

# TIDINGS

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JUNE 2018



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## IT TAKES GRACE...

[Musings after spending two weekends of the past three on Great Banquet prison teams...]

*“When He came to the village of Nazareth, His boyhood home, Jesus went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to Him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:*

*‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for He has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.’ He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at Him intently. Then He began to speak to them. ‘The Scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day!’” [Luke 4:16-21]*

So, from the very beginning of His ministry, here is Jesus’ agenda. I’m

guessing you could have heard a pin drop. He was declaring Himself to be the one the prophets spoke of, but also reminded the people of the Savior’s purpose in coming. His agenda in part was to deal with very real physical issues (the poor, the blind, the oppressed). But, beyond that, Jesus’ agenda would include the poor in spirit, the spiritually blind, and the spiritually oppressed.

No one else ever came seeking these people. There were no great leaders of the poor or the blind or the oppressed. No one wanting to be a leader ever solicited these folks.

Throughout history, not many (maybe Waylon Jennings and Pete Phelan) cared much for those who were serving time. It seemed like Jesus came specifically for those who were in need. Go figure... Doesn’t seem like that would be a great way to win friends and influence people, at least not on the upper end of the social ladder.

If you are a free, relatively healthy individual with a job or a good retirement, you’ve got a home and a future, and you’ve got Jesus, consider yourself fortunate. You were definitely on God’s mind. But did you notice that you were not on Jesus’ primary “to do” list? On the other hand, if you are poor in spirit, blind to God’s will, captive to sin, and/or oppressed by the enemy...consider yourself really fortunate. Welcome to the family of faith and grace. Jesus gave His life for you. He is for the last, the lowest, the weakest, the poorest, the least desirable. If you aren’t there, and especially if you think you’ve never been there, you probably don’t need to bother; Jesus will not make sense to you.

On the other hand, if you see yourself on His list, raise your banner high and shout with joy. You get it.

Blessings, RevLon

## VBS—June 6-8, 2018

Vacation Bible School will be held June 6-8th. The theme this year will be “Game On”. This theme is ground toward getting young people ready for life’s

bigger game. The first two days will be held at the church with the last day at the City Park for an evening at the pool. The time each day will

be from 5:30PM to 8:00PM.



## Youth News:

Youth News: Thanks is not enough to say to those that contributed both food and money to our last fundraiser of the school year. Your support and encouragement to the youth that attend here is much appreciated! For those that supplied delicious desserts and mouth watering BBQ you



all out did yourselves, it was so good. Thanks too to those that stayed to celebrate our six seniors Abigail Brown, Madison Cummings, Allie Downey, Emily Fischels, Emilie Higgs, and Cody Jervis and show them love and encouragement.

Please pray for those that will be going

to Spirit Song Much Festival June 21-23, Dee Allen, Taya Clary, Haley Cope, Allie Downey, Blake Downey, Hunter Harris, Isabella Tapp, Kaleb White and Denise and me. Thanks so much!

In Christ's Love

Rob, Romans 12

## THE BEST 25!

I'm writing this prior to leaving on Denise and my annual anniversary trip to the beach. For several years, we have been blessed to head south to a beach that we love to spend time on. It's Florida's best kept secret but I'm afraid the secret has gotten out. The beach for us is a place of calm and renewal and rest and relaxation. If you're a beach person you get that and if you're not, then you've got that place that you like to go to experience the same rest. The beach is also a time to celebrate our anniversary in what we consider God's blessing to us in sand, salt water and salt air, etc...etc...

This year though it's special, ore special than it ever has been, because this is our 25th anniversary. It's been the best 28 years of my life! Why 28? Because Denise and I dated for 3 years prior to getting married May 14 in 1993. Family is God's best gift to us though, even better than the beach. He began with a husband and wife and said, "here's what I have given you, take good care of it." Paraphrased with my emphasis. He was not just talking about the earth and it's care but He was talking about the relationship of husband and wife and then children. I've heard that the best mother or father you can be is to be the best wife or husband to your spouse. Family is at the core of what shapes our society, so goes the family so goes the culture.

Denise taught me a lot over the years of what it looks like to love, give and learn. Her skills as an RN carry over from home not vice versa. Her family is

her top priority right after her relationship with God. She lives out her faith at home, church and work but I'm most blessed to receive her on a daily basis. To be with her is blessing enough but to learn from her has helped shape me into the man I am. She was the one who encouraged me to attend the Great Banquet. She was the one who encouraged me to serve on teams both Chrysalis and Great Banquet. She was the voice of wisdom that helped me know when to say "no" and how to keep life in balance when I got out of balance. She was the one who prayed with me as we listened for God's call for a career change that would significantly affect our lifestyle and income. She has stood by me and been my encourager, cheering me on when I needed it and giving me words of wisdom and direction.

