

In This Issue - August 2020

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Worship Times:

9:00am Traditional
(Online – Website)

10:00am Blended Service
(Sanctuary)

Family Life Center's air conditioner expected back in service sometime in August!

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Inspiration Point

Christians, God is calling his people to holy and righteous living! We need to die to the flesh and pay attention to the things that build up our spirits! That is the Holy Spirit that is living inside us, not the man spirit! Put the carnal man inside you to death! Take up the cross and crucify that carnal man! Listen to your Christian teaching audios and videos, read your Bibles and pray! Take some of that time you spend in front of the television, and use it to build up your spiritual lives! Break free of the carnal thinking and bondage that you have bound yourself up with through your bad habits and let God have most of that slothful time! He wants to build you up and make you into a holy person! When was the last time you read the Ten Commandments? Do you remember what they are anymore? The Law was given to help us to identify sin. The Law, basically, is the Old Testament. God does not expect us Christians to live on the same level as those who lived according to the Old Testament! Christians are expected to live their lives in grace and love! That level is far and above the level of the Old Testament! When sin abounds, grace does much more abound! God knows that grace is abounding much around here! WE are sinning and we are condoning our children to sin! When we start reaping the consequences of our sins, we are startled and cry out to God that Satan is attacking us! The Scriptures are very plain. "Be not deceived, God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man soweth, so shall he also reap!" When you sow to the wind, you shall reap the whirlwind! When you sow to the flesh, you shall reap corruption! Brothers and Sisters, when you are acting in sin and disobedience to God's Word, do not expect God's blessings upon you!

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God can not look upon sin and he can not bless sin! If you have sin in your lives, confess it to God, repent and turn away from it! Then if you have made a mess of your life, ask God and He will help you to straighten it out right! He can only strengthen you and give you courage and words. You will have to expend the energy to correct things! But know for sure, "All things work together for good for those who love the Lord, who are the called according to His purposes." The devil means it for bad, but God can work it out for good, if you repent and ask Him to do so!

We as a people have well passed that place where we live in Mercy and Grace! Our sins are so commonplace that we view them as normal human behavior! We may be running around changing the boundaries and markers, but God is the same today, yesterday and will be the same tomorrow! His rules are constant and do not change to suit what society wants them to be! Today, we live in a state of Judgment with our Lord and God! Where the Spirit abides there is peace! Are we living in a place of peace? Or are we living in a place of fear? We run here looking for peace, then not finding it, we run there! We do not find it there either! God does not care who the rulers are! The Bible teaches us that He gives us the rulers that we deserve! What God is calling for is repentance! Turning from our wickedness and into holiness! Holiness of heart and Spirit! Loving one another! There is only one answer to our problems today, and that is to turn from our wickedness and to begin to live a life of holiness, loving God and loving each other!

Brother Phil





THE FIVE ROADS OF REPENTANCE SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Let me describe to you five ways of repentance; each is different, but all point toward heaven.

The first road is the *acknowledgement of sins*. If you acknowledge your sins to God, he will forgive you; and this act of acknowledgement will help you stop sinning. Let your conscience be your accuser, so that you will not have to face a far different accuser at the Lord's tribunal.

The second road of repentance is the *forgetting of the wrongs of others*. This requires you to control your temper and to forgive the sins that others have committed against you. If you forgive others, the Lord will forgive you.

The third road is *prayer*: not perfunctory routine prayer, but fervent, passionate prayer in which you lay yourself wholly before God.

The fourth road is *generosity*, in which by acts of thoughtful love you make amends for the sins you have committed.

And the fifth road is *humility*, whereby you regard yourself as having no virtue, but only sins to offer to God; he will then take the burden of sin from your back.

At times it will be right to travel on one of these roads, at other times to travel on another. But ensure that every day you walk along at least one of them. — St. John Chrysostom

Byron Alexander
Senior Pastor Pleasant Grove Church
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Did You Know???



...that ministry and agriculture can go hand in hand???

Well, they can...and do!!! Pastor Bryan Wilson, who serves the Hickory Stand and Oak Forest charge in the Smoky Mountain district, along with the evangelical outreach known as Still Waters Landing (SWL), are the proof of just how successful this pairing can be!

