



TIDINGS

"IT TAKES GRACE..."

"Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?" [Psalm 85:6]

Looking back over the years of newsletters, I realize how "seasonal" they are. Just as the calendars remind us of birthdays, Easter, and Christmas, our newsletters typically remind us of those days and more. In this month of July, we celebrate Independence Day. Many people prophesy we are in our last days as a thriving nation, saying we have strayed too far from God's plan of "freedom of religion" to our current state of "freedom from religion." Our church newsletters still reference holy days like *Christmas* and *Easter*. Much of our culture, though, has decided on *Happy Holidays*, *Winter Celebrations*, and *Spring Breaks*. Without revival, I do believe America will simply become the next great nation to rise and fall. That is my opinion, and I'll leave it there for you to consider.

I'm not so much in the mood to argue about the politics of religion. Over the past several weeks, my attention has

turned from *questions of nations* living or dying to the *certainty of individuals* not living forever. We have had our share of sickness and death in our midst. Just last Saturday, I officiated at the funeral of Frances Cole, a saint and pillar of our congregation. She was 90 and a member of FPC for nearly 70 years. Before the day was over, Rob called from Vanderbilt to let us know that Madeline and Jonathan Stocke had placed the hand of their month-old baby Jack into the hand of their Lord. Jack knew so little of this world; Frances was weary and worn from all her years in it. It's not a stretch for me to picture the two of them, together now in the presence of God, both of them children of the Father and totally in His presence. To top off the weekend, Joe Howard joined the church on Sunday. What a blessing! Joe had joined the old Main Street Presbyterian Church when he was eight, and now nearly eight decades and a life story that took him away

from here and now has brought him back, Joe told me he knew he needed to re-join – for himself and to leave the family a legacy that "God and church matter."

We can argue for generations about the politics of what our nation and this world need. But as we do that, to some degree we have lost out on opportunities before us to simply share our Jesus with someone who needs Him. Death always seems to surprise us. It seems to almost always come too soon. There too often are things we wish we would have said. Other times we wish we'd kept our mouths shut. My own experience over the past few weeks leads me to the verse Joe and I talked about, Psalm 90:12...

"Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom."

Blessings,
RevLon.

THANKS TO YOU!

Back in May, we hosted nearly a hundred college students from four Mid-western states as they travelled to Jacksonville, Florida, for a summer of training and hands-on evangelism with The Navigators. We've hosted them for the past several years as they have come and gone for their summer experience. They are a wonderful group of young people with Jesus on their minds, and it's a blessing to provide them a place to sleep and charge their cell phones as they travel.

We recently received this note from one of them:

"To the kind people at First Presbyterian Church: You all didn't have to take a bunch of strangers in for the night, but you did. With people like you, we had a roof over our heads, possibility of a shower, and what it looks like to be serving others in this broken world of ours.

Three Hip-Hip Hoorays for you all!

Thank you!!" ["from a University of Northern Iowa Navigator who attended Jax STP 2017 well rested"]

We will once again offer this group a night on the road as they come back through at the end of July. Keep them all in your prayers.

FINANCES AT A GLANCE . . .

As of the end of May our year-to-date undesignated income (payroll, utilities, ongoing benevolences, etc.) were \$98,610. For the

same time period, our expenses were \$94,698. Please be aware that while you are gone on vacation, the expenses continue. Historically

the summer months are a difficult time for the church to keep up with the bills.

U N I T E D W E S T A N D

“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, ...”

The chain of events influences this article we have recently seen happen in our country. The shooting of congressmen and others in a baseball practice in Virginia has reminded those elected officials that there is more to unite us than to divide us. Unfortunate that it takes a tragic event to remind us of that but we are people of strong opinions and those that oppose us can be seen as enemies. The rhetoric following this year's election of a new president and the main stream media's attempt to elevate everything that is divisive has fueled the fire of hate and division, in my opinion. We live in a society where it has become acceptable to accuse, berate, and belittle others that are not in agreement with our opinions. And I guess my opinion isn't any different. There will be those that will disagree with my comment on the main stream media, and that's okay it's just an opinion. The problem that arises though is when there are those that justify their attacks, be it verbal, emotional or physical, on those that have differing opinions. I'm proud that our elected officials have set the example in recent days to show that though they may disagree that there still needs to be mutual respect and common courtesy shown to one

another. Our most recent holiday, Memorial Day, was originated out of a grim reminder of what happened to our country when two sides got to the point of war, bringing about the most deaths of any war this country has fought in. The civil war is an unfortunate chapter of our nation's history, but it's still a part of our history, we can't wipe it away. A nation's character is seen in times of tragedy and conflict and our founding fathers had a blueprint that would bring to fruition a nation unlike any other.

