

AUGUST 2018

ISSUE 15-3

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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UPROOTING SIN FROM THE HEART

From Pastor Chad

The elders and deacons of First Presbyterian Church have been reading The Hole in Our Holiness, by Kevin DeYoung, during their devotional time before each monthly meeting this year. Some of the subjects we discussed recently were the question of whether or not all sin is equal and the need for Spirit-powered effort to root out sin in our lives. These have been fruitful discussions. I thought they would make for a good article for us to consider together as a congregation.

Which is the worst transgression: to murder someone, to speak venomously against them, or to secretly hate them in your heart? Which is the greater sin: to commit adultery against your husband, to secretly indulge in looking at pornography online, or to dress provocatively?

Is not all sin equal? Haven't we heard that sin is sin? In a certain sense the equality of sins is true because "[e]very sin deserves [God's] displeasure, both in this life, and that which is to come," (*Westminster Shorter Catechism*, Q. 84). All sins are ultimately sins against God and against His sovereignty (Psalm 51:4). They all flow out of hearts that are sinful and cannot be changed apart from the grace of Christ Jesus. Nevertheless, are all sins really equal?

The Westminster Shorter Catechism asks the question in this manner: "Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?" (Q. 83). The answer given is, "Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others?" Dr. Mark Ross, in his teaching on the Ten Commandments, has pointed out the descending nature of the commandments from most heinous to least. In other words, the sin of having other gods before God is more serious than the sin of coveting your neighbor's house. Both are transgressions of the law, but to break the first commandment is more grievous than to break the tenth.

Not only are some sins in themselves more heinous, but the catechism also says that sin can go from bad to worse "by reason of several

aggravations." *The Westminster Larger Catechism*, Q. 151, says, "Sins receive their aggravations: 1) From the persons offending... 2) From parties offended... 3)

From the nature and quality of the offense [and]... 4) From circumstances of time and place... (If you would like to read Q. 151 and its answer in more detail, you can look it up at <http://arpchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/ARP-Standards.pdf>)

What does all of this mean? If we consider the sixth commandment, "You shall not murder," (Deuteronomy 5:17) as an example, it means that "whoever murders will be liable to judgment," (Matthew 6:21). Jesus extends the spectrum of sin from the act of murder all the way back to the heart and tells us that "everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire," (Matthew 6:22). Sin is at its core a heart issue, so to hate another person in your heart is to already be spiritually walking along the path towards murder. The sin of hatred in your heart is not yet murder, but it can be aggravated and compounded by various outward expressions. For example, it can be aggravated by speaking hatefully to the person whom you scorn, or by speaking slanderously about her in her absence. It can then be further compounded by lashing out physically to hurt the other person. It can also be considered more serious depending upon who your victim is. If it is a vulnerable or weak person (e.g. a child, an elderly person, a poor person, or someone over whom you have authority) then the sin is made worse. If it is an authority figure in your life (e.g. a parent, a teacher, or a boss) the sin is heightened. It can be most heinously aggravated by the planning and carrying out of the actual act of murder. The spectrum of sin that goes from hatred to murder by reasons of several aggravations can be applied similarly to other sins of the heart as well.

So where does that leave us? Apart from Christ, it leaves us all as idolaters, murderers, adulterers, and thieves; at least in our hearts if not outwardly. None of us has been able to overcome our sin in our own strength. We all fail on that account and stand before God justly deserving His displeasure. The law, by itself, shows us that we can go from bad to worse (and maybe back again) but we cannot go from bad to good. Not on our own. So, even if we are

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able to refrain from outward idolatry, murder, adultery, and theft how are we to put to death the sin that lies within? How are we to conquer our hearts? In our flesh we cannot. "But if Christ is in [us], although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in [us], He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to [our] mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in [us]... if [we] live according to the flesh [we] will die, but if by the Spirit [we] put to death the deeds of the body, [we] will live," (Romans 8:10-11, 13). So, in Christ, rather than allowing a sin of the heart, like hatred, to have purchase and grow, through several aggravations, into more heinous sins against God and others, we make a practice of putting that sin to death early before it ever grows into its more destructive forms. The full power of the Gospel of Christ enables us to refrain not only from sin's most grievous outward manifestations but to root it out in the depths of our hearts as well. Not only do we root out sin but we cultivate the fruit of the Spirit within us for there is no law against having an abundant crop of such things (Galatians 5:22-25). ■