Wilson grew up farming in Tennessee and always knew that somehow he would incorporate it into his ministry. He knew that the accepted view of rural churches is that they don't have as much to offer as

suburban or urban churches. This viewpoint is emphasized by the fact that our rural communities sometimes house some of our poorest communities. However, Pastor Wilson also knew that poor people in rural areas oftentimes still own small tracts of land where some profitable agriculture can, and does, go on. Knowing this fact, Wilson wanted to build something that could change the mindset of rural communities and make a difference in the lives of the residents. This dream, this vision, slowly turned into a reality. "One of the best things about serving God is when our ideas are turned into something that otherwise would have seemed impossible."

Pastor Wilson's two churches are in Brasstown and Hayesville, NC. Two of his lay members, who saw the importance of practicing good stewardship, offered the use of a tract of land in Hayesville, NC. Then, a friend of his from Tennessee offered to donate two pregnant sows, a boar, and fifty chickens. The God-sized dream of ministry and agriculture began to grow quickly!

Still Waters Landing, in Hayesville, NC has as its motto, "Renewing the community through food, fellowship, farming and faith while ensuring that the poorest in the community gain access to the highest quality of food." The biggest hurdle that the launch of this endeavor initially faced was that a project of this size required a full-time farm manager. This meant a salary. After making application for, and receiving a grant from the Duke Endowment, the farm was able to afford this salary. Now, after four years of hard work, Still Waters Landing continues rapid growth. The farm partners with a local food bank, where they serve the community.

The thing that most surprised Pastor Wilson was the evangelical aspect of the farm. SWL now has pastoral relationships with migrant workers, beer brewers, restaurant owners, feed store owners, school teachers, school administrators, and students. Many of these people do not attend either of the pastor's churches; however they now have a pastor! This farm isn't just about feeding people, although it does indeed; it is also a place to teach lessons, do retreats, have volunteer days, and hold worship services. Middle schoolers and high schoolers came to the farm this past year. SWL also hosts peer learning days during which folks from all over the state come to learn about anything from non-profits becoming self-sustaining to pasture-raised pork. The plans are also in place for an internship program in which they will identify two at-risk high school students and bring them onto the SWL team in order to learn about sustainable agriculture. This will show the students another option for their future. It will retain the youth in their own community. It will provide the students with an hourly wage, their fair share of the fresh produce, and a quarter of a pig! They will also be sent to agricultural conferences as a way of continuing their education.

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Still Waters Landing is evidence that faith, added to what is already in a community, can make something beautiful. We certainly can all agree that this type of project can be duplicated if a church has the time, the volunteers, the ability to work, and a heart for the community. And, even though the farm needed a grant to grow, Wilson is hoping that the farm will be self-sustaining in three years. When it is all said and done, Still Waters Landing is an inspiring example of what God can do in and through your church community.

(The content of this article was written by Rev. Meg Gaston and first appeared on July 15, 2020 on the Western North Carolina Conference website.)

Not Everything is Cancelled

sunshine is not cancelled
the seasons are not cancelled
love is not cancelled
relationships are not cancelled
reading is not cancelled
naps are not cancelled
devotion is not cancelled
music is not cancelled
dancing is not cancelled
imagination is not cancelled
kindness is not cancelled
conversations are not cancelled
hope is not cancelled

Keep Looking Up!