Agree with it or not, our nation's foundation was built on Judeo-Christian beliefs. And out of that foundation we see how a nation can survive even to the point of nearly dividing. I believe that it was God's intervention that brought about peace in that horrible conflict and I believe He is still in the means of bringing peace into our lives today. But we have an obligation and an opportunity to be those agents of peace in our world. Jesus chose a time and place in history where conflict and division was just as real as it is today. Isn't it strange that two opposing forces, Rome and Jerusalem, would unite to attempt to defeat this messenger of Truth. It's amazing when you think about it, but again it points to the fact that we all are in a conflict and a natural rebellion with our Creator. But the

cure came with Jesus Christ and regardless of what is said and done there is nothing that can wipe away the Truth of our Savior and Lord. So, let's be the light and the salt that He has called us to be, let's be the peacemakers not the ones that delight in division. "Look at my servant, whom I strengthen. He is my chosen one, who pleases me. I have put my Spirit upon him. He will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or raise his voice in public. He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle. He will bring justice to all who have been wronged. And his name will be the hope of all the world" Isaiah 42:1-4

"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear" Ephesians 4:29
May we all be filled with His grace and His peace that we might be the conduit through which our world will be a place of peace as we pray, "Come Lord Jesus!" God is good, all the time and all the time, God is good!

In Christ's Love,
Rob
Romans 12

Y O U T H N E W S :



As you read this we will have returned from our High School Mission Trip to Chicago. Thank you to all that supported this trip through your prayers and donations. Your generosity made it possible for some to go that could not afford to and for that we are very thankful. And in that support you had a part in

them reflecting Jesus to the good folks of Chicago and growing in their love and knowledge of our Savior and Lord. God bless you all and thanks again for ongoing encouragement and support of our youth here!

A MISSION MOMENT

Hola Amigos! It's been three months now since our Living Waters for the World "traveling team" made the trek to San Diego Buena Vista, Yucatan, Mexico to help our partners at the Getsemani National Presbyterian Church install their new water plant. Since there is no cell service in SDBV, we rely on Freddy Izquierdo, the in-country LWW Coordinator, to keep us updated on the plant and our partners. A recent report indicates that, although they have experienced a few equipment problems, they are continuing to expand their market. They are now

producing and selling around (600) 20-liter bottles each week, 150 for their own community and 450 for surrounding communities. They have also raised 90,000 pesos (about \$5000) to buy a used pickup truck for the plant. They are having to haul raw water to fill their 4000-liter cistern at least four times each week and will ultimately need a well on their property. We will likely help them with the well later this year. Madisonville FPC is one of only 6 or 8 congregations in the US who are actively partnering with Presbyterian churches in the Yucatan to install

LWW reverse osmosis water treatment plants. Each plant can provide safe water for up to 2000 people for a generation. We have been blessed to be a part of three of these plants, if we include our rehab work in Peto. Through your prayers and financial support, several hundred children will be able to grow up without the threat of enteric diseases which cause significant illness or even death. Gracias a Dios!



AT - THE - HOP

It's time to start rummaging through your closets to find your old poodle skirt, saddle oxfords, and letter jacket. We're going to have a sock hop at FPC! As a "thank you" for all your support, both financially and through prayer, the FPC Living Waters for the World mission team is sponsoring a sock hop in the gym on Saturday, **August 5th**, from 7 pm 'til ?. Come enjoy your favorite soda fountain drinks served by our

own soda jerks. We'll have 50's and 60's music interspersed with a hula hoop contest, a bubble gum blowing contest, and a limbo contest (specifically for those of us who can't bend our knees). If you're needing a little help with your "stroll" or "twist," our own Dancing with the Stars instructors, Jerry and Phyllis Klym will be there for lessons. So, roll up the cuffs of your jeans, roll your cigs into the sleeve of

your white tee shirt, and join us for some fun on the first Saturday night in August. You can't miss this photo opportunity!

Let's Go To The Hop!



JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



- | | | | |
|------|--------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| 1st | Joe & Carolyn Guion (A) | 22nd | Leah Crawford |
| 2nd | Jane Mosley | 23rd | Jean Lynn |
| 4th | Lon Lorton | | Noah Taylor |
| 7th | McKenzie Conover | 24th | Courtney Farris |
| 9th | Justin Tabor | 25th | Lisa Ladd |
| | Addie Crawford | | Judy McLean |
| 14th | Susan Fischels | 26th | Gail Tabor |
| 15th | Joel & Cindy Lansden (A) | 27th | Jane Baker |
| | Andrew Walker | | Joe Guion |
| 16th | Carolyn Guion | | Cameron Hunt |
| | Peggy Phelan | 30th | James & Janet McClain (A) |
| 18th | Rita Peyton | | Delores Steinfeld |
| 19th | Greg & Cheryl Lane (A) | | |
| 20th | Abbie Sills | | |

JULY 2017

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30	31					