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The elders of First Presbyterian Church meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday. The following are some highlights from the July 24 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 6, "Spirit-Powered, Gospel-Driven, Faith-Fueled Effort" 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 8:9-15.
- Stewardship and Finance reported that as of the end of June tithes and offerings toward the church's general budget are at 49.47% of the annual budget. This is ahead of the average of 45.48% (2013-2017) our church has historically received by the end of June. Praise was given to God in prayer for His financial blessing.
- The Session approved a Memorandum of Agreement with Bok Academy to host a portion of its North Campus for the 2018-19 school year. 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 on Monday-Friday of the academic year.
- 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 season of prayer was had for various needs within our congregation and community. ■

PRAYER FOCUSES

AUGUST 5

- Elders and Deacons of First Presbyterian Church

AUGUST 12

- Students, teachers and administrators of our local schools as the new academic year begins.
- The Pike Family and the Bridge Europe Team

AUGUST 19

- Discipleship Ministries of First Presbyterian Church

AUGUST 26

- The Roe Family and the ministries in Kenya

Discipleship

DEEP FRIENDSHIP

From Pastor Mackay

This is the second month of exploring our four objectives for Adult Small Groups: Teaching, Fellowship, Outreach, and Service.

Deep Friendship

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:10-11

In the church, “fellowship,” is a word thrown around a great deal. We have a fellowship hall. When we celebrate with friends, we “have a party;” but if they’re *church* friends, we “enjoy fellowship together.” When we just want people to get together and we don’t want the hassle of a lesson or a program, we authorize it by calling it fellowship. So, is our objective of fellowship just Christians being in the same room? Or, could we be driving toward something more?

At some sweet moments, we seem to experience that, “something more,” as there is a true delight we can find in other people. Yes, we have many acquaintances, but there is also a blessing of *deep* friends. Those who seem to understand us implicitly. Conversation flows unimpeded, for years of investment, cooperation, resolved conflict, and love, all inform each word and action. We are drawn to our own deep friends, and even if miles separate us, we anticipate the next time we are able to be together. If we don’t have them, we want them.

In these two verses John lays out a staggering syllogism: God has loved us, thus we are to love one another. This call finds its roots in the unmerited grace of God who sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sin. This is a deep love. Such sacrifice serves as the model of how the people of God are to treat one another: pursuing the same deep love.

Maybe deep friendships is an alien concept to you. We live in an age rife with
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SAVE THE DATE

Discipleship Sunday

August 19th - Following Morning Worship in the Fellowship Hall

Come and see (and eat)! God is working in our Children’s Ministry, Ekklesia program, and Adult Small Groups. On August 19, a program highlighting those ministries will follow a breakfast together in the Fellowship Hall. Join us!

Small Groups: You are asked to help by providing food for breakfast. Look for Mackay to contact you soon.

THE BOOK NOOK

The Ology: Ancient Truths Ever New
By: Marty Machowski



With the start of a new school year, equip yourself to teach your children, grandchildren, and the children of our church with this beautifully illustrated, hardback story of the eternal truths of God. Each chapter relates information about God, His Word, and His World in an appealing, truthful, and comprehensive way. An amazing systematic theology for children.

The Ology is available for a suggested donation of \$20.60. *The Book Nook* is located in the Church Parlor, behind the Chapel. Check it out for excellent resources.

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barriers to friendship. We are busy. We are trained to be consumers; thus people are only valuable insofar as they meet a need we have identified for ourselves. We isolate ourselves (ironically) with technology that claims to “connect” us. The sexual revolution has polluted close friendships, such that intimacy of any kind is now assumed to rest on lustful undertones. This can cause hesitancy and awkwardness when there should be none.

Yet, countering the selfish future is the selfless love of God. When we take this love as our source and model of friendship, precious new expectations and patterns develop. God has loved everyone by creating them in His image (Gen. 1:27). This gives us ground, even before we know someone, to expect that they have value and are precious in some way. Jesus’ blood is powerful enough to wash clean even the vilest sinner. So, we can expect and look for the good in others. We also can selflessly do good to one another (Gal. 6:10), not hanging our friendship on what they can do for us, but pursuing. Finally, we are free to shoulder the inherent risks in pursuing others, like rejection and disappointment, for our ultimate acceptance with God is sure (Heb. 13:6).

