

JULY 2018

ISSUE 15-2

The Diligent

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ARP LAKE WALES, FL

“...a Christ-centered fellowship of believers devoted to glorifying God through true worship, personal evangelism, discipleship, and servanthood.”

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Leadership

ELDERS AND DEACONS

From Pastor Chad

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." -1 Peter 5:1-5

We, as a congregation, are beginning the nominating process for church officers on Sunday, July 8. Nominations forms - which include Biblical descriptions of the necessary qualifications for each office - will be available online, in the parlor, and in the church office. The deadline for nominees to be submitted from members of the congregation to the Nominations Committee is Sunday, August 5. From there the Nominations Committee will submit a slate of willing candidates to the Session, which will then carry out a vetting process in keeping with the ARP's *Form of Government*. A new, and key, component of the vetting process is a 4-6 hour training that all candidates will have to participate in in order to be qualified as a potential nominee. Finally, a vetted slate of officers will be submitted to the congregation for their approval at our stated congregational meeting in December.

Here at First Presbyterian Church we have two primary church offices - Elder and Deacon. Elders are ordained to the purpose of governing and disciplining God's people by guarding and promoting their spiritual welfare. Deacons are ordained to the purpose of overseeing ministries of mercy as well as the material assets of the congregation. We believe these two offices are Biblical and constitute God's ordained means of leading and guiding His Church. With the nominating process in full



swing, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to:

Educate Yourself. Read passages such as 1 Timothy 3:1-12; Titus 1:5-9; and 1 Peter 5:1-5. In addition to these Scripture passages, consider also the words from our *Form of Government*, which expound the Scriptures in order to highlight the qualifications and purposes of each office. The applicable portions of the *Form of Government* are included on the nominating forms.

Pray. Pray for the current elders and deacons, who have important roles of leadership to carry out, as they seek to fulfill the duties of their offices to the glory of God and the good of our congregation, community, and the Church as a whole. Pray also for the Lord to make evident to you those people within our congregation whom He has blessed with the qualifications to serve in one of these two offices.

Nominate. Fill out a nomination form for each of those whom you feel called to submit as nominees to the Nominating Committee. Nomination forms can be found in the church office, the narthex, or on our website.

Trust. Church leadership is at its best when the leaders are humble and dependent upon the grace, wisdom, and discernment of the Lord. Ultimately we are trusting the Lord to guide us by His Word and His Spirit to choose the right men and women to serve in these important offices. Part of that trust in the Lord is accepting the process that has been instituted by our denomination as found in the *Form of Government*. Another part of that trust is having faith that the Lord is working through His people on the Nominations Committee and the Session as these leaders seek to exercise the necessary humility, grace, wisdom, and discernment to identify our future officers.

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Rejoice. Give God the glory. It is no small wonder that God has seen fit to work in and through people, frail and broken as we are. Over the years God worked in and through the likes of Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Deborah, Samson, Samuel, David, Elijah, Daniel, Peter, John, Paul, and Timothy among others to help lead and guide His people. He works similarly today, raising up men and women to serve His Church in various capacities. It is at times a frustrating thing as our human weaknesses and shortcomings are often most evident in our efforts to lead. But, it is also a beautiful exhibition of God's grace that He delights in storing the treasure of His Gospel in jars of clay such as those who are called to church office. ■

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The elders of First Presbyterian Church meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday. The following are some highlights from the June 26 meeting.

