

Jun 2014

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THE EPISTLE

The Newsletter of St. Paul Presbyterian Church

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Worship @ 10:15 a.m. Sunday School: Adult @ 9:00am; Sr. High @ 9:40; K-6 @ 10:30



JUNE 1: CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION REV. DON ELLY PREACHING

Since Pastor Bill will be away on the Senior High Mission Trip to Newport, TN, Rev Elly will lead us in worship.

JUNE 8: PENTECOST Next in importance to Christmas and Easter in the church calendar is Pentecost. Pastor Bill's sermon will be "*Mongo and the Promise of Pentecost*," based on Acts 2:1-21. Please **wear red** in celebration of the "tongues of fire" that descended upon the first disciples.

JUNE 22: OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE AND PICNIC!

In celebration of Johnston Green Days, we are moving Worship out back in the field behind our church!

Pastor Bill's sermon will be "Lamborghini Lust and Other Environmental Perils," based on Isaiah 44:1-3, 6-22. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket, or use one of ours.

Following worship, Membership and Evangelism is coordinating a simple lunch for everyone! This would be a great service to invite your un-churched neighbor or friend to!



SUMMER SERMON AND TALKBACK SERIES: INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW!

Have tough theological, Biblical, or ethical question that you have always wondered about? This sermon series may be what you have been waiting for! Just submit your question to Pastor Bill (pastor.stpaulpres@gmail.com) by June 9 and he will try to answer some of the more popular questions...or at least some of the ones that he knows something about Following worship those who would like to may grab their refreshment and cookie and meet with Pastor Bill in the "Fireside Room" for a time to discuss the sermon and it's implications.

JUNE 15: INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW what Pastor Bill will preach on this day. Fill out a card with your question and maybe it will be your topic!

JUNE 29: SAWYER FETROW BAPTISM Sawyer Ann Fetrow, daughter of Brittany and Travis Fetrow, will receive the sacrament of Baptism. We will tackle our second question in this summer series!

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**STEWARDSHIP ROAD
QUOTES TO HELP US ALL WALK THE WALK**

By Dean Nihart

Regular, proportionate giving, like breathing, is essential to a healthy life. You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship. Luke 16:2

The person who argues against tithing, probably doesn't. When Christians feel guilty about their giving, perhaps they should.

I will give you a tenth of everything you give me. Genesis 28:22

Tithing is not giving. Tithing is returning. Gratitude must be the motivation for all Christian giving.

A Christian steward does not dedicate time, talent, treasure that they may become God's, but because they are God's.

We return a tenth to God in recognition of his divide ownership, but to him belongs the nine-tenths also; this He entrusts to us to administer.

· Thanks to Pastor Bill for passing these along. They came from Pastor Bill's friend Eugene Grimm's website. I believe it is always helpful to think, reflect and pray about what God asks of us. I'll close this article with a series of quotes/statements that really hit home in our pursuit of trying to be good stewards.....

Our shrewdest and deadliest enemy is selfishness. God is infinitely more real when we put money in an envelope for Him. Determine your proportionate giving in the shadow of the cross and your will not go far amiss. Christians have no conception of what they are missing, in terms of enjoyment and enrichment, until they have learned to give on God's terms. The steward must frequently report and consult with the Lord.

Then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Romans 14:12

CALVIN COMMUNITY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF CARING

On Sunday, June 8 at 2:00 p.m. Calvin Community will celebrate its 50th anniversary at its campus at 4210 Hickman Road in Des Moines. You are cordially invited to celebrate this occasion with us. There will be a short ceremony at 2:15, followed by light hors d'oeuvres, tours of the facilities, pleasant background music and friendly conversation. Shuttle service will be provided.

Calvin is a retirement community providing all levels of care for its residents. Ground breaking for Calvin took place in June of 1964. In May of 1965, the first residents moved into Calvin. For the past 50 years, Calvin has provided and continues to provide a home and loving Christian based care for all its residents. Throughout this period of time, Calvin has enjoyed a close relationship with the Des Moines Presbytery and with Presbyterian churches throughout Iowa. Please join us for this celebration of the 50th anniversary of Calvin Community.

DISCIPLE



DISCIPLE IS COMING!

The 2014-2015 academic year is going to be "The Year of the Bible" at St Paul! Our worship services will be coordinated with the weekly readings for the "Disciple" Bible study program. You may simply come to worship

and enjoy an overview of the Bible. Or you may go one level deeper and follow the daily readings on your own. The greatest benefit, however, will be gained by those who take part in a small group with no more than a dozen people. Pastor Bill will be teaching at least two classes (one during the day and one during the evening) and perhaps a third if there is enough demand.

