

The Epistle

ST. PAUL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
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FROM THE PASTOR

“What would Jesus do” is a question that has become popular with some folks. It seems to be a way of gauging behavior – of measuring the appropriateness of an act for someone who wants to live as Jesus taught. While I understand the thought behind the question, it has always seemed a little disingenuous to me. Jesus lived in his own time, which was quite different from today’s society. I think a much better question would be, “What would Jesus have ME do.”

Along the lines of that question, though, I recently ran across an interesting variation of it: “What kind of clothes would God wear?” Maybe you have never worried much (or at all) about that, but I do like the answer one person gave in a story that is told about a man who was commissioned to paint a picture of the Prodigal Son.

After receiving his commission, the artist went to work fervently, laboring to produce a picture worthy of telling the story. Finally, the day came when the picture was complete, and he unveiled the finished painting.

The scene was set outside the father’s house, and showed the open arms of each as they were just about to meet and embrace. The man who commissioned the work was well pleased, and was prepared to pay the painter for his work, when he suddenly noticed a detail that he had missed.

Standing out in the painting above everything else in the scene, was the starkly apparent fact that the father was wearing one red shoe and one blue shoe. He was incredulous. How could this be, that the painter could make such an error? He asked the painter, and the man simply smiled and nodded, assuring the man, “Yes, this is a beautiful representation of the love of God for His children.”

“What do you mean?” he asked, puzzled.

“The father in this picture was not interested in being color-coordinated or fashion-conscious when he went out to meet his son. In fact, he was in such a hurry to show his love to his son, he simply reached and grabbed the nearest two shoes that he could find.

“He is the God of the Unmatched Shoes.”

And a thought for Labor Day: "A hundred times every day I remind myself that my inner and outer life depend on the labor of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received and am still receiving." *Author unknown.*

See you in church.

Jay



SEPTEMBER HYMN OF THE MONTH - #267, "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

The text of this hymn was written and published in 1848 by Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander, an Irish poet and hymn writer who, along with her sister established a school for the deaf in Tyrone County, Ireland. She wrote the text for the children of her Sunday School class to teach them the various truths of the Apostles' Creed. It illustrates the first phrase of the creed, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth."

The tune used in our hymnal, *Royal Oak*, is an English folk melody first published in 1686. It was adapted for this text by Martin Shaw, noted English organist and choirmaster of the early and middle 20th century.



THE WORD PROCLAIMED

	<u>Sermon topics</u>	<u>Scripture Readers</u>
September 1	<p>"True Humility" Text: Luke 14:1, 7-14</p>	<p>Merrilou Williams Reading: Jeremiah 2:4-13</p>
September 8	<p>"What Is Being A Christian All About?" Text: Luke 14:25-33</p>	<p>Michelle Saunders Reading: Jeremiah 18:1-11</p>
September 15	<p>"The Lost and the Least" Text: Luke 15:1-10</p>	<p>Megan Saunders Reading: Jeremiah 4:11-12; 22-28</p>
September 22	<p>"Jesus' Sense of Humor" Text: Luke 16:1-13</p>	<p>Barbara Coleman Reading: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1</p>
September 29 Pledge Sunday	<p>"Giving GRACEfully" Gospel: Luke 21:1-4</p>	<p>Ron Lochbaum Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7-12</p>

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

To whom did Jesus give the "Keys to the Kingdom" and what did this mean?

ANSWER TO AUGUST BIBLE KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

Solomon judged wisely over the rightful mother of a child, but how did he determine who the child belonged to? King Solomon called for a sword to be brought to him. He declared that there was only one fair solution: the live son must be split in two, each woman receiving half of the child. The liar, in her bitter jealousy, exclaimed, "It shall be neither mine nor yours—divide it!" However, on hearing this terrible verdict, the boy's true mother cried out, "Oh Lord, give the baby to her, just don't kill him!" The king gave the baby to the real mother. King Solomon's judgment became known throughout all of Israel and was considered an example of profound wisdom. (See 1 Kings 3:16-28). Jeannine Bailer was first with the correct answer.