- The Session and Diaconate have both been reading and discussing the book, *The Hole in Our Holiness*, by Kevin DeYoung, at their monthly meetings in 2018. This month we read and discussed Chapter 5, "The Pleasure of God and the Possibility of Godliness." In this chapter, DeYoung points out the importance of seeing that holiness, albeit imperfect, is possible for us as Christians, by grace through faith. He writes, "It's one thing to be humble about our piety. It's another to think piety impossible. The truth is God's people can be righteous - not perfectly, but truly, and in a way that genuinely pleases God." Particular attention was given to Romans 12:1-2, 9-21.
- Stewardship and Finance reported that as of the end of May tithes and offering toward the church's general budget are at 44.47% of the annual budget. This is ahead of the average of 37.74% (2013-2017) our church has historically received by the end of May. Praise was given to God in prayer for His financial blessing.
- The Session approved a request from Bok Academy to host a portion of its North Campus for the 2018-19 school year. Details are pending and will be worked out in a lease agreement over the coming days. Bok North will be 6th grade only in its first year, with an anticipated 200 students. The school will be based at First Baptist Church and will utilize our gymnasium for physical education classes.
- The Session approved some changes to the Nominations Committee and the Nominations Process. The most significant change to the process is the addition of officer training prior to certification for nomination.
- The Session approved the concept of instituting electronic giving options. The Stewardship and Finance Committee will make recommendations to the Deacons to work out the details. More information will be made known to the congregation once available.
- The Session approved a request from the Safety Committee, via the Deacons, to have a police presence on our campus on Sunday mornings. A start date will be communicated to the congregation once it is established.
- The chairmen of the committees of the Session gave reports of the work and ministry they are overseeing (see the ministry sections of the Diligent for more on these ministries). Prayer was offered after each report, asking for the Lord's guidance and blessing.
- A brief summary of Synod and World Focus was shared by Mackay Smith and Chad Reynolds.
- A season of prayer was had for various needs within our congregation and community.

PRAYER FOCUSES

JULY 1

United States of America
Independence Day

JULY 8

Church Administrators,
Maria Herman and Sue Dolan

JULY 15

Ministry of Reconciliation

JULY 22

Lake Wales Care Center

JULY 29

Fine Arts Camp/Music Ministry

Discipleship

TEACHING ONE ANOTHER

From Pastor Mackay

Beginning this month, we'll explore our four objectives for Adult Small Groups: Teaching, Fellowship, Outreach, and Service.

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” - Colossians 3:16

Anyone who can be identified as a financial professional, say a CPA, must be a *numbers person*. Numbers characterize all that they do. More than that, numbers seem to be mysteriously worked into their DNA, such that everything they set their mind to ends up reducing down to a set of figures. Remember when people used to go out and walk for exercise? Now technology allows us to measure our walking by steps, a boon for all the numbers-wizards out there! In Colossians 3, Paul argues that those who can be identified as Christians (those who are, “raised with Christ”) are *word people*. That is, the message about Jesus found in the Scriptures and the promotion of that message characterize all that they do.

How does this occur? Paul encourages the Colossians to “let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.” That “you” is plural; this is an instruction to the body of believers. So, how does this happen? How does the word infuse into our corporate DNA? Paul continues: as we teach and admonish one another.

A massive part of the Christian life is setting forth the truths of Scripture to each other (teaching), and encouraging one another, by positive motivation and negative warnings, to live in the way that Scripture guides us (admonishing). We often hear of the importance of ingesting and unlocking the truths of the Bible to ourselves in daily quiet time devotions. This is well in line with Paul’s instruction. How can we speak truth
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SAVE THE DATE

DISCIPLESHIP SUNDAY - AUGUST 19TH

Join us in the fellowship hall after morning worship to celebrate God’s work in our Discipleship Ministries!

