

IT TAKES GRACE...

Special dates of interest:

- Pentecost, June 4, 2017
- Trinity Sunday, June 11, 2017
- Flag Day, June 14, 2017
- Father's Day, June 18, 2017
- First day of summer, June 20, 2017

This past Mother's Day was my 16th anniversary of ministering with all the great believers of First Presbyterian Church here in Madisonville. Even though I came here with ten years of pastoring and preaching experience, your lives blended with mine since 2001 has created in me a different kind of spirit – better able to feel God's Holy Spirit in me as I witness His presence regularly in you. Funny thing is that this drives me to want more of those experiences... with Him and with you.

Over the past 26 years I have taken time to re-evaluate and update a personal faith statement that was first started as I entered seminary in 1988. You can be assured that I am not the same person (that's a good thing for all of us). What I'm beginning to understand is that, done right, a relationship with Christ *allows* for who I was, *lifts* me to who I am, and *believes* in who I am becoming. Just for your information, here is my most recent

update on my continually revising personal faith statement. I've made it simple, so I can live as though what I believe matters.

I believe...

...my God is holy

...my God is worthy

...my God is love

...my God is grace

...my God is sovereign

...my God is faithful

...my God's Word is sure

Simple belief system. I probably wouldn't get a very good grade on it in seminary. Notice, though, there are no periods after the statements. These simple beliefs are unchanging, yet without the periods, they are always explainable in new and fresh ways. You all have taught me that is possible.

Thank you. And thanks be to God, who works everything together for good for all of us who

love Him...(Read the whole thing in Romans 8:27-28.)

Blessings,
RevLon

P.S.

There is no longer a land line phone at the Lorton's home. As with many of you, that phone connected to the wall was only taking in less than ten calls a month, and the vast majority of them were from phone marketers and poll-takers. We have nothing against phone marketers or poll-takers by the way... We do want everyone to know how you can call us. Here are our cell numbers:
Lon 270.871.0770
Pat 270.399.0120
Services for our home phone will be handled through Barnett-Strother, where condolences may be left on line at their website (or maybe you can contact them on their land line).

“MISSION OPPORTUNITIES”

Where do you find your mission? Is it people closest to you? Does your immediate family know the truth of Jesus love? Has a spouse, a child, a sibling or parent been your mission for years? Don't quit and don't allow them to ever get away from you without showing them the goodness of God revealed to us in His Son, our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ who indwells in you!

Maybe your mission field is your work. Do you enter your work with an attitude that you're grateful to have the job you have and everyone sees that? Are you working for your employer as though you are working for God? Do you show those around you that everything you have is not your own but a blessing from God? Are you generous with your speech and time towards your coworkers? Do they know that God has given us the responsibility to manage everything He has created for us here?

For some of you the mission is a place where you are not exactly comfortable? Maybe it's a real stretch for you and it's serving some folks that you may have had certain opinions of that needed to change. I share these with you because I believe when Jesus told His disciples to go, He used places that brought to mind different areas and ideas of where they would be going. Jerusalem was a place that had been familiar even though they faced opposition, just like immediate family or those we know well. Judea was further out away from where they may have more support but still in a country that would for the most part hold to their same beliefs. But Samaria was a place that they would want to avoid, a place of discomfort and tension. Jews and Samaritans

didn't get along and Jesus made a point to include a place that they might want to avoid. But in Samaria we remember one of the first evangelist in an unlikely person. A woman on the lowest of social standings to Jews and to her own people. Jesus tells her that she has access to Him regardless of her past or present circumstances or social status. The woman Jesus met at the well in Samaria received what Jesus offered, living water, and then she bore witness or testified to what she had experienced in Him. For her it was possibly the first time she had ever felt respect, love and acceptance.

Do you realize you and I have a mission? I believe our mission field is wherever we are. Each day we have opportunities to love God and those around us or we can choose not to. So we are thankful for the mission work done in Xoy and San Diego Buena Vista, Mexico and for potential future sites and our friends there in the faith. And we are thankful for the opportunity to go to a place yet to be seen in Chicago and see how God will show Himself there. We look forward to the opportunity to invite children into our family during the upcoming "Take the Plunge" VBS. And beyond that only God knows where you and I will go but I hope and pray that we will all know and never forget that we don't go alone but He goes with us, before us and behind us! You see God has given us this one thing we need more than anything else which is all of Himself. What does that do to your outlook on everything in your life? What you think of God will determine what you value as mission in life. Our mission each day is to bear witness to or testify to what we have

experienced in the truth of Jesus Christ. Just as the woman at the well found out we have experienced life change not based on anything we've done or not done but by the sheer abundant unending undeserved Grace of God given to us in His Son our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ! People like you and me have experienced life change, transformation, redemption and love that surpasses anything we could hope for. I hope and pray people see, hear and know Whose we are! God is good, all the time!