**THE FOLLOWING GIFTS WERE MADE TO THE CHURCH IN
MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF:**

IN MEMORY

Horace Nixon

Duanne Jones

Nancy Brown

Duanne Jones

Matthews Novant Health

Peggy Pace – Family Life Center

Ray Alexander

Tim and Terri Honeycutt

Steve and Karen Dellinger

Peggy Pace – Family Life Center

Jimmy McCall

Peggy Pace – Family Life Center

Judy Maples

Ron and Anna Robinson

Steve and Maria McClure

Brenda Watkins – Family Life Center

Robert and Coretha Ferrell

Steve and Karen Dellinger

Lucia Wilkins

Duanne Jones

Nancy Earley

Hazel Sanders

Steve and Karen Dellinger

Vivian Kiser

Ron and Anna Robinson

Bonnie Johnson

Steve and Maria McClure

Dick and Jean Lynch

Bob and Bonnie Bridges

Tim and Terri Honeycutt

Brenda Watkins – Family Life Center

Robert and Coretha Ferrell

Steve and Karen Dellinger

Rick and Lynda Elliott – Family Life Center

Anonymous – Family Life Center

Duanne Jones

Laura Gilleland

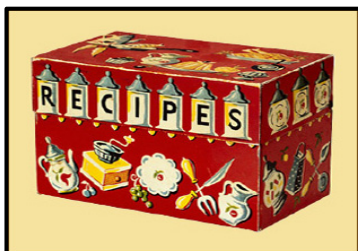
Vann and Linda Sasser

Peggy Pace – Family Life Center

IN HONOR

Kappy Canfield

Covenant Sunday School Class



The Recipe Box

If you are like most of us, you feel sort of stuck in a rut with your summer time cooking. We have grilled and grilled and grilled. We have enjoyed the abundance of squash and cucumbers from the garden...or the neighbor's garden. The summer corn was glorious and the strawberries and peaches were juicy and delicious. Now though, here in the Dog Days of Summer, we find ourselves looking for something fresh...something we haven't tasted in a long time...something to sort of wake us up and make us feel alive. May we suggest this version of Key Lime Pie? This recipe is easy. It is a no bake pie, which means you will not heat up your kitchen. It uses fairly simple ingredients and is light and refreshing. The recipe originally appeared on the website togetherasfamily.com but has been modified slightly to be even simpler. We hope that you will try, and enjoy, Easy No Bake Key Lime Pie!

Easy No Bake Key Lime Pie

- 1 (6 ounce) store-bought, prepared graham cracker crust
- 2 (8 ounce) blocks of cream cheese, softened
- 1 (14 ounce) can of sweetened condensed milk
- 1/3 cup key lime juice
- 2 Tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1 (8 ounce) tub of whipped topping
- 1 lime

In a bowl with a hand mixer, or bowl of a stand mixer, beat together the softened cream cheese, and sweetened condensed milk until combined and no lumps remain. Add in the key lime juice and powdered sugar and blend until combined. If desired, you can add the zest of about half of the lime to add more flavor. Pour mixture into the prepared graham cracker crust and smooth out on top. Cover with the plastic lid that came with the crust and refrigerate over night, or at least 8 hours. (Over night is preferred.) When ready to serve, top the pie with the whipped topping. As an added element of beauty and fun, zest the other half of the lime over the whipped topping. Serve and enjoy this cool, heat-beating, tasty summer pie!!!

Notes:

1. Key Lime juice is typically found in the juice aisle of the grocery store, right by the lemon juice. If you can't find Key Lime juice, regular lime juice is fine but the Key Lime juice is highly recommended.
2. The best way to soften the cream cheese is to place both unwrapped cream cheese blocks onto a microwave safe plate and microwave for 30-45 seconds. You want it soft to prevent lumps in the filling mixture, but watch it carefully that you do not over heat.
3. When zesting the lime, be sure to get just the very outer surface of the skin. The more you zest into the skin, the more bitter the lime zest will become.
4. Don't judge the taste of the pie on your tasting of the filling just after you mix it. As the pie sits in the fridge, the flavors develop and the pie does get slightly sweeter.



What Do You Say When Asked...

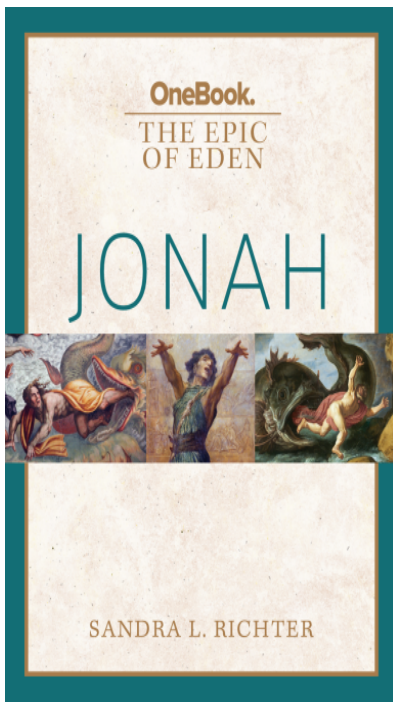
Are we praying as Christ did? Do we abide in Him? Are our pleas and spirit the overflow of His pleas and Spirit?

These questions must be considered as proper and highly appropriate at a time like the present. We have every reason to fear that we are doing more of other things than prayer. This is not a praying age; it is an age of great activity, of great movements, but one in which the tendency is very strong to stress the seen and the material, and to neglect and discount the unseen and spiritual. Prayer is the greatest of all forces because it honors God and brings Him into active aid.

There can be no substitute, no rival for prayer; it stands alone as the great spiritual force, and this force must be imminent and acting.

“Prayer honors God: it dishonors self.”

(Taken from E.M. Bounds on Prayer)



Bible Study Started July 20th!

Join Jana Alexander in the next Epic of Eden study, "Jonah", on Monday nights at 6:30 via Zoom. This is an 8-week study beginning July 27th thru September 14th.