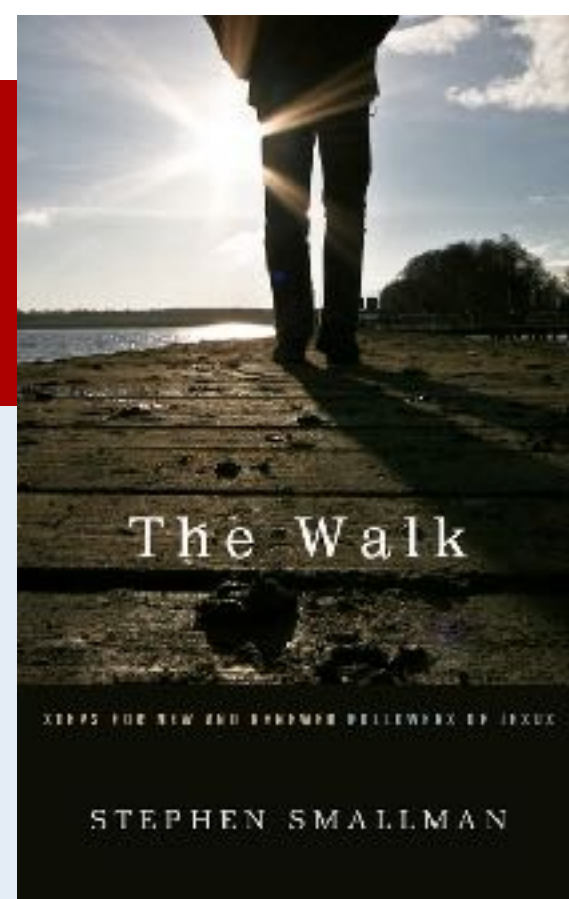
THE BOOK NOOK

***The Walk*
by Stephen Smallman**

Drawing on years of pastoral experience, Smallman lays out a basic, accessible understanding of the core of the Christian faith. This is a book for all believers, but especially for those desiring clarity on the essentials. It is also a wonderful book for new believers, or those interested in learning about the Christian faith.

***The Walk* is available for a suggested donation of \$17.99.**

***The Book Nook* is located in the Church Parlor, behind the Chapel. Check it out for excellent resources.**



EKKLESIA

Ekklesia resumes on September 5th.

Continued from page 4...

to others unless we have first ingested and applied it ourselves? Paul also recognizes the particular teaching role of pastors and elders. He uses “teaching” and “warning” to characterize his own ministry in 1:28. Yet, in addition to our times of prayer and study, and our learning from gifted spiritual leaders, there is a clear calling here to teach one another.

Teaching each other helps both teacher and student learn more of Scripture. Teaching is always one of the fastest means to learning. Thus, when we teach, we grow! Further, teaching each other surrounds us with a constant force pushing us towards Christ. We worship for only a little over an hour on Sunday (Note it’s importance in this verse, however; Paul indicates a major way of teaching each other is to sing together!). Most of us are not under the direct influence of an elder or pastor in a daily way. However, as we eat together, talk together, and live together, our “peer-to-peer” ministry provides a constant force for good.

At First Presbyterian, one major avenue for carrying out this calling is our Small Group ministry. I’ve seen firsthand the challenge and growth that comes from taking one another to the Word of God. May it be, as we encourage each other, a core part of all of our lives. ■

SMALL GROUPS

HIGHLIGHTS

Looking back/Looking ahead.

A couple weeks ago, your small group leader was given a simple form to look back on 2017-18.

How has your group grown together?

What have you studied?

What outreach and service ministries have you accomplished?

Take the opportunity sometime to pray about how God may use your Small Group this year!

“DO I JUST... SHOW UP?”

I was recently asked this excellent question by someone not involved in a Small Group. The answer? Yes! Any Small Group would love to welcome you, even if they are in the middle of a teaching series.

Even better, speak to me (Mackay), and I can help you get



22 20

PRAYER POINTS

- **Boldness** in encouraging young people to seek God's will for their lives
- The Lord to raise up **missionaries** from your congregation
- **Courage** to ask – *"Lord, are you calling me?"*
- **Strength, protection, anointing** for present WW missionaries
- New **passion** to reach the lost – in me and my church

SAVE THE DATE

Alex Pettett, Executive Director of World Witness, will be preaching in our morning worship service on Sunday, July 29. He will be sharing more than about the 2-2-20 initiative, which is introduced in his article.

CALL TO THE CHURCH THE 2-2-20-INITIATIVE

From Alex Pettett

The missionary who came to speak that day approached the 10-year-old girl and gently knelt in front of her. Taking the girl's shoulders in her hands, she says, "I think you'd make great missionary." Those words echoed in the impressionable child's head for years until, at the age of 27, she accepted a call to missions.

Have you ever considered offering bold encouragement like this to a young person? Have you begun to pray for the Lord to raise up missionaries from among your own congregation? If not, here's your chance to join the entire ARP denomination in a new era of missions – the **2-2-20 initiative**.

We are asking every ARP church to submit **2** names of **2** potential missionaries to World Witness, by the year **2020 (hence "2-2-20")**. If the entire denomination participates, this will effectively engage **2%** of the denomination in foreign missions and quintuple our current mission force. This bold embrace of the Great Commission will not only impact thousands of Muslims in Europe, Pakistanis, and secular Europeans, with the Gospel, but it will position your church to begin a new era of growth.