DISCIPLE 1 is a life-changing 33-week overview of the Bible! If you have always wanted to learn more about the Bible but not known where to begin DISCIPLE is the program you need! No Bible knowledge is required to take DISCIPLE, just a willingness to learn. Here's what's involved:

- Meeting in a small group once a week for 2 1/4 hours. Classes include video presentations from leading scholars, discussion, sharing, caring, laughter & prayer
- Reading the Bible daily for 30-45 minutes
- Beginning reading in mid-August, ending early -May
- 16 weeks on the Old Testament
- 17 weeks on the New Testament
- Weeks off for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years

Here are some reflections from people who have taken the DISCIPLE class from Pastor Bill in the past:

- Tiffany, 40: *In the fall of 2009, I enrolled in the Disciple class, although I was a bit reluctant to do so. I was talking myself out of doing it for the same reasons that keep me from doing most things...not enough time. Well, what I found is that this class and study time was one of the BEST ways to spend my time.*
- Burt, 80: *I have been a Presbyterian for 80 or more years. The study of the bible through Disciple was the first comprehensive program I have ever received. Bill did a great job of explaining the text, and other members of the class joined in for further interpretations. The class studied as a unit, frequently asking questions. It was not all easy, but it was always direct and honest. If your Christian faith is a little weak, I recommend trying the Disciple class. You will be glad you did!*
- Allison, 34: *I feel like I have developed a bond with everyone that was in Disciple with me. Some of the people I knew already well and some I barely knew at all even though I had known who they were for most of my life...we laughed, cried, sang, prayed, and just overall enjoyed fellowship with each other for the better part of a year. I am so grateful to each of them for sharing their experiences with me, because I learned so much from them.*
- Gary, 45: *Taking the Disciples 1 class has given me the opportunity to learn more about the bible and the biblical times when Jesus walked the earth. This class has made me a better person and given me an unusually keen outlook on life that I would not have received anywhere else. I recommend this class to anyone, especially to those who think they have it all figured out.*
- Judy, 62: *The Disciple rewards are many. It is a carefully planned study that guides the student through most of the Bible and helps to clarify the who, what, where, when, how and why of this vital book. The time spent with classmates and teachers was valuable and resulted in an increased understanding and appreciation of the lessons and of each other.*

Those who have expressed an interest in the DISCIPLE experience so far include: Sue Conrey, Arla Darling, Brittany Fetrow, Renee Kraemer, Sue Loeffler, Carrie & Don McLaughlin, Dennis Meyer, Whitey Stange, John Temple, Sue & Loren Van Essen and Rhonda Westercamp. You can register your interest in this experience, you can call the church office or visit www.stpaul-johnston.com and look under "Adult Activities."

St. Paul Adult Night Out

Back by popular demand!

Where: Hyperion Field Club

When: Sunday, June 15 – 5-7pm

Cost: \$15 per person

Appetizers will be served and there will be a cash bar.

Please RSVP to Charissa by **THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 8th**

at office.stpaulpres@gmail.com

(Childcare at the church will be provided)

June Driving Schedule:

1 Rob

8 Doug

15 Brian

22 Mike

29 Brian



Coffee Hosts and Greeters

Jun 1st - Jim & Jean Gilbert

Jun 8th - Darling Family

Jun 15th - Lois & Harlan Watson

Jun 22nd - Don & Carrie McLaughlin

Jun 29th - Donna & Dan Larson

June birthdays

2 Mert Hansen

2 Lynn Madsen

5 Gary Wheeler

6 Mark McLaughlin

8 Chris Fausch

8 Jack Vukelich

9 Jana McConnell

9 Robyn Mills

10 Brian Birt

15 Don McLaughlin

17 Steve Hansen

18 Cathy Engstrom

18 Sarah Engstrom

19 Cindy Löffler

22 Steve Nichols

23 Kevin McConnell

23 Andrew Mills

25 Aaron Meketsy

25 Dean Nihart

25 Cheryl Vukelich

25 Diane Baker

25 Diane Zamzow

29 John Temple (the Younger)

30 Peggy Freese



April CROSSwords
By Dr. Roberta Victor
Director, Cross Ministries

When I speak to community groups or get invited into church pulpits people tell me that the single most surprising piece of information that I have to offer is that the majority of the clients served by CROSS Ministries are employed!

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that 46.2 million Americans live in households where someone is working but earning less than the poverty line: \$11,702 a year for an individual or \$23,021 for a family of four. While the government provides us with these figures defining poverty levels, still others define poverty using a broader definition. Simply stated, a poor person is really someone whose income does not cover his or her basic survival needs: housing, food, clothing, transportation, childcare, and health care. Within that standard, there are **more than 146 million Americans who fall into the poor, but working class.**

Mired at the edge of poverty are legions of hard working fast-food restaurant workers, retail clerks at discount chain stores, customer service representatives, home health care aides, factory workers, and farm laborers. Many of their employers are large organizations, such as Walmart, Target, Pizza Hut, and McDonalds, whose business models rely on low labor costs. Ever since the dramatic recession of 2008, about 60 percent of the jobs created in the US have been low wage jobs. A shocking one out of every four Americans now earns less than \$10 an hour!