Please join us!

Email Jana (janaalexander09@gmail.com) or contact the church if you are planning to join in, and let us know if you want us to order your book for you. The cost is \$16.95 plus shipping and can be ordered through www.seedbed.com.

Scenes from Summer Camp



Some Hot Fun in the Summer Time!!!



WOW! These sure are strange and unusual times! There is still so much about the reopening of our lives that seems to be up in the air. School is certainly one of those uncertainties. Since we are really unsure about what the reopening of school will look like, we can't be certain about what our Backpack Buddies Ministry will look like either.

Will the students stay in the remote learning mode for half the year...for the entire year? Will the students come back to campus earlier than is anticipated at this time? Will the school system continue to provide breakfasts and lunches for pick up by the students and their families?

While this all still seems to be a moving target, we are just going to need to be patient about the logistics of our Backpack Buddies Ministry. The BPB leadership will be in touch with Oakdale School as soon as possible. We will offer to have the backpacks available for pick up each Friday morning just as we did in the Spring. However, this will take much communication and cooperation to get it up and running. As said, let's be patient. Let's allow the school to navigate these first few weeks and find their new normal. Then, we will plug in our ministry as soon as we can.

It was truly humbling to see and speak with our BPB families each week this past Spring. The gratitude and appreciation that was expressed to us surely caused us to consider the impact that the backpacks, a pack of toilet paper, and a small grocery store gift card were making on these precious families. Now, as we face another new set of circumstances, we are sure, more than ever, that the ministry must continue! With so much that is uncertain, that much is sure!

Several have asked if we were going to be able to do Backpacks this coming school year. The response has always been, "We sure hope so and plan to!" Families need this assistance with food now more than ever! If you are planning to continue contributing a particular item each month, that's great! Just hold off for now, until we get a firm plan in place. If you are planning to support this ministry financially, you may begin to do so as soon as you are ready. Together we can continue to make a positive impact in the lives of children! We can be a light! We can be the Love of Christ in action! Out of our blessings, we can be a blessing!



“Just for Giggles”



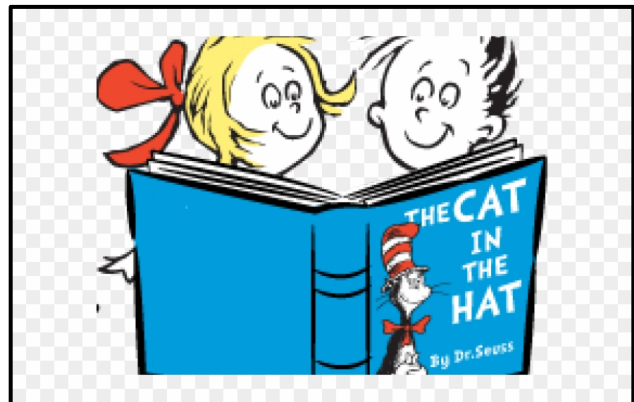


Something to Think About

This little poem has circulated around on social media and the internet for several months now. It is written to be read as if it is a Dr. Seuss creation. We thought we would share it with you. We hope it gives you pause to reflect and be grateful. We hope it brings you a little bit of hope and a great big smile!

**The buildings were big and people would smile
And travel they would mile by mile.
But sick they became, in numbers it grew
Businesses worried, communities too.
Things stopped for a bit, the world slowed its roll
The virus had certainly taken its toll.
But what they then saw from slowing things down
Is in fact they now had less reasons to frown.
Families now gathered, what game shall we play?
Pass me the blue crayon, give mommy the gray.
Dad's home guys! He'll read us a book
Then all of us together will cook.
The lungs of the planet caught a small break
Less travel meant less pollution to make.
People did realize they'd all be ok
They don't need so much to get through the day
Maybe this virus that caused so much stress
Showed the whole world that more can mean less.**

