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TIDINGS



It Takes Grace...

WHAT I LEARNED AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (IT DOES TAKE GRACE...)

“That’s in the Bible, isn’t it?” An interesting question asked by one of the kids at VBS.

“Yes, it is in the Bible... John 3:16... ‘God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son so that anyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.’”

Then, in the midst of the chaos we call VBS, the little girl asked the most important question I’ve been asked in 26 years of ministry: “Is it true?”

Simple and to the point, it was as if my answer really mattered to her.

I could have said, “Of course it’s true, child! Why else would I be here with you and all

this chaos, eating room temperature food, making colored stick-em crosses, and thinking I really hope when I get to heaven I will have been right in knowing there must be a better reason to shush in the sanctuary than to be noisy...

Instead, realizing I had this precocious child of God’s attention for thirty seconds at best, I sat down beside her. “Yes, God loves you so much that Jesus came and took care of everything that gets in the way between Him and you. It’s kind of like your momma and daddy love you and you can’t do anything that will ever change their minds.”

She thought about that for about five seconds and then said, “Okay.” “Okay?!” I thought... That’s all I get? Just okay?!

And then she added. “God loves me even more than my dog loves me, doesn’t He?”

“Yes, dear. God loves you more than your momma and daddy... and yes, even more than your dog.”

So, here’s what I learned at Vacation Bible School:

God loves you and me more than anything you can think of, whether you are 9 or 90. Even more than your dog... [Don’t laugh. When we can wrap our heads and hearts around something this big, we begin – just begin – to fathom what God really thinks about us. Yes, that is true. It’s in the Bible.]

Blessings,
RevLon.

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The Navigators Are Returning

You may recall that the Navigators – a campus ministry of evangelism and Bible memorization – used our church as a stop-over from five Midwestern states as they travelled in May on their way to Jacksonville, Florida for training activities. July 22 and 24 we will have two groups of over-nighters as they return to their home campuses in South Dakota, Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri. Please keep these young folks in your prayers for a good wrap-up to their summer in Jacksonville and safe travel as they head home.

Presbytery Cluster Meeting Here on the 8th of July

There are seven Presbyterian churches in Butler, Muhlenberg, and Hopkins counties. Our church will be hosting a get-together cluster meeting on July 8 at 5:00PM. We are inviting anyone from these churches (Caney Fork, Central City First, Ebenezer, Graham, Greenville First, Mt. Zion,

and Madisonville) for a couple hours of food, fellowship, conversation, and worship. This is not simply for the pastors and sessions of the churches. We hope to have a good number of folks from each church who might simply like to know each other better and learn from each other what seems

to be working well in ministry. If you would like to be here for this event, please let us know (270.821.6420). We need RSVP’s to know how many to cook for. If you might like to help with the meal/serving/clean-up, please let us know that, too.

“Testimony”

As we've ended the Great Banquet season I was reminded of a saying that is fairly common, "Have you heard his/her testimony?!" It's usually a reference to someone who has overcome some major obstacle in their lives and come to faith in Christ despite all the odds being against them. Maybe it was an addiction or an abusive relationship or an illness or a rebellious lifestyle, you name it, there's something that grabs our attention with these stories. And they should because we all are exiles that have wandered away from our Lord in some form or fashion. None of us are absent from a natural rebellion towards God.

Testimony is defined as a formal written or spoken statement, a declaration or claim, as given in a court of law. In the life of a follower of Christ it is an act of one sharing their transformation story, before they knew and followed Jesus to when they gave their life to Him. The issue that arises though is that sometimes the transformation loses its focus. We may pay more attention to those that have had movie scripted stories over those that just followed the path to their Savior and Lord with slight detours or very little in the way of detours to the Way of Christ. As I was pondering this it was as if an epiphany

happened, you know when it's a thought or idea that you know was divinely inspired. It was as if I was having a conversation with Jesus and He said, "It's not a testimony to Me unless the listener is drawn closer to Me." Convicting isn't it? Or maybe it's just the truth and the truth can be convicting to us that want the story over the Savior. The truth is that no one can make the claim that Jesus has made, and no story trumps His story.

He came as helpless into this world as we all do, needing a family to raise Him, protect Him and provide for Him. He was basically an unknown until He revealed His purpose. He came to serve and save the exiles that have wandered out of the family that need protection from the evil one and are hungry for what only He can provide. His love is unconditional and unending. He doesn't base His love for us on what we've done or haven't done but solely on what He has done. He came to redeem us.

"For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered.

He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.... Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ." 1 Peter 2:21-25, 3:15-16

Testify to the glory of God revealed to us through Jesus Christ and confirmed in us through the Holy Spirit. Share your story and make sure it always points to the redeeming work of Jesus and His salvation and restoration for humanity. Amen! God is good, all the time and all the time God is good!