When an entire congregation is daily engaged in prayer for the uprising of a new class of missionaries, the inescapable outcome will be a congregation engaged in missions, with neighbors, family and coworkers. It's almost impossible to pray for the Lord to raise up new missionaries without asking the most obvious question, *"Lord, are you calling me?"* and secondly, *"If you are not calling me abroad, who around me needs the Gospel?"* As John Piper states,

"When it comes to missions, there are only three types of people, 'goers, senders, and the disobedient.'"

Remember, we are asking for a two-year prayer initiative which will launch during June 2018 Synod/ World Focus. We will send announcements and literature on how to be involved and will be asking churches to share ideas on how to move this initiative forward. For now, the simplest way is to begin praying: "Lord, show me who you want to call to missions." **BE BOLD. ■**

OKLAHOMA

A GLIMPSE INTO THE FIRST ARP CHURCH PLANT IN OKLAHOMA

From Rev. Justin Westmoreland

Justin Westmoreland is the church planter at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Norman, OK.

This past Sunday, God led 49 people to cram into our church plant's borrowed worship space, I preached "Seeing and Savoring the Supremacy of Christ" from Proverbs 8. This was a really good turnout as the summer population in Norman is particularly slim with graduation, summer vacations, and OU out for the summer. We welcomed a new member to the church, a college student, Zack, who hopes to attend seminary next year and go into ministry.

We recently had the privilege of having one of our Easter/Christmas families who never go to church show up at our weekly worship service on the third Sunday in June!!! Nothing remarkable was happening that Sunday except Father's Day was that day. The husband *wanted* to go to church. This is stunning as the wife had previously said her husband would never come to church. God brought them! They are one of the many contacts we have in Norman. I've observed that it often takes lots of time to move people from totally unchurched to disciples. The husband reportedly was captivated by it and spent much of his day Sunday looking up Presbyterian resources online. Wow!



Our vision is for the people of Oklahoma to have full life by applying Christ's redemption to all of life (John 10:10). We want to have a fully alive, disciple making household on every street in Cleveland County. Praise God for



crystallizing our unique vision that our people have embraced.

For the last two months Cody, Tammie, and their teenage daughter have been driving 3 hours on Sundays round trip to worship with us and spend the Lord's Day with us in Norman. There are no Reformed Presbyterian churches between their home and Norman, OK. They found out about us because one of their daughter's friends in South Carolina told them about us! Their house is on the market and they are enthusiastic about moving to Norman and participating in our mission to put a fully alive household on every street in Cleveland County, OK. Pray for the Wamplers' home to sell soon.

We are praying for God to send us a few more families moving here in the Fall. We have our first adult baptism scheduled for August! Praise God he has a new disciple named, Lori, here. We hope to see many more Lori's as God builds the church in Oklahoma.

This Monday-Wednesday night we are holding our first ever neighborhood bible club in my backyard. We have volunteers leading neighborhood kids through gospel project lessons while I am leading the parents of the children through a parenting seminar. ■

To hear more, visit www.trinitynorman.com and sign up for notifications or download our app to get more info. If you would like to become a financial partner, you can give securely through our app or website. Please like and share our page on Facebook. Email us at admin@trinitynorman.com

A LITTLE TASTE OF HEAVEN

From Dr. Juan Carlos Bonilla



Dr. Juan Carlos Bonilla is with Church Planting in Madrid, Spain a ministry of World Witness. "Our vision is to plant a missional and multicultural Church among young professional families in Madrid."

You can find out more about his work at www.GodLovesSpain.com.

God began by making one person, and from him came all the different people who live everywhere in the world. God decided exactly when and where they must live. (Acts 17:26 NCV)

We live in a world with many different kinds of people. Your neighborhood, school and city probably reflect this. Multicultural ministry expresses the church diversity in terms of nations, tribes, and languages. Every day we see more and more people from different countries moving into our cities, towns, and neighborhoods. Tim Keller states that five million new people move into the big cities every month (*Center Church*). In other words, this world is becoming more and more multicultural.