Birthdays This Month

- September 1 – Nita Holder
- 7 – Frances Koontz
- 13 - Louise Coble
- 14 – Merrilou Williams
- 17 – Karen Krone
- 25 – Dot Jones
- 27 – Phyllis Lambeth
- 28 – Kathy Carroll
- 30 – John Miller



Anniversaries

September 7 – Jim and Margaret Tewes

“To keep the fire burning brightly there’s one easy rule: Keep the two logs together, near enough to keep each other warm and far enough – about a finger’s breadth - for breathing room. Good fire, good marriage, same rule.”

-Marnie Reed Crowell



IN HIS SERVICE

SEPTEMBER USHERS

- Michelle Saunders
- Janice Woods
- Janet Walker
- Megan Saunders

SEPTEMBER COMMUNION SERVERS

- Sunday, September 1 – Michelle Saunders
- Janice Woods
- Louise Coble
- Gayle Lancaster



SEPTEMBER IS STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS MONTH. Please refer to your stewardship letter, sent out recently, for details. Pledges for 2014 will be received on Sunday, September 29.



PRAYER CONCERNS : Luke Finison, Barbara Carter, Marjorie and Jack Herndon, Andy and Emily Bristow, Lucy Smith, Aiden and Jeanetta French, Bob Berthold, the families of Myrna Stell and Chris Westmoreland, Katie Williams, Georgia Giberson, Wendy Woods, Betty Lawson, John Patzsch, Ron Ervin, Dale and Nita Holder, John Perkins, Edith Taylor, Jane Christopher, Gary Houglan, Roger Coleman, Mark Griffin, Luke Neal, Carl Hollman, Kevin Tewes, Terri Battle, Joyce Myer, Zachary Reavis, Joe Herndon, and our own family members in the military: James Lochbaum, Andy Bristow II, Shane Finison, Brian Fountain, Rob Salka, Brandy Zehr, and all who serve in our armed forces.

* * * OUR AUGUST RECORD * * *

	<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Stewardship</u>
August 4	57	\$ 3,975.00
11	57	\$ 1,825.00
18	27	\$ 563.00
25	42	\$ 1,728.00



BELL NOTES

Fall Beginnings - Good News Ringers will resume rehearsals on Sunday, September 8, at 5:00 PM. Bell Tones will resume on Monday, September 9, at 6:15 PM. The Chime Choir will go to Heritage Greens on Wednesday, September 18, meeting at 10:30 AM.



FOOD CART ITEMS for September are soup and spaghetti sauce. Please remember – no glass jars. Thank you for supporting Urban Ministries.

Urban Ministry Food Drive

St Paul will again be participating in the semi-annual grocery store food drive for Urban Ministry. The fall food drive will take place the 1st weekend in October.

Our day to collect food will be Saturday October 5th. We will need 2 St. Paul members for each 2 hour shift from 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM, as well as people to load and transport the food to Urban Ministry at the end of the day.

THE NEED IS GREAT! Please contact Janice Woods if you can help.



CIRCLES - The Peace/Love Circle will meet Tuesday, September 3 at 9:45am in the Epiphany Classroom. The Charity Circle will meet that evening at 7:00pm in Nita Holder's home.

ST. PAUL PRESBYTERIAN WOMENS FALL GATHERING will be Tuesday, September 24 at 7:00pm in McCann Hall. Myra Ann Dean will be speaking about the time she spent in the Peace Corps after age 50 in the country of Surinam. Women, please remember to bring your thank offering. Least coin money will be turned in at the Gathering.

TO MY CHURCH FAMILY

I lost my brother in July and I want to thank you for your cares and cards and especially for your prayers for me during this difficult time. It helps so much.

-Emily Puckett

BIBLE SCHOOL

Bible School proved to be very interesting to those who attended. Most people knew little or nothing about the Orthodox Church in America, the Baha'I faith or the Mennonite faith, but learned a great deal through outstanding presentations and question and answer sessions. Thank you to all who participated.

The **GAD-A-BOUITS** will be going out to eat this month at a place and time to be announced.

