you,
Melanie Payne
James Madison Middle School

First Presbyterian Church

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