Small Groups are a wonderful context to practice this kind of radical fellowship. Each week we gather in a context of pointing to God’s love. We all know what it’s like to have acquaintances founded in sports, work, or simply proximity. Yet, a group pointed to Christ is constantly reminded of God’s love for us; which encourages our deeper love for each other.

My prayer is that our Small Groups would be a place with this kind of fellowship: not compelled, perfunctory togetherness, but Christ-centered, sacrificial friendship. Our love for each other will grow to be deep as we follow after the pattern of deep love we have received. ■

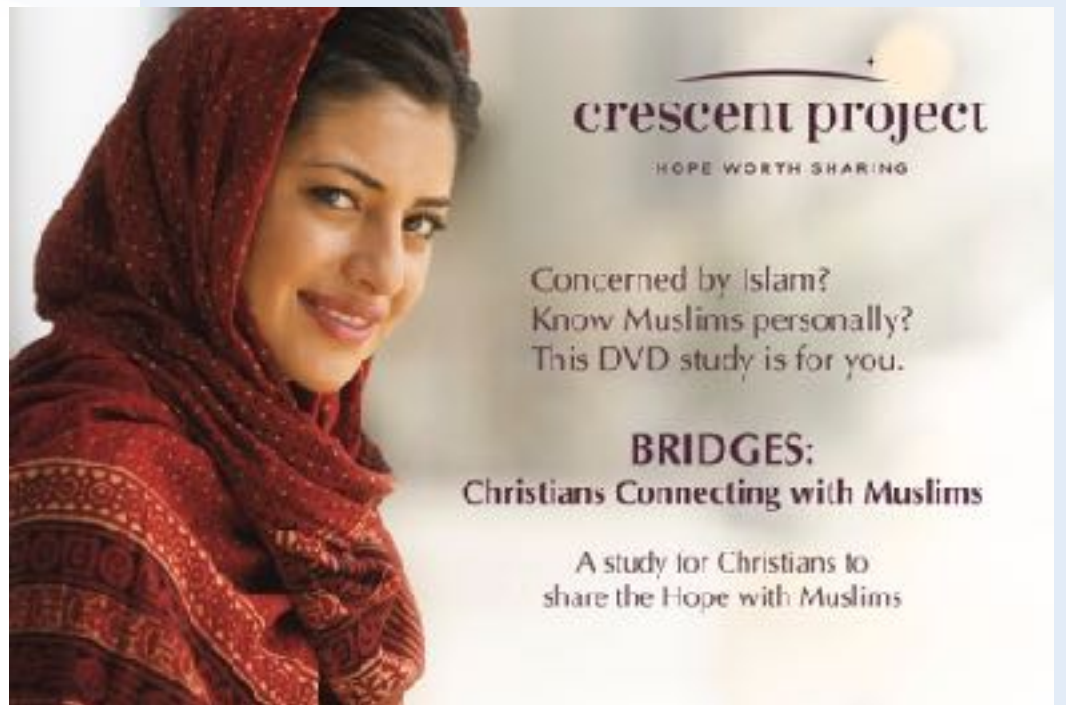


EKKLESIA

Ekklesia resumes on September 5th.

SMALL GROUPS

A new Adult Small Group begins August 26th. The group begins at 8:15pm, and will meet at Mackay and Rachel Smith’s home.



The Breather Series “Bridges: Christians Connecting with Muslims” concluded on July 29th with Alex Pettett. Thanks to all who provided refreshments. Pray the Lord would lead us to opportunities to share the love of Jesus with many.



Jackson and Margaret live more traditionally in a Maasai village where they tend their family's herd. We were able to visit with them and Margaret prepared tea for us in her home.



We were able to visit a school in the same rural area where Jackson and Margaret live. Patti got to interact with the class and teacher



At the girls home, they love to goof off for the camera!

KENYA GUESS WHERE WE'RE GOING?