Today, thousands of God's elect from different nationalities may live in your city or town. The key question that can be raised is, how the church of Christ, those that are called to "proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9b), can share Christ's love in a multicultural society. When we flesh out the fruits of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 2:22-23), a unique door opens to "make a defense to anyone who asks you for the reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15).

The Apostle Paul states "God decided exactly where and when they

SPAIN

(every person in this world) should live (Acts 17:26b)". It is not a coincidence that you have someone from Mexico, China, India, or from another country living in your neighborhood. God in His care and providence has brought international people close to you, so His mission can continue being accomplished (Revelation 7:9). God's invitation to you and me is to be intentional in proclaiming the good news when building relationships with those that are from nationalities different than our own. Benjamin B. Warfield said, "when the whole course of the Gospel shall be complete, and shall be surveyed from beginning to end, it will be found that God's elect, or church, is 'a great multitude which no man can number, out of *all* nations, and kindreds, and peoples, and tongues,' and that their voice is as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, 'Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth'" (*Are They Few that Be Saved?*).

When was the last time you shared Christ's love with someone different than you? Maybe now is the time to heed God's call. ■



Music Ministry

WHY CAN'T WE SING THE "GOOD OL' HYMNS?"

From Vince Treadway

I am sometimes asked the question, "Why can't we sing the "good ol' hymns?" My response is usually, "What do you mean by the "good ol' hymns?" And the answer is usually, "You know what I mean, the good ol' hymns we used to sing!" (with a bit of a tone of frustration in the voice). The fact of the matter is that what are the "good ol' hymns" to one person may be unknown to another. Often times it is our own past experience with songs sung in the church that make them near and dear to us.

Surveys have been done over the years with different congregations to determine the "top ten" favorite hymns/songs. Surprisingly there is very little overlap of favorites with most people. Ask 10 people what their top favorite 5 hymns are, and you will get 10 different answers. There may not even be any hymns in common among them! One reason for this is that many people in a given church come from varying backgrounds; some Baptist, some Lutheran, some Episcopal, some Catholic, some unchurched, etc. This diversity of backgrounds from which we come contributes to the great variety of hymns and songs that are known. Add to that the varying ages, geographical locations, ethnic background, and the diversity of "good ol' hymns" and songs grows even greater!

So the question then is, how do we select hymns and songs for worship that will meet the needs of worship (praise, repentance, lament, Psalm singing, Scripture settings, etc.) in a way that can be embraced by the congregation, include some favorites of different people at different times, be beautiful and singable, occasionally include some new songs from our current culture, and provide variety in style and genre? The answer is quite complicated and could take volumes to answer, however, I would like to include a few guidelines that we use here at First Presbyterian Church.

Our first hymn is always a hymn of praise, and we draw upon a list of about 30 hymns that have been chosen by our staff as what we consider to be timeless hymns of praise that reflect the truth of Scripture and the Reformed faith. Those 30 hymns are used about twice a year (52 Sundays a year) so that the congregation can get to know them and

sing them with confidence. The other hymns and songs that are used in our worship are selected by what purpose they will serve (hymn of confession, response to sermon, etc.). We also take into consideration how well the texts are set to music, how singable the tune is, and how true to Scripture the texts are. We try to provide varieties of style, time periods, genres, and instrumental accompaniments so that the congregation grows in knowledge and familiarity with the wealth of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs that are available for us to sing to the Lord. In one service we may use an opening hymn from the 1st century, a Psalm setting written by Martin Luther, a contemporary chorus written within the last 5 years, and a spiritual. The process of hymn/song selection is taken very seriously, and great effort is made to make sure that many factors are considered. Believe it or not, the hymns and songs we sing are not selected because they are the favorites of the Director of Music!

Having said all of this, if you do have a favorite hymn that you would like to sing during our worship, please write it down and give it to me. I promise I will do my best to include it at the next possible opportunity when it will work well within the order of worship. Finally, I would ask everyone to think about the songs that our brothers and sisters in Christ are singing all around the world; the variety of styles and genres, the times that they have been written throughout the centuries, and those that have been loved by saints who are now in glory and by those who are still living. Let's join that glorious host and sing all of our hymns and songs to the glory of God together! ■

SUMMER FINE ARTS CAMP
JULY 30 - AUGUST 3
9:00AM - 1:00PM DAILY
CHILDREN AGES 7-14
COST - \$25 PER CHILD
OR \$20 PER CHILD WITH MORE
THAN ONE IN A FAMILY

Classes offered include Singing/Diction, Art, Drama, and two electives (select one) Handbells and Dance. The Dance class will be jazz/pop in style.

