



OCTOBER 2017

TIDINGS

SPECIAL DATES OF INTEREST:

- World Communion Sunday, October 1
- Light Super and Dancing, October 5
- Wedding for Kyle & Brianna, October 14
- Reformation Sunday, October 29
- Reformation Day, October 31

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It Takes Grace...

Just seeing the coverage of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma are overwhelming. "If you're not going to evacuate, write your Social Security number on your arm in ink." "If the water rises in your home, don't go to the attic unless you have an ax." It's almost unbelievable, except it is very real. People wading in chest-high water, or perched on their rooftops waiting to be airlifted.

In the midst of this tragedy, one word kept popping up: *rescue*. Like the Cajun Navy. Like all the fishing boats and row-boats and canoes and kayaks... Everyday people using what they had to save as many as possible. Apparent-

ly, no one had to tell them their boats were needed. They were not trained rescuers, but they knew they had what others so badly needed. They knew people would die if they didn't risk trying to save them. You and I are not in Texas or Florida. We have limited provisions to help those who are, and we should be doing what we can. I see a bigger picture here, though...

We have people all around us whose only hope is a rescue – a spiritual rescue. They are the people described in the Bible as being "without hope and without God." [Ephesians 2:12] It is why our Rescuer, our Jesus, came to a sin-flooded

world. And not only risked His life to save it, He gave His life. Galatians 1:4 says, "Jesus gave His life for our sins...in order to rescue us." Rescue was our only hope, because living our way instead of God's way had left us stranded from God. Rescue was our only hope because we cannot save ourselves. Rescue was good for us. Should we not share the good news with others, or are we maybe too busy to jump in and get our feet wet? Blessings to you all, RevLon

Books Are Available for Check-Out!

The FPC Library Renovations are almost finished! Books are now available for check-out. The process is very simple. Browse the collection, choose a book and sign out the book using the book log on the library table. When you return the book, leave a comment for the next

potential reader and leave the book in the return book basket. We hope many will enjoy the books and the atmosphere and find time to read, reflect and grow in their relationship with God and His people through the joy of reading. Thank you to all



who helped with donations and encouraging words. Peggy and Shirley

THE WORLD'S GOING TO HECK IN A HAND BASKET?

Does it seem like the world is going to heck in a hand basket? Then it may be time for a reality check. It's been a summer of rough news for America. Racism, riots, and political violence. Communities on the Gulf Coast continue wading through the devastation of hurricane Harvey, and now another storm is bearing down on Florida. We have plenty of reasons to be praying and doing all we can to alleviate suffering. There's cause for grief about the news but not for pessimism. Writing at The Guardian, Olivier Burkeman suggests that despite a dragging civil war in Syria, heart-rending photos of drowned refugees, North Korea's nuclear saber-rattling, disasters, terrorist attacks, and racial violence, the world is objectively better now than its ever been. Hard to believe? Well, here are the facts: Swedish historian Mark Norberg breaks down global indicators of human flourishing into nine categories: food, sanitation, life expectancy, poverty, violence, the state of the environment, literacy, freedom, equality, and the conditions of childhood. And in nearly all of these categories, we've seen vast improvement in my lifetime. Despite the fact that nine out of ten Americans say worldwide poverty is holding steady or worsening, the percentage of people on this planet who live on less than two dollars a day—

what the United Nation's defines as "extreme poverty" - has fallen below ten percent, which is the lowest it's ever been. The courage of child mortality is also at a record low. Fifty percent fewer children under five die today than did thirty years ago. Worldwide, 300,000 more people gain access to electricity every day. In 1900, global life expectancy was just 31 years. Today, it's an impressive 71 years. And violent crime rates in the United States are the lowest they've been in half a century. Nicholas Kristof wasn't too far afield when he called 2016 "the best year in the history of humanity." This year may see even more progress. So why do these cheery pronouncements strike us as inaccurate—even outrageous? Why—according to a recent poll by YouGov—do a vanishingly small six percent of Americans think the world as a whole is becoming a better place? Burkeman lays much of the blame on the press. Thanks to a 24-hour news cycle that actively seeks out and overplays the worst stories, our perception of the world is skewed. "We are not merely ignorant of the facts" he writes. "We are actively convinced of depressing 'facts' that aren't true." And no wonder! It's hard to sell papers and get Web traffic with good news. No one reports when a plane takes off. They only report when they

crash. But a great deal of the blame for our unjustifiably gloomy view of the world also falls on our shoulders. Quite simply, we often enjoy being angry about the state of the world, especially when it allows us to blame someone else. We are addicted to new—induced anger. That's why it's so important—while acknowledging the desperate evil and suffering around us—to appreciate the good news, the progress, and the things we have to celebrate. After all, how can we truly comprehend what's wrong with the world if we don't recognize when something is going right? War, famine, disease, and hatred should all remind us that God's world, which He created and pronounced "very good," is broken, and it's our fault. But here's the real comfort: It's still—as the hymn says—our Father's world. Let us therefore never forget that "though the wrong seems oft so strong God is the ruler yet." As Christians, we know where history is headed, and we know how the story ends—with the redemption and restoration of all things. We who have the good news should be the first to recognize all good news, not in spite of, but in the midst of the bad.