From Morgan Roe

In 2016, Patti and I were invited to visit dear friends of ours, Fred and Cecily Strang, who have been working as missionaries in southern Kenya for over 30 years. During the nearly 2 weeks we visited, we were able to visit several locations and meet many of their friends. I had the opportunity to teach a Christian business principles seminar to folks who were church members, lay pastors, and tent-making evangelists. The teaching was well received and the Strangs are often asked if I will return to teach again.

We also visited a girls' rescue home that provides a safe harbor for about 80 girls ages 9 to 18. Interestingly, the home's director, Panina, was one of the first Bible-study participants that Fred and Cecily had when they first started their ministry in the area 30 years ago. Panina's tireless efforts to support and maintain this faith-supported ministry supply the mandatory components of love, safety, food and shelter. Touring the buildings and later visiting with many of the girls, Patti and I were impressed with the obvious care and compassion the girls receive from Panina's leadership. Later, Panina confessed to us that she needs help.

We were able to worship with two different congregations who were predominantly Maasai, the indigenous tribal group of the region with whom the Strangs had mostly worked. The Maasai have a rich and proud history as mighty warriors and exceptional herdsman. The modern world is encroaching on their culture and the Maasai people now include suit-clad professionals as well as barefoot herdsman living in dung huts. The Maasai had been evangelized by early Scottish Presbyterians and there is a Christian sub-culture among them. However, as Islam moves south through Africa, generous Muslim funded social programs have become a strong draw for many. Encouraging and expanding the Christian infrastructure already in place is a key part of the Strang's ministry.

Through the Strangs, we have received an invitation to return to Kenya to teach more on Christian business. After prayerful consideration, we have decided to return to Kenya with our three youngest boys (Daniel, Joshua, and Matthew) this fall for 11 weeks, returning to Florida in mid-November. We have plans to repeat this pattern again in early 2019. Our goals will be to build

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relationships and serve but principally to envision what a longer-term effort could or should be. Our initial ideas, of course, include business teaching and the girls home. Both Patti and I have experience and gifts that could be useful in these endeavors. Panina has expressed an interest in Patti's help because of our experience having adopted older children who have experienced trauma. Yet, we also know that we have a very shallow understanding of the many factors that will ultimately guide us as we prayerfully seek what work the Lord may show us as we build relationships and carefully observe needs and opportunities.

From 2005 to 2011, Patti and I, along with our children, answered our call to cross-cultural missions as full-time missionaries in Mexico. Leaving a family business and uprooting our family to pursue what God had called us to do was difficult, but also the most rewarding and significant endeavor we had ever done. It is a transformative experience to have the privilege of serving others in the name of Jesus – to have your time and provision accounted for through serving the Lord in that particular way is humbling and enriching beyond comparison. We were very sad to leave Mexico, returning to Florida to resolve some developing health concerns. However, we have always contemplated returning. In the two years since our Kenya experience, we have felt a call to serve there. Partly because of the fit of the work we perceive is to be done to our background and experience, and partly of the Strangs being there. We know that ministry is often hard and who

you serve with is very important.

We are excited to launch this mission effort and desire the prayers from our home church family. We have been on two of the three perspectives of missions. Those three being “senders”, “goers”, and “hosts”. Shifting from senders to goers in this new role, we know that goers appreciate being heard from and communicated with. While goers choose to leave their homes, they don't usually desire to disconnect, so maintaining relationships at home is important. Having those from home interested in the work and supportively requesting involvement with mission challenges and joys is perhaps the most often noted desire I hear from other missionaries. We would love to have your prayerful engagement in this work the Lord has called us to. In the next month, we will publish thru the church a means for communicating with us electronically and invite you to connect. ■



PIKE UPDATE

FINAL COUNTDOWN UNTIL OUR LAUNCH TO FRANCE!

From Colby & Emma Pike

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for us this summer. Our time in Bonclarken has been a wonderful blend of refreshment in the mountains as well as preparation for our new field. Now that we have our visas, we are concentrating on wrapping up last minute logistics and spending time with

friends and family in the Carolinas. We will be doing the same when we arrive in Lake Wales on August 1st, and look forward to once again being in your midst until we leave out of Orlando on August 18th for Paris.

A few prayer requests to share revolve around our next steps as we transition to France as a family, as well as future ministry opportunities.

