



From the Pastor:

Dear Congregation,

We have air conditioning in the Fellowship Hall again! Let's give thanks to the Lord for his provision of a new system that will serve us, Lord-willing, for over two decades as did the previous system. A second system should be installed this week that will service our education wing. If you have any questions regarding the new systems, the details of the installation or anything related to costs or funding, please speak to one of our Deacons. They will be happy to assist you with your inquiries.

Our 5th Sunday Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social will be held this Sunday, July 31 at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall! Plan to join us, bring someone along and let's fellowship together with song and sweets. There is no need to bring anything as all ice cream and toppings will be provided by the church. If you have a favorite hymn you've been wanting to sing, bring that selection and we'll sing it!

Please consider this Saturday's workday scheduled for 9 AM. We need a group of folk to bring shovels and wheelbarrows to spread a load of mulch in our natural areas (we did half of the job in May). There will be other outside chores as well. If you have skills with inside chores, please plan to make yourselves useful there also! Plans are to do some deep cleaning in the kitchen and there will be plenty else to do. Let's encourage one another and our Deacons as we take care of our property and enjoy a few hours of fellowship as we serve alongside one another.

A couple of Sundays back, our passage from Hebrews 10 said this: "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Some of you asked me to think on some ways to specifically help our church follow through on this exhortation. Here are some ideas based on the key words of the passage:

- Love - Let's love the Lord and love one another. That's opposite of not loving and or being selfish or self-centered. Make every effort to love and show love to the people who are in our church body. It's a vital sign of the true Christian.
- Good Works - We ought to strive to follow after Christ commands, doing our Christian duties toward one another and fulfilling our personal duties as Christians. Don't forget that we have been saved to do good works God chose for us to do before he made the world.
- Not Neglecting to Meet: Let's encourage one another to be present when the Elders call us together for worship, prayer, discipleship, fellowship, service - all of which is mutually edifying. We ought to miss each other when we miss or others are not present at the gatherings of the church. Our weekly Lord's Day is but a glimpse of our eternal reality - we will be in church, before God and with fellow saints - forever!
- Encouraging One Another: As we keep our eye out for the second coming of Jesus, our words to one another ought to be biblical words, words that encourage all of us to press on in the Christian life, to keep the faith we so dearly profess and to stand firm in God's strength in the midst of hardship as we make our way to heaven for eternity. Life is hard. We need real words from one another to live life well!

These things may not be natural to you, but each week set a goal to seek to say something to someone about the morning or evening message. Note a challenge to grow with a Sunday School classmate. Take someone for coffee. Give a ride to one who otherwise can't or wouldn't be able to get to church. Note who is not present for evening service and encourage them to come. Mention to one you've prayed for by note, phone or other form of communication that you have cared for them by taking their needs to the Shepherd. Start small and see where the Lord leads.

Ladies of the church of all ages: save the date for the Saturday, August 13 Ladies' Tea to be held at 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Invite another gal to come along! The basics of a tea includes (besides tea) scones, sandwiches and sweets. In addition to fellowship together there will be presentations for the upcoming year of discipleship ministry for our women, as well as opportunities for service in the church.

If you are interested in assisting the Hospitality Team with food for the tea, please speak to Karen Hoke.

Men of the Church: August starts on Monday. That means we have our first Monday Men's Lunch at Southbound Sandwich Works on Monday, August 1. Our discussion will be chapter 7 of Masculine Mandate. The Thursday evening Men's Gathering will meet to discuss chapter 4 of Masculine Mandate on Thursday, August 11 at 7 PM at Panera Bread.

Our brother David Newton has served nearly a full three-year term as a Deacon. He has found himself in a position of needing to say "no" to some good things in his life, one of those being his service as a Deacon. Please offer your thanks to David for his service and encourage him in his various labors as God calls him to be a man, husband, father, student and employee.

God's Church is always in need of good men to serve as Elders and Deacons. The Scriptures speak of aspiring to serve in office. If one of you has any desire to serve our congregation in the future in some way, speak to me. The Session would like to begin the process of training men for the offices of Elder and Deacon so that our church will be well-served for years to come.

I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday as we worship our Lord and Savior, as well as hear from Hebrews 10:32-39. May God prepare our hearts and minds to gather together before his throne!

5th SUNDAY HYMN SING & SOCIAL

Please plan to join us on Sunday, July 31 as we enjoy a time of fellowship and encouragement as we sing together about God's goodness, faithfulness, and sovereignty in our lives as well as a time to enjoy ice cream & toppings. Bring someone with you!

CHURCH WORKDAY

THIS Saturday, July 30 at 9 AM. Outdoor and indoor chores will be ready for your hands! If interested in spreading mulch, bring your wheelbarrow, shovel and rake. Let's fellowship and serve together...

FIRST PRESBYTERIAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

The fifth First Presbyterian Women's Ministries Retreat will be held this fall at Bonclarken on November 4-5.

The theme for the retreat is God's Marvelous Grace. Barbara Duguid who has written the book *Extravagant Grace*, will share her story of God's amazing grace. The purpose of this retreat is to grow in our understanding of God's Word and to have fellowship with our sisters across the Presbytery. The annual meeting for the Presbyterian is part of the retreat this year and is to be held after lunch on Saturday.

Details regarding the retreat are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. We hope you will consider joining us again for a time of Bible study, renewal and fellowship.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY- Evening Book Study

Women's book study will meet Tuesday, August 9, at 6:30 PM at Janice Richardson's home. We will share a pot luck meal and finish our book, *Extravagant Grace*.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

July

- 30 Church Workday - 9 AM
- 31 5th Sunday Hymn Sing and Social, 6 PM

August

- 1 Men's Lunch
- 2 Women's Ministry Leadership Training
- 7 Lord's Supper
- 9 Women's *Extravagant Grace* Book Study, 6:30 PM
- 11 Men's Evening Gathering
- 13 Women's Tea
- 18 Joint Officer & Stated Session Meeting
- 21 Ministry Fair

August

BIRTHDAYS

Gage Roy	8/4
Josh Limon	8/11
Ossie Spaulding	8/12
Catherine Mangum	8/13
Stephen Robinson	8/13
Lorene Childrey	8/14
Hannah Baird	8/19
Betty Mann	8/19
Carolyn Pulley	8/19
Deborah McGrogan	8/20
Lola Knox	8/21
David Robinson	8/22
Freeman Baulding	8/24
Kaye Murray	8/25
Erin Cobb	8/29
Charles Seay	8/29
Foy Evans	8/30
Joyce Payne	8/31
Seth Spaulding	8/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Jay & Julie Snow (30)	8/2
Kevin & Elizabeth Hutelmyer (12)	8/9
Ed & Lynn Limon (36)	8/10
Joe & Kaye Murray (62)	8/11
Erik & Kelli Ensley (11)	8/13
James & Carolyn Constable (29)	8/23
Chip & Sarah Wright (48)	8/24
Chris & Emily Hutelmyer (8)	8/30

Christmas in July! Now is a good time to stock up on supplies for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. Crayons, pencils, sharpeners, scissors, erasers, rulers, glue sticks, underwear, socks, tees, etc. Avoid large items like notebooks. Questions, call Joyce Payne 222-1133.

Nursery:

July 31: _____
Aug 7: Macon Baird & _____

Counter:

July 31: Stephen Robinson
Aug 7: _____

Deacon Duty:

July 31: Stephen Robinson
Aug 7: Glenn Owens

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