These are folks that typically live paycheck to paycheck without any savings to fall back on, often filling in the gaps in their budget by going into debt. A child gets sick, the car breaks down and the family is just one paycheck away from disaster.

The simple question often asked is, "Why don't people just get a better job?" The answers are complex but overall, we know that one of the best ways out of poverty is through higher education. On every level, poverty disrupts education in some pretty dramatic ways leading to higher levels of both mental and physical health problems.

Additionally, only 30% of Americans get college degrees. Higher education isn't for everyone. For those with only a high school education the job prospects are even more limited than ever before. The average high school graduate today makes \$12,000 less than the average high school graduate did in 1980. Men who are unemployed or in low-wage jobs tend to remain single, or if they do marry, are more likely to become divorced, creating a vicious cycle. The children often grow up in single parent families that are far more likely to stay poor.

A recent USA Today article showed a map of the United States with the question posed: "How many hours must a minimum wage earner work to afford rent?" Sadly there was no state in the entire United States in which a person working full time could afford to pay fair market rent. **In Iowa, a person would need to work on average 73 hours a week to afford a two bedroom apartment paying a standard 30% of their income on housing.**

I don't pretend to have all of the answers but I do believe that the federal minimum wage needs to be adjusted to a more realistic standard. One thing for which I am both certain and grateful is that CROSS Ministries is there to help those who are struggling to survive in a challenging world!

Roberta

Dr. Rev. Bill O'Connell and the Session of St. Paul Presbyterian Church,

As chaplain of the Presbytery of Des Moines Presbyterian Women, I want to thank you for hosting our Spring Gathering, your gracious and efficient hostess, Lois Watson, pianist, Pam Wilson and for all who worked at set-up and clean up after we were gone. Thanks to Whitey for his talents with the sound system and thanks to the Session for providing the communion ware and elements for the Lord's Supper. It was a privilege to use this service and know that you purchased the pitcher for our use. God bless you as you enjoy them as well.

Bill, it was great to meet you and I look forward to seeing you at Presbytery in the near future. Bill, thanks for your gracious hospitality and I pray God's blessings on you and the Session and the church community of St. Paul to bless the Lord with your mission and ministry together.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Betty Sandy, Chaplain PW of PDM

Song of the Month

“Do Something” by Matthew West

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndG0IX8

(ctrl + left click to follow link)

I woke up this morning
Saw a world full of trouble now
Thought, how'd we ever get so far down
How's it ever gonna turn around
So I turned my eyes to Heaven
I thought, “God, why don't You do something?”
Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of
People living in poverty
Children sold into slavery
The thought disgusted me
So, I shook my fist at Heaven
Said, “God, why don't You do something?”
He said, “I did, I created you”
If not us, then who
If not me and you
Right now, it's time for us to do something
If not now, then when
Will we see an end
To all this pain
It's not enough to do nothing
It's time for us to do something
I'm so tired of talking
About how we are God's hands and feet
But it's easier to say than to be
Live like angels of apathy who tell ourselves
It's alright, “somebody else will do something”
Well, I don't know about you
But I'm sick and tired of life with no desire
I don't want a flame, I want a fire
I wanna be the one who stands up and says,
“I'm gonna do something”
We are the salt of the earth
We are a city on a hill
But we're never gonna change the world
By standing still
No we won't stand still
No we won't stand still
No we won't stand still

The Back Page

Monastery Life

A young monk arrives at the monastery. He is assigned to helping the other monks in copying the old canons and laws of the church by hand.

He notices, however, that all of the monks are copying from copies, not from the original manuscript. So, the new monk goes to the head abbot to question this, pointing out that if someone made even a small error in the first copy, it would never be picked up! In fact, that error would be continued in all of the subsequent copies.

The head monk, says, "We have been copying from the copies for centuries, but you make a good point, my son."

He goes down into the dark caves underneath the monastery where the original manuscripts are held as archives in a locked vault that hasn't been opened for hundreds of years. Hours go by and nobody sees the old abbot. So, the young monk gets worried and goes down to look for him. He sees him banging his head against the wall and wailing,

"We missed the R ! We missed the R ! We missed the R !"

His forehead is all bloody and bruised and he is crying uncontrollably. The young monk asks the old abbot,

"What's wrong, father?"

With A choking voice, the old abbot replies,

"The word was...CELEBRATE!!! "

This should make us all think twice about gossiping about someone else.

Mildred, the church gossip, and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her extra-curricular activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence.

She made a mistake, however, when she accused George, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon.

She emphatically told George and several others that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing. George, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny. He said nothing.

Later that evening, George quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house... and left it there all night.

Travel instructions

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you know what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"