



First Presbyterian Church

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Reverend Paul Tucker, Minister
February, 2017



Just These Lines My Friends ...

Just These Lines My Friends ...

One of my favorite daily devotions to read is by a now deceased Catholic priest who lived and ministered in a community of mentally challenged adults for a large part of ministry. He writes;

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged." - Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)

Trusting the Catcher

Trust is the basis of life. Without trust, no human being can live. Trapeze artists offer a beautiful image of this. Flyers have to trust their catchers. They can do the most spectacular doubles, triples, or quadruples, but what finally makes their performance spectacular are the catchers who are there for them at the right time in the right place.

Much of our lives is flying. It is wonderful to fly in the air free as a bird, but when God isn't there to catch us, all our flying comes to nothing. Let's trust in the Great Catcher.

Henri Nouwen

I was puzzled by the logic of this devotion and found myself asking, "When is God not there to catch us?" "What scriptures are there that could help me or at least remind me of the understanding that there may be times that God will not be there to catch us ... what about the "never leave us or forsake us promise so many cling to?" "Is trusting God the condition for which our Heavenly Father is there ready to catch me when my flying seems out of control and I am about to do a crash landing?"

I was then reminded of a passage from Hebrews 12.

³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. ⁴ You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. ⁵ And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

**"My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD,
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;**

**⁶ For whom the LORD loves He chastens,
And scourges every son whom He receives."**

⁷ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? ⁸ But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. ¹¹ Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Sometimes God allows us to fall because He loves us so much that this is the only way He can get our attention. Let's be reminded that God's discipline is out of love for us as His children. Many Christians can quote Romans 8:28, but very few know Romans 8:29 **"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be conformed to the image of His Son*, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."**

Grace & Peace

PBT

(Reprint From March 2015)

YOUTH MINISTRY

Slowly, we're moving toward RYM @ Colorado! This month and the months ahead, I will send out many updates to keep everyone updated with the latest info, so I apologize ahead of time!

We have a number of events ahead of us just this month alone...

Super Bowl Party

This Sunday, **February 5th @ 5PM**, the Youth will have their Super Bowl Party in the Youth Room. Each teenager is to bring either an entree or dessert. This is for Grades 7th-12th. And please do let them bring a friend!



Valentine's Day Dinner

Also, on **February 11th at 6PM**, we will have our annual Valentine's Day Dinner. Youth who plan to attend RYM this year are expected to serve (unless other schedules conflict). A number of the proceeds from this dinner help fund our trip to RYM.

Money for RYM

The initial deposit for RYM to secure your child's spot is **\$100** and is due **February 8th**.

Here's another detail we've added this year: we'll have 4 planned fundraisers in all - see the schedule of those below - and if your teenager can make 3 of the 4, we'll pay the full 50% of the costs. In other words, it's like past trips: we pay 50% (\$205.00) and you pay 50% (\$205.00), but this year, we needed to make sure that the teenagers were helping at as many fundraisers as possible. In the previous year, the last 2 fundraisers had only 5-7 show to help. So, if your youth can make it to 2 of the 4, the church will fund 25% (\$102.50) and you'll pay 75% (\$307.50), and if they show to 1 of the 4, the church will fund 15% (\$61.50) and you'll pay 85% (\$348.50).

Exceptions

There's always exceptions to attending these fundraisers. I've already been notified that some youth already have plans during some of the planned dates. Please let me know ASAP if your youth cannot attend some of these, and we'll work something out.

Schedule of Fundraisers

Tuesday, February 11th @ 6:00 PM - Valentine's Day Dinner

Friday, March 31st from 10:30AM-1:00PM - Rib-eye Steak Sandwich Sale

Saturday, May 13th (10:00AM-1:30PM) - Meat Sale

TBA Fourth Fundraiser with Holy Smokes - Forthcoming Luncheon

Packing List and Schedule

Unlike last year's conference at Florida, the PACKING LIST will obviously be different. You can begin looking through those details and also the schedule at RYMonline.org.

If you have any questions or need clarification on anything, please don't hesitate to contact me!

Michael

VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER

FEBRUARY 11th, beginning at 6:00 PM - Colonel Sanders and the Holy Smokes will be hosting the annual Valentine's Dinner! The menu includes: 10 oz. rib-eye steak or smothered chicken breast, "yummy" potatoes, roasted vegetables, homemade sourdough rolls, and homemade desserts. Thirty Wonderful will be performing. The cost is \$25 per person. Reservation forms are available in the bulletin or you may call the church office. Please note with your reservation form if you would like your dinner to go. *Proceeds will go towards the RYM youth trip this summer.* Skip the hustle and bustle of going out of town, come to FPC for this fine dining and entertaining event. Invite your friends and neighbors!



WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Ahhhh.....choo! Which brings us to January's Circle! We provided hand sanitizers and tissues to the Trenton Rosenwald Middle School to help protect the students and teachers from the germs floating around that come with this time of year!

February's meeting will be Monday, February 13th at 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Darla Tucker will continue our study of Luke. Darla is doing a great job and we appreciate her ministry. Our mission area is to provide individually wrapped snacks for the ICU waiting room at Jackson General. These snacks can be peanut butter/cheese and crackers, nuts, snack cakes, etc.

Every other year, we plan a ladies luncheon and this is the year! Save the date for April 22nd and stay tuned for more details in the near future.

Come join the Circle, bring a friend, and be blessed!

Blessings,

Vickie Sorrells



Let's GADABOUT!

January Gadabouts didn't go exactly as planned because the movie theaters do not have matinees during the week in the winter months. But, we had a great lunch at Dumplins' with lots of good fun and fellowship. We did manage to add a little shopping in the stores in the strip mall adjoining Dumplins.

February's adventure will take us to the world famous "home of the only thrown rolls" **Lamberts in Sikeston, Missouri!** The date is Tuesday, February 14th. A sign- up sheet is on the bulletin board outside of Fellowship Hall along with a menu for your review. We will leave the church at 8:30 a.m. so we will be there when they open. Unfortunately, they do not take reservations, we need to be the first folks in line when the doors open at 10:30! We should return mid-afternoon.

Of course, this trip will be subject to suitable weather conditions.

In case you are wondering who can be a Gadabout, you must answer these questions: Do you like to have fun? Do you like to eat? Do you enjoy being with other people who want to have fun? Do you enjoy going places and attending events in West Tennessee and the surrounding area? If you answered **YES** to any one of these questions, you can be a Gadabout! No membership dues, roll isn't taken, and no penalties are assessed if you don't come! It is the "perfect" group to participate with for fun and fellowship!

Come join the "GADDYS!"

In Christ,

-Brenda Horner



We are the ChurchTogether!

Our Christian Love and Sympathy are extended to Carolyn Schrader and family in the death of her sister Nancy Jones.....We welcome NEW MEMBERS ! Will Raines made his profession of faith and was baptized. He was joined by his parents, Chris and Katharine, who united with the Church as well....Best Wishes to Ms. Virginia Cannon Long and Mr. William E. Browning, Jr. who will be married February 18th. Virginia is the daughter of the late Marion Thomas and Bose Long, and Ann Long....Congratulations to our newly ordained and installed officers for the Class of 2019.....Colonel Sanders and the Holy Smokes prepared both a wonderful Soup luncheon and the Deacon's Stew ! Now we look forward to the Valentines Dinner!.....Tony and Kathi Burriss are directing "Fiddler on the Roof" at Nite Lite Theatre. Several from the Church are also participating in the production.....The Gadabouts enjoyed lunch at Dumplins recently, and a February outing has been planned . Join the Fellowship! Have you noticed any buttercups coming up? It can only mean one thing!

blp



A big welcome to the newest choir member, Betty Hayes!

There is always room for one more in the choir.

If you are interested in singing with the "best of

Prayers of the People

HEALTH CONCERNS: Faye and John Keel, Lorrie Barton, Jack and Brenda Ragan, John and Jean Pollard, Harry and Pat Adcock, Charlie and Ginny Tyner, Brenda and Jack Ragan, Jane Sorrells Harris, Leigh Anne Edmiston, Robin Summers, Barrix Dawson, Acie Willhoit, Bo Green.

CARE LIST: Martha Freeman, Charlotte Nowell, Marilyn & Milton Dick, Dr. Esther Harbert, Hazel Stewart, Henretta Jackson.

EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY: Walter and Lois Lockhart, Gayle Stewart, Jackie and Betty Walker, Martha Lyn Brown, Mark Crocker, Dennis Ryan Patrick, Harold Swindle, Al Hunt, Lee Claybrook, Bill Reed, Grover Poteet, Robert Sydney and Gail Phelan, Stephanie Jones, Ann Sherrod, Carolyn Mathes, Don Williams, Alledine Poynor, Jennifer and Mark Hudson, Ruby Spellings, Ginger Doaks, John Ragsdale, Max Britt, Molly Moore, Kelly Anderson, Tyler Howell, Chandler Martindale, Josie Greene, Frank Paschall, Lucy Tyree, Martha Hammonds, William Joyner, Frances Davis, Stephanie Jones, Linda Davis, Judy Schamerhorn, Helen Carson, Landon Buchanan, Lisa Maddox, Ann Burris, Pat Zarecor, Jeff Milligan, Fred Culp, Lisa Maddox, Jackie Moore, Glen Morgan, Jessica Hammonds, Ruby Spellings, Paula Summars, Randy Cole, Lisa Cole, Grady Eddlemon, Cynthia Rice, Joan Morgan, Paul Hudson, Charles Kent, Eric Talley, Randall Ricketts, Carol Avery, Iris Elliott, Joel Harris, Terry Hickerson, Larry Combs, Joanne Carroll, Tony Moore.

THE FAMILIES OF: Nancy Jones, Tommy Mullins, Robert Clifton, Allen Dinwiddie, Joan Morgan, Paul Pickins, Jeniece Lockhart, Patsy Scott Damron, Jim Pruitt, Brenda Nanney, Tim Jones, Phil McCoy, Mike Gustafason, Pam Joyce, Tony Council, Willeace Cooper, Josh Franklin, Ray Hopper, Annie Hamm, Wayne Whitby.

IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY: Andrew Simmons, Corbin Gibson, Hunter Crockett.

OUR EPC MISSIONARY FAMILIES: The Unnerstalls, The Ingers, FPC Missionary Families.

Note: If you have someone you want to be on this prayer list, be sure to get their name on the weekly prayer lists at Sunday School or call the church office. Also, if you know of any of these names that need to be removed from this prayer list, please contact the church office. Thank you.

Financial Report DEC 2016		New Building Loan UPDATE DEC 2016
Bank Balance DEC 1	\$ 22,910.39	Final Expense: \$2,012,613.69
Income for Month		Total Income to Date: \$ 1,852,206.73
Contributions & Pledges	\$ 26,077.00	20/20 pledged thru 5/31/17: \$ 70,501.00
Designated Income	\$ 540.00	20/20 pledges received thru 12/31/16: \$ 100,905.00 (143%)
Interest from Checking	5.86	
Total Income for Month	\$ 26,622.86	
Total Funds for Month	\$ 50,533.25	Principle Loan Balance (12/31): \$ 314,197.65
Total Expenses for Month	\$ 29,792.03	
Cash Balance DEC 31	\$ 20,741.22	

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DID YOU KNOW?

When we all come together for a common cause, amazing things happen! Our congregation was challenged by an anonymous member of our congregation to raise money for the local Food Pantry. We not only accepted the challenge; but, met, and exceeded expectations! The monetary donation for the food pantry was \$3,720! The Trenton Police Department chipped in an additional \$580.00! Totaling \$4,300! This does not include the boxes of non-perishable food items that were donated from the children at F.E.A.S.T., nor the food drive donations given last Spring and during November and December! Of course, the need does not diminish after December. Donations are taken year round at the church and to the food pantry.

THANK YOU NOTE:



2,125! An Astonishing Number!

In 2016 your community food pantry met 2,125 requests for food assistance. We seemed to see new families weekly. There were times we simply did not know if we could met that day's need. There were times that we did run out of food, and had to ask people to come back the next day. Amazingly, the donations always appeared just in time! These needs could not have been met without your generosity and continual support.

Our community is blessed to have so many people with caring hearts. A community of people who love God and show their love by serving others.

Thank you for blessing the food pantry with your gifts so that we can all serve others less fortunate.

Serving Him Together
Lynn Hartsfield
Food Pantry Coordinator

LOOKING AHEAD:

	Nursery	Children's Worship	
Mar. 5	Carla Hensley	M/M Bubba Abbott	
Mar. 12	Beth Nowell	M/M Mason Ashburn	
Mar. 19	Jesse Willhoit	M/M Marty Hankins	
Mar. 26	Jenny Williams	Cheryl/Carolyn Cole	
ELDER: Brenda Horner	DEACON: Will Sanders	ACOLYTE: Andrew Gagnon	
USHERS:			
Will Sanders Darla Sanders Buddy Horner Frank Gibson			