"But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus told her, "I am the Messiah!" John 4:24-26 (Read the whole story in John 4)

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." Romans 12: 1-2

In Christ' Love,
Rob
Romans 12

YOUTH NEWS:

Our appreciation goes out to everyone who made food and contributions to our Grill Meters/Sweet Treats competition and Youth Fundraiser. Your generosity gave our youth \$720 for this fundraiser which will be used to help pay for future mission trips, local and out of our community as well as the weekly gatherings. We had a huge crowd that came out to support and encourage Olivia Thomas as she finishes up her high school career and heads off to Maryville

University in St. Louis to play volleyball and continue her education. We wish her much success and blessings as she enters this chapter of her life. June 25-July 1 is our Presbytery of Western Kentucky High School Mission Trip. Please pray for Haley Cope, Isabella Tapp, Dee Allen, Hunter Harris and Jonathon Yates as well as Michael Milam and myself as we join others to venture to Chicago for our Mission Trip. We will partner with local organizations to meet ongoing needs in the community. Dur-

ing the week, students may serve all or part of the week at a food shelf, clothing distribution center, soup kitchen, children's program, or elderly care facilities. We appreciate your prayers of support for our trip and that God will be glorified in all that we do and say. We will not meet in June or July to give everyone time to spend with family and friends as they enjoy their summer break. But keep watching for upcoming surprises that may be on the horizon.

VBS—TAKE THE PLUNGE!

Grab your sunglasses and beach towels and get ready for some splashing fun at our Take the Plunge VBS! Take the Plunge is a water park adventure. But more than that, it's a Bible adventure that you're going to love. Each day we'll plunge into the Word and learn how Jesus used the very common element of water to teach some very uncommon lessons.

As we soak up the Word, we'll

plunge into courage, plunge into faith, and plunge into service.

The twisting and turning of this splash-making adventure will begin each day at 5:00PM and end at 8:00PM, June 14-16 here at FPC (ending on the 16th at the City Park pool). Sign up for this thrilling, heart-pounding, and soul soaking adventure.

So grab your sun block and

your beach chair and prepare to get soaked as we Take the Plunge and Make a Splash with Jesus! It will be an adventure you'll never forget!



FINANCES AT-A-GLANCE FOR APRIL 2017

Income \$ 24,465.89
 Expenses \$-25,479.24
 \$ -1,013.35

Undesignated (Church operating expense—payroll, salaries and benefits, presbytery unified giving special giving, office expenses, etc)

Undesignated:

Income Undesignated: \$ 19,940.89
 Expenses Undesignated: \$ -18,392.62
 Net Income \$ 1,548.27

Designated (Backpack, building fund, flowers, food bank, youth, God's Warm Place, Grapevine school, Living Waters, Prison Bibles, Unclassified)

Designated:

Income Designated: \$ 4,525.00
 Expenses Designated: \$-7,085.62
 Net Income: \$-2,561.62

Thank you for your gifts through the first four months of this year. Reminder; please continue your faith promise offering throughout the summer as the church continues to have operating expenses. Blessings to you, James McClain & Anna Leasure, Finance Committee

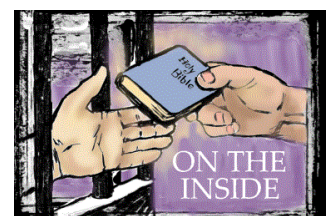
On the Inside

As the summer months are upon us let us not forget that our service to the Lord is required no matter how busy we become. The Word still needs to be shared, children still need to be taught, mis-

sion work continues, worship needs to be attended. Please remember that Jesus died for us all: the good, the bad, and the ugly. He died so we can live and live abundantly. As we are do-

ing so, let us remember that we are the hands and feet as long as we are here on Earth.

On the Inside, Pete





1st	Margaret Todd	7th	Doug Henley	24th	Brooks & Anna Leasure (A)
3rd	Cheri Loftis	8th	Pete & Peggy Phelan (A)	28th	Larry Wilson
	Jackson Sills	10th	Elizabeth Leasure Carlton	29th	Hunter Goodwin
4th	Denise Wilson	11th	Dale Davis	30th	Cierra Brown
	Bill & Marilyn Coates (A)	14th	Greg Lane		
	Lance & Brenda Millard (A)	15th	Craig & Shari Winstead (A)		
	Bill & Susan Stewart (A)	16th	Carolyn Hunt		
5th	Laurie Sills	18th	Mike & Ann Hofmann (A)		
6th	Teresa Griffith	20th	Brenda Millard		
	Holly Pohlman	22nd	Ann Hofmann		
	James Cope		Joel David Lansden		

June 2017

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

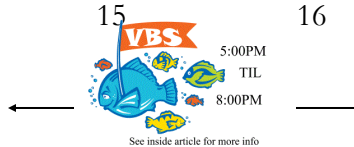
SAT

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9:30AM Norma
Siria Cr

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18 19 20 21 22 23 24



25 26 27 28 29 30