Registrations forms can be found at our website, fpclw.org or at the church office.

Registration is limited. Scholarships available

For more details or any questions, please contact Director of Music Ministries, Vince Treadway at vince@fpclw.org or at 863-676-0711. Volunteers are needed to help with supervision of the children. If you are available to help for a couple of hours or every day, please contact Vince Treadway at 863-978-7071. Thank you for your consideration!

QUEST AND CHRIST-CENTERED REST

From Shane Miller

Don't you think it's interesting that one of God's commandments entails taking a day off of work? During an age in which the law of God is viewed as arbitrary and burdensome, people continue to ascribe to the notion that a day off is a good idea. (I wonder what they would think about extended Sabbaths which would last up to a full year.) After all, wouldn't it be absolutely nonsensical to work one's existence away while failing to take advantage of the joys of life? Blessings of recreation, family, and entertainment can certainly be missed when we treat the office as a second home.

Yet even still, what the surrounding culture enjoys in shadow and in part, we, the children of God, have the privilege of appreciating in unveiled fullness. For us, time off is not an opportunity to simply just enjoy creation itself, but also an occasion to adore our Creator, remembering the eternal rest that was obtained for us by the blood of His Son. As we revel in the wonders of this gospel of grace, we remember that true refreshment comes from the blood-bought freedom of worshiping Him in His very presence. As I took an extended time of rest at Bonclarken with our Middle Schoolers, I was certainly reminded of these truer and better benefits of redeemed rest.

As someone who had never been to Bonclarken or attended any Youth Camps, I didn't quite know what to expect. All I had heard was that compared to Bonclarken, Disney World was only the second greatest place on earth. As for the camps at Bonclarken, I heard that they were designed for the sole purpose of youth leaders being given awesome opportunities to minister to their students. As for the latter bit of testimony, my experience at Quest certainly exceeded even those expectations.

Quest created an environment in which our students could experience the kind of Biblical rest described above. At Bonclarken, there was no

shortage of fun activities for the Middle School students to enjoy. But all of our time at Quest didn't finally center around zip-lining or paintball, but Christ. Evan English, this year's speaker, presented the gospel in a winsome and practical way, preaching night after night on Jesus' "I am" statements in the gospel of John. The students, then, were challenged to drop their own preconceived notions about Jesus, allowing Christ, instead, to speak for Himself. It was an awesome thing to see students confronted with the Jesus of the Bible, maybe even some for the first time.

Through personal devotional time in the morning, family time reflecting on the Bible passage which was preached on that night, and even through the fun activities provided for us at Bonclarken, students and leaders were able to further cultivate relationships which had begun in Lake Wales. Best of all, at every turn of the week, students and leaders were refreshed and rejuvenated in the presence of Jesus, the true food, the light of the world, the good shepherd. Now, as I enter the hypothetical work week, I am looking forward to laboring with our leaders to water seeds which had been planted during a week of Christ-centered rest on Bonclarken. ■

PRAY FOR US

- The seeds which have been planted at Quest could grow into fruit which would glorify Christ.
- Our students could grow in their knowledge of and love for Jesus.
- Our students could be refreshed during summer break in such a way that when Wednesday night ministry begins again, they would be all the more receptive to the gospel.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Stay-at-Home
Summer Work Camp
July 22 - 27**

Children's Ministry

REFLECTIONS ON MEGA SPORTS CAMP

From Laney Reynolds

MEGA, MEGA, MEGA SPORTS CAMP! These are familiar words to a song that you heard loud and clear if you were at First Presbyterian Church the week of June 4-8. We had a great week learning that being on a sports team means that you will share many experiences together as athletes as well as in everyday life. Success comes from cooperation and respect, even when someone makes a mistake. Team Spirit was our theme and the MEGA verse for the week was Ephesians 4:32, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Through our daily Bible stories, we learned that even Jesus chose a team to show us what TEAM spirit is all about.

