

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Have you ever thought to yourself: *Life can't get any busier than this!* ? And then your life proceeds to get more hectic and stressful.

It's easy to get overwhelmed in life, especially in the post-modern world, where there are so many pressures to do so many things, and to gain as much information as we can. After all, we are in the so-called Information Age, and we feel the need to be knowledgeable in countless fields so that we can maintain a household well, manage our jobs/careers well, and generally ensure that the world doesn't leave us behind.

We struggle to keep pace even during the best of times; and, when health issues, job loss, personal issues, or other setbacks throw us for a loop, we can begin to feel as though it's a hopeless cause.

It's during times like these when the operational difference between two distinct worldviews of churches can make a huge difference in our lives. Some churches operate more as an extended social or civic club, and members don't expect to surround one another with encouragement and God's grace. Other churches see themselves as the gathered people of God, called to follow Christ in sharing with each other, and bearing one another's burdens. It's this latter vision which can help all of us to feel that it's not all up to us, and that we don't have to struggle with sadness, grief, or feeling overwhelmed by ourselves.

Being church is counter-cultural in some ways. We are going against the grain of mainstream Western culture when we follow Christ's call to help each other, to be community-minded, and to seek that *'Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'* Our culture may tell us that a secular, enlightened self-interest is the path to follow (and many post-modern churches may even point us in this direction), but Jesus taught a different way (think back to the messages from the Gospel of Luke in August). He taught us a way of discipleship and righteousness that may often not be popular, but is God's plan; and, it is in our long-term interest, even if we may not be able to see it in the present. May we all together follow Christ's path!

Pastor Charles

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2-Jim Shillinger...Bob Templeton
10-Ruby Cunningham...Cathy Cunningham
17-Eric Tabing 20-Leanne Templeton 26-Gayl Pyatt
28-Will Templeton 30 Janie Shute

SEPTEMBER ANIVERSARIES

10-Bob & Barbie Templeton 18-Steve & Susan Malan
30-Jim & Sharon Higerson

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4-Karen Hobson 11-Doug Tabing 18-Dick Pyatt
20-Lewis Schweizer 24-Iona Keller 25-Glen Hamilton
29-Cheryl Schneider 30-David Templeton

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 8

Men's Fellowship Group meets at the Grecian 11:30am
Contact Hank River for more details

Choir Party at Cathy Cunningham's house 6 pm
Anyone who wants to be in choir is welcome

Saturday, September 11

4th Annual Gospel Night at the Junior High 6pm
*The Nehrkorns, Voices of Praise, Brothers & Others, and
Father Brian will be there. Ice cream and cobbler will be
available and there will be a free will offering.*

Sunday, September 12, 19, 26

Coffee before church 8:30-9am
*In the entryway, coffee & snacks each Sunday before
church. Come visit.*

Wednesday, September 15, 22, 29

Choir practice time TBA

Wednesday, September 22

Annual Joint Meeting of Session & Diaconate 7pm
*All currently serving Elders and Deacons in sanctuary with
Session Meeting in office following joint meeting.*

Boys Scouts meet each Monday night. Girl Scouts meet every Saturday afternoon. Biggest Loser meets alternate Thursdays at 6 pm. There will be a HEA Quilting Workshop on Monday, September 13, 6-9 pm.

BAPIPTISM

Alex Elizabeth Chapman was baptized on Sunday, September 5, 2010. Alex's parents are Nate and Stephanie Chapman. Her maternal grandparents are Mike and Anita Bievenue. And her paternal grandparents are Herb and Tirzah Chapman. Kristin Slechticky and Adam Bievenue are the sponsors.

RULE OF LIFE

Follow the example of John Calvin, and make certain times of prayer constants around which your day revolves. He wrote

“...lifting up our hearts, we should ever aspire to God and pray without ceasing, still, since our weakness is such that it has to be supported by many aids, and our sluggishness such that it needs to be goaded, it is fitting each one of us should set apart certain hours for this exercise (of prayer). Those hours should not pass without prayer, and during them all the devotion of the heart should be completely engaged in it. These are:

‘when we arise in the morning,’

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Psalm 103:1

‘before we begin daily work,’

O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me! Psalm 24:12

‘when we sit down to a meal,’

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. Psalm 24:1

‘when by God's blessing we have eaten,’

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing. Give thanks, and bless God's name. Psalm 100:1,2,4b

‘when we are getting ready to retire.’”

I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety. Psalm 4:8

The Institutes III.20.50

From: Office of Spiritual Formation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

THE DEACONS WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HELPED THEM RAISE MONEY FOR RELAY FOR LIFE THIS YEAR. THE FINAL TOTAL WAS \$7,360.21.

World Communion Sunday is October 3, 2010.
We will accept the Peacemaking Offering on that day.

**First United Presbyterian Church
3811 State Route 13/127
Pinckneyville, IL 62274**