



### *From the Pastor:*

Dear Congregation,

There are a thousand things that must be done to make church work. Well, maybe not a thousand, but there are many. A lot of the tasks are unseen.

Who keeps supplies ordered? Who refills the candles in the sanctuary? Who bakes bread for the Lord's Supper? Who puts batteries in the pastor's cordless microphone? How did the trash cans get returned to the back of the building? The list of unseen things could go on!

We generally know the public work. Bill teaches Sunday School. Julie plays piano. Bryan preaches. Our ice cream was scooped out by real living folks who handed our bowls to us this past Sunday night. And so on!

It takes a lot of hands to get the work of the church done and I'm looking for co-laborers! Our ministry operates on the labors of staff, elders, deacons and church members.

The Lord calls and gifts every Christian to work in the church (Ephesians 4:11-12, I Corinthians 12). Our theology teaches us that the communion of saints (see our Westminster Confession of Faith 26) is important - that we owe one another our gifts, graces, time, talents and resources to assist each other in Christian nurture and growth.

I hope you have plans to attend the **Ministry Fair in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 21 at 9:45 AM.**

Our church ministry year cycles around the school year. As September approaches, we will reset ministry teams and committees to give all who'd like to serve a chance to jump on a team.

I also hope you have plans to serve the church in a specific way this next year. Typically we say that 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people. That figure does not match our biblical mandates or theological convictions. If that statistic is true, it means that 80% of the congregation is saying, "Serve me!" Our posture should be, "How can I serve others?"

What should every Christian do to be faithful to the church? What makes a healthy church member?

One should worship, tithe of our income, hear God's word, love the Gospel of Jesus Christ, pray with and for others, display the fruit of the Holy Spirit in his or her life, be committed to fellow church members, evangelize and finally...**utilize their God-given gifts in the work of the church to glorify God and to serve neighbor.**

Let me offer a challenge: In preparation for the August 21 Ministry Fair and the upcoming year, take out a slip of paper and write down the areas of the church where you have previously served, as well as the areas where you would like to serve in the future. Maybe consider adding one additional item to your list. Stretch yourself this year.

If you think you've aged-out of serving or this is not the right season for you, let me encourage you to think of a small way you can serve. Maybe take the directory and pray for folks. Write cards of encouragement. Come to the ministry events that you are able to manage - showing up is serving - especially when it's not so easy to do. It sets an example for others!

May the Lord bless our church through each of our labors!

Bryan

P.S. - last week's newsletter caused some confusion regarding various dates. That was my fault and my apologies to you! Please refer to the calendar printed on the back of the newsletter for accurate dates for August - BPC

## KITCHEN DISHES & TABLE CLOTHS

Some of our table cloths and dishes are missing. Please check to see if you might have some. We have numerous functions in the near future and all of them will be needed. Thank you for returning them to the kitchen ASAP!

## SAVE THE DATE!

Our annual Homecoming is September 25. Plan to join us for the 11 AM Worship service and Lunch to follow!

## THURSDAY EVENING MEN'S GATHERING

Join us at Panera Bread on August 8 at 7 PM. We will meet to discuss chapter 4 of Masculine Mandate.

## 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*.

## ANNUAL LADIES TEA (for all ages)

We are looking forward to this time of fellowship! Please join us on Saturday, August 13 at 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Invite someone and bring a favorite tea cup to drink from.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST ARP

### August

7	Lord's Supper
9	Women's <i>Extravagant Grace</i> 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
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 August!** 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:

Aug 7: Macon Baird & \_\_\_\_\_  
Aug 14: Vickie McPherson & \_\_\_\_\_

### Counter:

Aug 7: Laurene Howington  
Aug 14: Jim Knox

### Deacon Duty:

Aug 7: Glenn Owens  
Aug 14: Stephen Robinson

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