--Author Unknown





Recommended Reading

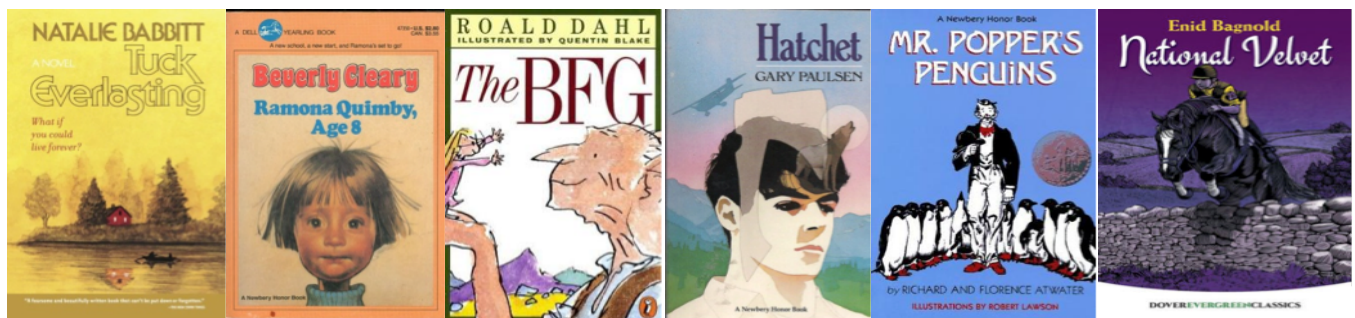
(This month's Recommended Reading article is written by Sherri Brown.)

Almost every month the staff of Pleasant News recommends to our readers at least one book. Sometimes we recommend two books by the same author. We try to recommend books that we think will encourage you, build you up, strengthen your spirit, bring you closer to Christ, or at the very least entertain you. It is our hope that at least one of our readers will gain something from these recommendations.

This month, we are taking a bit of a different approach. This month, we are recommending tons and tons of books!!! My recommendation for this month is that you take a little stroll down memory lane. I would like for you to think back to your childhood and remember all of the wonderful books that you read during your elementary school and teenage years. As you think back, look for that one title that really stood out to you and stayed with you. Think about a book that you truly enjoyed. Think about a book that inspired you to take a certain path in your life. Think about that one book that just made you laugh! Now, read that book again!

I recently re-read the Little House on the Prairie books by Laura Ingalls Wilder. These were my favorites growing up. I remember thinking that I would have loved to live during those simpler, rustic times. I can vividly remember placing myself within the stories as I experienced the joys, trials, heartbreak, and fun that Laura and her family experienced. But, what was lost on me, as a child reading these books, were so many of the life lessons, the good advice, the commitment to family and honesty and decency. As an adult, reading them through again, these little nuggets became so clear to me. I had a new perspective, a new way of interpreting the stories. This gave me a newfound respect for the author and her life. I found that I could apply some of what was written all those years ago to my life today. As children, so many times, we read something at face-value. Then, as grown-ups, we can read the same thing and get something totally different from it.

So think back...National Velvet, The Boxcar Children, Charlotte's Web, Old Yeller, To Kill a Mockingbird, Tuck Everlasting, The BFG, James and the Giant Peach, Mr. Popper's Penguins, The Chronicles of Narnia, A Wrinkle in Time, Ramona Quimby, The Giver, Where the Lilies Bloom...these are just a few that came to my mind that might be of interest to you. I do hope that you will find a copy of one of the books from your childhood and give it another read. I believe that you will enjoy this reading in a whole different way. Who knows? You might even learn something that you missed all those years ago! Most certainly you will enjoy spending this time on a sentimental journey! Happy Reading!!!



Kids Bible Wordsearch

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Men of the Old Testament
Puzzle #6

AARON
ABEL
ABRAHAM
ADAM
AMOS
CAIN
DANIEL
DAVID
ELIJAH
EZEKIEL
GIDEON
GOLIATH
ISAAC
JACOB

A	E	D	I	V	A	D	O	T	J	L	J	M
M	A	L	R	R	J	P	O	B	A	E	O	Z
O	L	W	I	O	G	L	W	N	C	I	N	N
S	D	E	S	J	E	O	O	B	O	K	A	O
W	A	E	U	I	A	M	L	I	B	E	T	E
Q	P	U	N	M	O	H	Q	I	H	Z	H	D
H	P	A	L	L	A	I	I	R	A	E	A	I
Q	D	J	O	B	S	S	K	N	O	T	N	G
N	O	S	M	A	S	S	I	L	N	H	H	X
A	B	R	A	H	A	M	E	L	N	C	C	I
G	U	C	A	A	R	O	N	S	E	I	G	Q
A	U	H	S	O	J	Y	Q	G	O	B	A	Z
E	M	A	D	A	J	O	N	A	H	M	A	C

JOB
JOEL
JONAH
JONATHAN
JOSEPH
JOSHUA
LOT
MOSES
NIMROD
NOAH
SAMSON
SAMUEL
SAUL
SOLOMON