- Saying our goodbyes to loved ones over the next few weeks
- Quick recovery from jet lag and settling into our language school apartment

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- Saying our goodbyes to loved ones over the next few weeks
- Quick recovery from jet lag and settling into our language school apartment
- Sustained health and energy as we get established in a new community and culture
- Our study of French, particularly for Carson and Reid entering public middle school
- Relationship building among our World Witness teammates, our language school classmates, those we will interact with in our community, for Carson and Reid to find a friend among their peers, and with our potential ministry contacts in Strasbourg
- That we would abide in Christ, and for his peace to reign in our hearts

We plan to visit Strasbourg every month or so (2 hour train ride from Paris) in order to get a better sense of the community and to establish deeper relationships with our contacts there. This time next year will have use preparing to move Strasbourg and closer to our goals of establishing a Christian training center, becoming involved in Millennial discipleship and outreach opportunities, and developing an internship program for potential World Witness missionaries. Please continue to pray with us in these areas. Thanks again for your prayers and support for our ministry and family. We

look forward to seeing you soon and keeping in touch! Reach out to use at any time: pray4pikes@gmail.com ■

LOCAL MISSIONS

STAY-AT-HOME WORK CAMP LOVE IT OR LIST IT?

From Fox Rawlings

As a Stay At Home Work Camp (camp) leader with more life experiences than most (at least more life) I tend to have a love/hate view of camp. More accurately love/dread. The expected physical drain as a work site leader haunts me as the first camp is planned and looms during the hottest months of the year. Then the kids ranging from middle school to high school students begin arriving the first afternoon of camp and my thoughts shift from shingles too hot to handle to the physical and mental recharge I feel being a part of young folks showing Christ's love in the Lake Wales community.

Most folks associate camps with a bunch of kids on roofs or painting houses around town. This is of course the outward view of one of the purposes of the camps...helping neighbors. What many don't see or know of is the underlying vision of campers developing Christian relationships during the week and getting closer to Jesus. Each morning of camp starts with breakfast and is immediately followed by a devotion presented by one of the

leaders. I am continually impressed and honored to hear the story of these devotion leaders' walk with Christ as they share with campers. There is no better way to prepare for a work day that typically doesn't end until 6:30 at supper.

Another aspect of camp many are unaware of is that all meals for campers during the week are provided by churches or other business/service organizations. As this may sound like the type of thing that should be done by such groups, it is quite another thing to see what is entailed in feeding 150 hungry campers and sending them on their way back to work or camp in a very short time. The most impressive aspect is that we have never had anything short of amazing meals served by the most hospitable folks around. They typically begin mealtime by sharing how honored they are to be able to serve Christ's servants.

Following long (and more often than not blazing hot) work days, campers shower then head to either the 'big house' at Camp Endeavor in Dundee or the 'big top' at HEART Institute for evening worship sessions which begin around 9:00 each evening. These sessions include worship through music and

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word. Camp leaders share Gospel messages each evening expounding on the camp theme and scripture focus. The theme this summer has been Crown of Confidence based on Hebrews 10: 19-39. Each evening portions of this scripture were 'preached' on and finally concluded by the charge in verse 35... ³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

Writing this as my third camp of the summer begins in a few hours, dread is far from my mind. This new mindset results from already being associated with amazing campers and leaders for a couple of previous camps. As closing programs end and campers head back home, I consider myself blessed to be a part of such an army of disciples showing the love Christ as the hands and feet of Jesus throughout our community. Feelings of regeneration of body and spirit fill me as I remember praying in a circle of sweat drenched kids with a home owner and her freshly shingled new roof; and evening worship sessions with a backdrop of crickets and rain. Even more satisfying is the image which remains in my mind of a new generation's desire to serve as Jesus would.

Care Center Stay At Home Work Camp...Love it! ■



Music Ministry

children will take advantage of the many opportunities for music education offered right here at First Presbyterian Church! ■

WHY A CHILDREN'S CHOIR?