In Christ's Love,

Rob

Romans 12

LIVING WATERS FOR THE WORLD NEWS

The spotlight is on Opichen, a small town in the Yucatan peninsula. This is the next location for FPC to covenant with a local church in providing clean water for their community. Dates for the installation/education

trip will be during fall break in October. If you have an interest in being part of that team, there is a planning meeting set for July 17 at 5:30pm in the fellowship hall.

May Finances

		YTD	
Income	\$48,634.49	YTD Income	\$133,405.96
Expense	-\$25,210.99	YTD Expense	<u>-\$132,688.03</u>
Net	<u>\$23,423.50</u>	YTD Net	\$717.93

Undesignated		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$46,818.04	Income	\$116,669.25
Expense	-\$18,494.80	Expense	-\$101,327.90
Net	\$28,323.24	Net	\$15,341.35

Designated		YTD Designated	
Income	\$1,816.48	Income	\$16,736.71
Expense	-\$6,716.19	Expense	-\$31,360.13

From the Inside

May I ruffle your feathers?

I too often hear that Jesus had to forgive Peter three times because Peter denied Jesus three times. Interesting... I have on good authority that Jesus died for us so we could be forgiven *once* and for all. Long before we read John 21, Jesus had forgiven Peter. In John 21: 15-17, Jesus was commissioning Peter to feed the lambs, those new believers who needed nurturing, to take care of my sheep, minister or pastor the flock, and to feed my sheep, continue to guide and direct even the older sheep. Some of my Baptist friends tell me Peter spoke Greek because Jesus asked Peter, do you AGAPE me, and Peter replied I PHILIOS you. My understanding is that Peter spoke Aramaic, and could neither read, nor write. I currently hear a gentleman in town believes I baptize incorrectly because I repeat the words of Christ baptizing in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and not in the name of Jesus only. I have heard that the

Great Banquet has become the Great Testimony and Salvation Show and that 260 West McLaughlin Ave is their church building. I have heard that our church is dying and when it finally takes its last breath so it will be. I have heard that the mission of First Presbyterian is the know Jesus as Lord and Savior and make Him known. I hear a lot.

What I know is that God so loved you, and me, that He gave his one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall have eternal life, and have it abundantly. I know that I am to test the spirits and be filled with the Holy One. I know that I can do nothing without Christ and I can do all things through Him. I know that I have been given The Word to defeat the deluder Satan and that I should trust in the Lord and not in mere humans.

Therefore, I challenge you Dorothy to get out of the poppy field with your friends and get back to church, reclaim 260 West

McLaughlin as a house of the Lord, and demand that the leadership lead (not merely manage), the mission be fulfilled, and *we* truly make Him known. Matthew 28 says to make disciples of all nations, not just our grandchildren, and to teach them to obey everything Christ has *commanded* us, and to rely on Him who will always be with us.

See you in church. I usually get there late. If you wonder why, I'll gladly let you know. Or, if you think I've been messing with the bees, pray for me. (re. The Point, Harry Nillson)
On the inside,

Pete

WEDDINGS AND AN ENGAGEMENT!

Congratulations to Buddy Farmer and Jennifer Littlepage on their engagement! A wedding date has not yet been set.

Amanda and Tim Ricks wedding date is July 14th, in our sanctuary at 2:00 PM. They were civilly married earlier last year, but desire to honor God in His sanctuary and in the presence of their church family. Everyone is invited. RSVP by texting or calling 270-875-7536.

Congratulations to Jason and Connie Jo Abell Skultety. They were married June 14 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee and live here in Madisonville at 8498 Brown Rd.

Erin Winstead and Matthew Craig Blackburn were married on June 2. Congratulations and many blessings to the new couple, and to Craig and Shari, also, on the addition of a new son-in-law! Erin and Matthew live in Lexington.

JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2 nd	Jane Mosley	23 rd	Noah Taylor
4 th	Lon Lorton	24 th	Courtney Farris
7 th	McKenzie Conover	25 th	Lisa Ladd
9 th	Justin Tabor		Judy McLean
	Addie Crawford	26 th	Gail Tabor
14 th	Susan Fischels	30 th	James & Janet McClain (A)
15 th	Joel & Cindy Lansden (A)		Deloris Steinfeld
16 th	Peggy Phelan		
18 th	Rita Peyton		
19 th	Greg & Cheryl Lane (A)		
20 th	Abbie Sills		
22 nd	Leah Crawford		

July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 	5	6	7
8 5PM Presbytery Cluster Mtg— here	9	10	11	12	13	14 2:00PM Amanda & Tim's Wedding
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Navigators	23	24 Navigators	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				