- Written by Eric Metaxas

YOUTH NEWS:

Thanks to everyone that supported our Youth Appreciation night on September 6th. Danny Byrum, Jane Mosley and Janet McClain gave some great advice and good humor as well as those that gave their own time to those young people. They were very thankful and we have heard great reviews from everyone that participated.

Youth Fundraiser – October 4, homemade Soups and desserts with grilled cheese and Subway sandwiches too. This is our first fundraiser for the school year and we appreciate your continued support as we know Jesus and make Him known in our youth groups. Hope to see you there! November 10-12 is Camp Loucon Fall

Retreat for our West Kentucky Presbytery's middle and high school students. Cost for the retreat is \$35 this year. Hope to have a large group go this time. There will be more details closer to the retreat.

On The Inside

I NEED YOUR HELP

Paul told the Corinthians that the Body of Christ is made of many parts, each having a specific important role. And he told the Romans we all do not have the same function, but each of us are vital to the life of the church. He told the Ephesians that some were to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some shepherds, and some teachers. He tells us that some will speak in foreign tongues, some will have knowledge and understand mysteries, and some will love us simply because we need love. We all are important and are needed.

Our church vitality is not whole and is not functioning as it should. We find fault in others' service, yet we don't participate. How can those who try, be 100% effective if the body is not whole? Think about it. If

all the members of First Pres showed up, 195 strong, worshipped and sang praise to the LORD, can you imagine what a visitor would say about our church? Do you think he/she would be inspired to come again? Can you imagine coming to church late and having to park across the street? Can you imagine how much work we could accomplish toward our mission 'to know and make known' if every part was functioning as God intends?

Think about 195 people praying in unison for our church, our community, our nation. We could work together to overcome the addictions, the homelessness, the social distress, the loneliness and pray that God's will be done. We could become a beacon, a lampstand, if you

will, and let the Light of Jesus beam across western Kentucky. Imagine the county jail as a boutique shop and mini mall. Have Faith, and work for the Kingdom, and remember whatever the enemy has tried to take away, God will restore. God wants to make our lives and our church better than before. That's the kind of Father he is.

If you come, do your part, and bring a friend, our sanctuary which was built to hold 400 worshipers would be full of vitality and joyous to the LORD. We do good things, however, Jesus said we would do more. Amen.

On the inside, Pete

A Prayer for Neighborliness

O God, we pray for a broader vision of the needs of humanity, and a deeper compassion to fill those needs; for a planting of the seeds of concern for all humanity in our hearts; for a tapping of the wells of generosity. May we live together as people who have been forgiven a great debt. May we be gentle, walk-

ing softly with one another. May we be understanding, lest we shall add to the world's sorrow or cause to flow needless tears. May we be as anxious for the rights of others as we are for our own. May we be as eager to forgive as we are to seek forgiveness. May we know no barri-

ers of creed or race or sex, that our love may be like Yours — a love that sees all people as Your children and our kin. May we be ministers of humanity.

—Peter Marshall

ADVICE FROM A PUMPKIN

Be well-rounded.
Get plenty of sunshine.
Give thanks for life's bounty.
Have a thick skin.
Keep growing.
Be outstanding in your field.
Think big!
—Ilan Shamir



October Birthdays & Anniversaries



1st Billie Ann Bevels

3rd Mike Bassett

Joe Cates

Ann Hewlett

5th James McClain

10th Steve & Tammy Walker (A)

11th J.D. Lester

Joe & Karla Cates (A)

14th Amanda Daigle

19th Mike & Yvonne Bourland (A)

22nd Tim Ricks

Steve Arnold

23rd Shirley Hoskins

Cindy Lansden

26th Matt Agin

29th Elizabeth (Ellie) Lansden

Joel Lansden

Chelsey & Becca Wilson (A)

31st Suzanne Wilson

October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 6PM G.B. Mtgs	3 6PM Session Mtg	4 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	5 6PM Lite Supper and Dance Lessons	6	7
8	9 6PM G.B. Mtgs	10	11 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	12	13	14 2PM Wedding for Brianna & Kyle
15	16 6PM G.B. Potluck	17	18 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	19	20 Men's Great Banquet #179 →	21
22 →	23 6PM G.B. Mtg	24	25 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	26	27 HCDC Great Banquet #26 →	28
29 →	30 6PM G.B. Mtg	31				