From Vince Treadway

With all of the things that pull at our busy schedules, why should children's choir be added? Sports, dance, homework, family obligations, and more make picking what your child will be involved in is an important decision. Here are a few things to consider as decisions are made for making music high on the priority list:

1. Music literacy and exposure increases brain power! Studies have shown that children who study a musical instrument and sing and read music have increased brain activity.
2. Music is a life-long activity! A person can enjoy and participate in music for their entire life. While sports and physical activity are important, most people will not be playing football when they are 50+ and yet you can sing and play an instrument all your life.
3. Making music in a group teaches working together, blending, accepting others who are different, and helping each other.
4. Vocal technique and diction are useful in everyday life; school, work, and interaction with others.
5. Becoming confident and poised while performing will reap life-long benefits at home, work, and church.
6. Many schools offer very little if anything in music education, and a children's choir provides a wonderful opportunity for music education to happen in a safe environment.
7. The texts that your children will learn at church choir will stay with them their entire life! One of the best ways to learn Scripture and Biblical doctrine is to sing it!
8. Singing is fun! We use vocal games and activities to learn musical skills in a non-threatening manner. Even children who are shy by nature find they can thrive in a choral setting.

This list is not exhaustive, but certainly gives some valuable reasons for children being involved in music. It is our hope that your



MUSICAL BEGINNINGS
MONDAYS 4:00 - 4:45
SEPTEMBER-MAY
AGES 0-3

COVENANT KIDS
MONDAYS 4:00 - 4:45
SEPTEMBER-MAY
AGES 4-6

THE KING'S SINGERS
WEDNESDAYS 5:00 - 6:00
SEPTEMBER-MAY
AGES 7-14

GRANDMA LOIS AND MAMA EUNICE

From Shane Miller

When considering the significant amount of pressure that the early Church faced during the first years of its existence, it truly is a wonder that Christianity survived through those trying times. Yes, being a Christian in today's world is a bit of a different situation. When I was a young kid growing up in the nineties, it was even viewed as somewhat normal and healthy to be a follower of Jesus. But in ancient Rome, on the other hand, this lifestyle choice was not only strange but downright offensive. Being a follower of Jesus could mean social ostracization or even death.

Now, imagine you were the apostle Paul writing a letter to a young person growing up as a Christian in this type of environment. What would you tell him or her? What truths would you point them to in order to strengthen their faith in Christ? Of course, Paul is well known for expounding and clarifying the gospel of Jesus Christ as a means to bolster the faith of the people of God, and certainly you would think to do that as well. But let's say you weren't in immediate proximity to them- would you refer them to anyone in particular? In what ways would you encourage them to connect to the ministry of the Church? In your case, you might even say, "And lastly, as I finish this letter, I would encourage you to find a good youth ministry, directed by the coolest, hippest youth minister. Remember this proverb: 'He who finds a cool youth minister finds a good thing.' This ministry will be necessary to your spiritual growth."

Paul, in his second letter to young Timothy, gives him another kind of advice. In this letter, Paul reminds Timothy, a young leader of the Church, of the worsening state of the world around him. For Timothy and the Church, the world will only become more and more terrible and unpleasant. (2 Timothy 3:1-9) Paul, in order to encourage Timothy, points him to the Scriptures in this well-known passage: "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God

may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16-17) But Paul, in this passage, not only refers Timothy to the Scriptures, but also to particular people within the Church as well. In the previous verses, Paul states, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, **knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim. 3:14-15) Who is Paul referring to in this passage? Who were the people that brought Timothy up in his faith? Who was his youth minister?

In verse 5 of Chapter 1 of Second Timothy Paul addresses Timothy, saying, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in **your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice** and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well." According to Paul, then, Timothy had two significant spiritual influences in his life: grandma Lois and Mama Eunice. This certainly does not discount the role of young ministers ministering to young people in the Church. Timothy himself was a young man who was strategically placed in Church leadership. (1 Tim. 4:12) Paul's words, though, might serve to give us a different perspective, and one that we initially might think to be counter-intuitive to a youth ministry: that is, the role of grandmothers, grandfathers, (or the older generations of the Church) and even moms and dads in ministry to the youth of the Church.

You might have a smile on your face reading this thinking, "That sounds well and good for Timothy, but I have too much on my plate right now to minister to the young people of the Church. I don't have the time to give Shane the volunteer hours that it would take to minister within the Youth program. Besides, I have already given time to serving in other areas of the Church in the past. And on top of that, I am certainly not the kind of person that would be considered 'influential' to young people." If that's you, I would like to reassure you that while I would love to have you as a volunteer every Wednesday night, that is not the only way you might be able to minister to or influence the young people at First Pres.