So, on our 25th anniversary I thank God for blessing me with the best wife I could have ever dreamed of having. I can honestly say that my love for her now is stronger and deeper than it has ever been and each day He gives us together will be a day I'm thankful for. Because of His love our love is complete in Him! We are not each other's savior and we know that, our Savior is Jesus and our purpose is to reflect Him and love Him as we love one another and those around us. And I must thank Denise for leading me to that love that Jesus created and offers in redemption and renewal. Thanks so much for the best 25 years of marriage, I love you!!

Jesus replied, 6 "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and

female.' 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Mark 10:6-9

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but your surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."

Proverbs 31:25-31

In Christ's Love,

Rob, Romans 12

## ON THE INSIDE

This past Wednesday I had the honor and privilege to officiate Uncle Don's funeral. It was easy because Don knows Jesus and was prepared for leaving this world and entering Heaven. Don accepted God's Gift of Grace early on and spent about eighty years fellowshiping with God in prayer, Bible study, and worship.

Some people openly declare that they don't want to go to Heaven. Some people tell me that they would rather be with their friends in hell than with the church crowd in heaven.

Most people, however, say they hope to go to Heaven when they die, but I've

often wondered what makes them think they would be happy there. They ignore Jesus and want nothing to do with God. They show no interest in Bible reading, prayer, and worship. Why would they suddenly enjoy fellowship with God on the other side?

We say we want God in our lives, but how passionately do we seek fellowship with Him? How much time do we spend reading His Word, praying, and worshipping? Does our soul thirst for Him and our thoughts long for Him?

As we take our First Presbyterian, Madisonville, Summer Break from fel-

lowship, Bible Study and worship let's ask the question: "Are we sure we want to spend eternity with Him?"

"O God, You are my God; early I will seek you, my soul thirsts for You" – Psalm 63:1.

On the Inside, Pastor Pete

## Reminder to Pray For The Persecuted Church

The Voice of the Martyrs and Open Doors, organizations devoted to ministering to persecuted Christians in various countries in the world, share that the most frequent requests they receive from those suffering for Christ are a desire for prayers and to not be forgotten by the Body of Christ. Prayer is a potent spiritual weapon and a

gift to our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. The free phone app from Voice of the Martyrs highlights a country to pray for each day or a monthly prayer calendar is available from Open Doors.

"Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them and them which suffer adversity, as

*"...the most frequent requests they receive from those suffering for Christ are a desire for prayers..."*

being yourselves also in the body." Hebrews 13:3

## April Finances At-A-Glance

Income	\$22,051.77	YTD Income	\$84,769.29
Expense	<u>-\$21,807.30</u>	YTD Expense	<u>-\$107,477.04</u>
Net	\$244.47	YTD Net	-\$22,707.75


Undesignated		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$18,632.45	Income	\$69,849.03
Expense	<u>-\$20,392.54</u>	Expense	<u>-\$82,833.10</u>
Net	-\$1,760.09	Net	-\$12,984.07

Designated		YTD Designated	
Income	\$3,419.32	Income	\$14,920.26
Expense	<u>-\$1,414.76</u>	Expense	<u>-\$24,643.94</u>



1 <sup>st</sup>	Margaret Todd	12 <sup>th</sup>	Julie Major
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Cheri Loftis	14 <sup>th</sup>	Greg Lane
	Jackson Sills	15 <sup>th</sup>	Craig & Shari Winstead (A)
4 <sup>th</sup>	Lance & Brenda Millard (A)	16 <sup>th</sup>	Carolyn Hunt
	Denise Wilson	18 <sup>th</sup>	Mike & Ann Hofmann (A)
5 <sup>th</sup>	Laurie Sills	20 <sup>th</sup>	Brenda Millard
6 <sup>th</sup>	Teresa Griffith	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ann Hofmann
	Holly Pohlman	24 <sup>th</sup>	Brooks & Anna Leasure
	James Cope	28 <sup>th</sup>	Larry Wilson
7 <sup>th</sup>	Doug Henley	29 <sup>th</sup>	Hunter Goodwin
8 <sup>th</sup>	Pete & Peggy Phelan (A)	30 <sup>th</sup>	Cierra Brown
10 <sup>th</sup>	Elizabeth Leasure Carlton		
11 <sup>th</sup>	Dale Davis		

# June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 6PM Session	6	7 	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30