Art, cheerleading, flag football, basketball, potty patrol, snack preparation, Mega Girl, computer guy, and the danceteam were just some of the many ways in which our awesome volunteers led and served during the week. Mega Sports Camp was staffed by about 65 volunteers from middle school students through adults of all ages! We were blessed to have about 90 kids walk through our church doors each day, ranging from preschool age to rising 6th graders. About 60% of the campers were children who are not members of our own congregation. More than a few of those do not have a church home. Thanks be to God that we were able to share the Gospel, not only with our own children, but with many children from our community. Please keep these students and their families in your prayers, that the Gospel of Jesus, which they heard proclaimed at Sports Camp, would be fruitful in their lives.

Thank you to EVERYONE who helped plan, coach, teach, sing, cook, clean, pray, and play during our Mega Sports Camp week. You are appreciated! ■

REFLECTIONS ON MEGA SPORTS CAMP

From Bob Meeker

Mega Sports Camp was truly a blessed for me, as the head football coach, and for all the flag



footballers.

Flag football had three sessions per day of Christian competition and fellowship. Between the football sessions we participated in Bible stories, which worked in complementary fashion with our sports experience.

Throughout the week we learned Gospel truths using the acronym **TEAM**. **T** is for **T**eam which means "we not me". **E** is for **E**veryone deserves my respect. **A** is for we **A**ll make mistakes. (forgiveness is a powerful skill). **M** is for **M**y attitudes and actions matter. The campers were all taught **TEAM** by MEGA Girl, who was the cheerleader for the entire group. She would come to our football sessions and lead cheers for "**TEAM**" and the campers would respond by chanting the phrases. She motivated the campers to learn Ephesians 4:32, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Flag Football provided the media which allowed the campers to have fun yet learn Biblical concepts. We practiced team spirit and forgiveness on the field throughout the week. There were six coaches for 16 team members. At times we as coaches would become frustrated with a footballer's misbehavior. We needed to forgive these infractions because, after all, we have been forgiven in Christ. I found myself quoting our Bible verse to campers and to myself throughout the camp. This Gospel truth helped us resolve conflicts between campers and coaches.

It seemed evident that the Spirit of the Lord was at work each day, as the Gospel was shared and lived out. ■

REFLECTIONS ON MEGA SPORTS CAMP

From Rachel Miller

This year my daughter Autumn graduated from Mini Sports Camp (pre-K campers) and was finally old enough to be a “Mega” camper (K-5th grade). She has been watching my son Isaac go to Camp for five years, though that first year she watched from a bouncy chair in the nursery as I volunteered. She had her choice of sports, and she emphatically chose cheerleading, the sport that I have the pleasure of coaching.

We start every day at Sports Camp with the camp song, and all the kids punch their hands and dance as they shout, “MEGA, MEGA, MEGA Sports Camp!” The melody shifts, and our campers sing along to the music that highlights the theme of the week, TEAM work. One song gives us our memory verse that tells us, “be kind and compassionate to one another,” (Ephesians 4:32). I look around and see the faces of children who were campers when we started Sports Camp and are now old enough to be coaching assistants.

We go to our room, the old fellowship hall, and start learning cheers, turning cartwheels and building stunts. We play games and the girls practice their team building skills. The whistle blows, and we sit as a group while our Huddle Coach leads us in a discussion about working as a team, making mistakes, and respecting others. The campers open their hearts and talk about what matters to them. We go back to join the other groups for snacks, and the campers hear Bible stories that tell of Jesus’ kindness and compassion to all, even to those who would eventually betray Him. There is a culminating message that no matter what, Jesus forgives, and the Camp hears the good news of the Gospel. The coaches go home a little tired, a little sore, but with full hearts as we see Jesus filling the hearts of the campers each day.

Sometime during the week, the campers start to become friends with kids they’ve just met. One day I see an older girl sit by my little girl and say to her, “Good job, give me a high-five!” Autumn beams and tells me later that the girl is her best friend now. On Friday the same girl sees me peeling tape from the floor after our performance and asks if she can help. I ask her if she will be back next year and she enthusiastically says she will. She’s just finished

fourth grade and will be able to cheer with us again for one more summer. It strikes me that this young lady, who was kind to my 6 year old daughter and now helps me, has shown her compassion to all of us as she simply led her life in our sessions, loving us as Christ loves her.