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I had an interesting conversation recently with a young person from our Church who had gone through the Youth Ministry as a kid. I was amazed to hear what he considered to be the biggest spiritual influence upon his life. It wasn't an incredible message from the Youth Director. It was not a big, flashy program, event, or week at a camp. While he said that those things were very helpful, it was actually his grandmother taking him as a young boy to her house one day out of every week to review the truth of the Scriptures through a catechism.

When I was on the bus on the way to Bonclarken for Quest, one of the grandmothers at our Church texted me saying, "Shane- praying for you and family as you travel and do His Kingdom work." She also texted to say she was continuing to pray for us when we were on the way back to Lake Wales. Throughout the week it was so encouraging knowing that she was praying for us the whole time. When something went well that week, I thought that it must have had something to do with her prayers. Another grandmother in the Church approached me, offering to write notes of encouragement to students. A mom filled me in one day on the awesome conversations she was having with her kids about the Bible at home.

I say all of this to make the point that when it comes to youth ministry, it doesn't always need to be within the confines of a big, flashy, organized program led by a young person. Sometimes the biggest spiritual influences in a Timothy's life is Grandma Lois and Mama Eunice. Maybe you commit to praying for the young people in our Church every day. Maybe you come to me with a helpful idea for the youth ministry. Maybe you invite a young family over to your house for dinner to get to know them better. Maybe you do even consider volunteering on a Wednesday or Sunday. Whatever it is, I encourage you to pray for how God would have you serve because what you do, how you minister to the young people in our Church, matters. ■



PRAY FOR US

- **Pray for God to show you helpful ways that you might minister to the young people at our Church**
- **Pray for this upcoming quarter: that we might effectively disciple the young people of First Pres every Wednesday and Sunday night.**
- **Pray for the volunteers that they might be given strength, wisdom, and a joyful heart for this work.**

Children's Ministry

WE NEED YOU!

Did you know? It takes 22 people to make our Children's Ministry hum each week (and that doesn't include Nursery). With four quarters, that's **88 people per year**, which is about **42%** of our average Sunday worship attendance. Your Session and Children's Council are hard at work to teach our kids, that we would "not hide them from [our] children, but tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done." (Psalm 78:4). As a part of our church, you're part of the team! Talk to Pastor Mackay or an elder to discuss and pray about getting involved. ■

FAMILY GAME NIGHT AUGUST 24, 6:00-7:30 PM

Open to the entire Church family!
Everyone bring a favorite game to play.
To be held in the game room with a popcorn bar for snacks!

PARENT MEETING AUGUST 24, 10:45 AM

Parents of 2 yrs- 5th grade are invited to the Children's Chapel to learn about the year of Sunday School ahead. We'll discuss Triple Play, our child safety procedures, and other important information. Join us!



DIS
CIPLE
SHIP

Church Family

MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

August 2, Tom Freeland
August 2, Dottie Bailey
August 3, Paul Geils
August 3, Steve Sorensen
August 7, Marie Steensma
August 7, Michael Kahler
August 7, Shelly DiNunzio
August 8, Anne Stuart
August 8, William Horrell
August 10, Tom Kohl
August 10, Kathryn Bielawa
August 12, Rory Brewer
August 12, Terry Mann
August 12, Jack Moyer
August 12, Reed Moyer
August 13, Margo McCollum
August 15, Ellis Hunt Jr.
August 15, Kaitlyn Bice
August 17, Kathy Gibson
August 17, Abigail Roe
August 18, JC Simmons
August 22, Aralyn Behr
August 23, Shay Hixenbaugh
August 23, Garret Reynolds
August 24, Nancy Ayers
August 24, Bob Hulen
August 26, Teresa Behr
August 28, Alli Violette
August 29, Hayes Seay
August 29, Ryan Paros
August 29, Virginia Okie

ANNIVERSARIES

August 2, Vince & Faith Treadway
August 8, Rob & Dawn McCollum
August 9, Jake & Ashley Cockrell
August 10, Richard & Jennifer Fugate
August 18, Chuck & Lori Loveless
August 18, Milo & Ruth Miller
August 19, Ronald & Ellen Horn
August 20, Jim & Kay Weaver
August 22, Jack & Janice Brandies
August 23, Harry & Irene Nelson



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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