At the end of the week we reflect on the growth we have seen in these campers, both spiritually and physically. We say goodbye knowing that we will see many of them again in town, if not at church or Camp next summer. As I shut off the lights one last time for this Camp, our verse sings in my mind, and I smile, praying that these words will echo in the hearts of our campers until we meet again.

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) ■

REFLECTIONS ON MEGA SPORTS CAMP

From Angie Crews

I enjoyed helping out with the art class during VBS this year. Our bible verse for the week was, “be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32. Throughout the week the children listened to stories about how to be kind, compassionate and forgiving with each other. The children had great fun creating their various art projects that coincided with their bible lessons for the day. For example, the children took turns being blindfolded while listening to their peers for directions on how and where to paint. They made a face mask made of plaster while showing respect by asking for permission to place pieces carefully on each other’s face. We had opportunities to talk and pray with them daily. Vacation Bible School week always allows another opportunity to plant seeds in the hearts of so many children. Just within my small group I was asked about prayer and church and we discussed God’s love for us and His forgiveness. ■

MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Trent Jackson, July 1
 Keaton Kohl, July 1
 Kevin Kohl, July 1
 Marguerite Bacon, July 2
 John Beck, July 2
 Pat Frankenburger, July 2
 Sasha Friend, July 2
 Tami Estes, July 5
 Maggie Clare Hixenbaugh, July 5
 Whitney Brewer, July 6
 Tom Galloway, July 6
 Chip Carter, July 7
 Caroline Swanson, July 7
 Bob Brookes, July 8
 Louise Gingrich, July 9
 Troy Hershberger, July 10
 Becky Jahna, July 10
 Bob Meeker, July 13
 Nikki Sealey, July 13
 Joshua Roe, July 16
 Julia Roe, July 16
 Cash Cockrell, July 17
 Alison Freeland, July 17
 Maya Hershberger, July 17
 Faith Treadway, July 17
 Chuck Loveless, July 20
 Jack Brandies, July 21
 James Ebel, July 21
 Chad Reynolds, July 22
 Wanda Bryan, July 23
 Dick Bailey, July 24
 David Kennedy Nelson, July 25
 June Ullman, July 15
 Ellen Horn, July 28
 David Nelson, July 28
 Carol Bourdette, July 29
 Charlie Henry, July 29
 Dawn McCollum, July 31

ANNIVERSARIES

July 6, Troy & Suzie Hershberger
 July 13, Jim & Diana Smith
 July 11, John & Laureen Beck
 July 19, Chad & Laney Reynolds
 July 20, John & Rachel Miller
 July 21, Jeremy & Sasha Friend
 July 24, Julia & Michael Berkau
 July 29, Bob & Lynne Hulen

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all the many cards, prayers, phone calls, participation, hugs, memorial donations to the church and city library, the reception, etc., upon the loss of my wife, Carol Crews. The support has truly been overwhelming and I wanted to express my gratitude.

-David Crews



CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator: Rev. Chad Reynolds
Vice Moderator: Rev. Mackay Smith
Clerk of Session: David Nelson
Chairman of Deacons: Jake Cockrell
Deacon Secretary: David Kennedy Nelson
Chm. of the Congregation: Scott Blackburn
Treasurer: Michelle Hurst (2018-2019)
Asst. Treasurer: Daniel Hunt (2018-2019)

ELDERS

2018

Josh Behr
 Jack Brandies
 Jim Weaver
 Gill Wingate

2019

Andy Hunt
 Daniel Hunt
 David Nelson
 Jimmy Seay

2020

John Dubois
 Stewart Hurst
 Ed Lamb
 Fox Rawlings

2021

Mike Berkau
 Paul Benner

DEACONS

2018

Laura Hunt
 Robert Meeker
 Scott Smith
 JB Wynn

2019

Jake Cockrell
 Troy Hershberger
 Kevin Kohl
 Michael Matteson
 Wendy Moore

2020

David Bass
 Lynne Hulen
 Rob McCollum
 David Kennedy Nelson



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