

FAITH NOTES

Newsletter of Faith United Presbyterian Church

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESKTOP



I recently came across a quote from a philosopher, Jesuit priest, and paleontologist named Teilhard de Chardin (1881 – 1955). He once said, “We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience.”

As I thought about that, it occurred to me that people see what they pay attention to. If a person’s attention is focused on things like a job, house, car, vacation, etc., then that person will see things from a very human point of view. That focus becomes their world and their reality.

But if a person pays attention to the beauty of nature and considers who created it all, or focuses on finding their purpose in life, or sees the face of Jesus in people living in poverty and decides to do something about it; then that person will see things from a spiritual point of view. People who focus on the presence of the spiritual in life find that that becomes their world and their reality.

Both of these perspectives are real. But one of them will have its way with us in how we choose to live our lives. I know that it seems much easier and more natural to focus on the human concerns. Quite frankly, those human concerns are what make it such a challenge to carve out time for the spiritual. But I really do believe that we shortchange ourselves when we fail to pay attention to the spiritual realities all around us which fill our lives. Acknowledging the spiritual dimension of our living can bring a healthier perspective and the fulfillment we seek.

I was talking about this with a friend who shared something she does to help her focus on living as a spiritual being. She keeps a “God file.” Every time she sees some act of goodness or witnesses unrestrained love, or gains some insight about God through watching the world and its people...she recognizes God in the midst of that event...and writes it down in a journal. By keeping this “God file,” she is able to pay attention to and recognize God in the ordinary course of everyday life.

God is as equally present and active in, around, and through our everyday lives as in the lives of those we consider saints or spiritual giants. In fact, we are called to be spiritual giants in the small part of the world we call home. All we need to do to accomplish that is to pay attention to the presence of God which surrounds us each and every day.

I hope that some of us will consider adopting the practice of keeping a “God file,” whether we use a journal or a computer. Or, for those of us who don’t like to write, it’s possible to keep a mental file of all the ways God is present in our lives every day. As we do so, we will be blessed in seeing God everywhere and in every moment of every day.

Faithfully,

Rev. Ruth Ann

SEEDS OF FAITH



In its June '09 meeting session received revised job descriptions of all the current commissions. These new job descriptions were approved and the commissions were renamed. One of the newly formed commissions is called "Seeds of Faith". Its purpose is to: develop and coordinate spiritual formation activities for the adults of our church and community. Our first goal will be to make an effort to ignite within our congregation a passion for two of the central ingredients in our faith – Bible study and Prayer.

Under the title "Seeds of Faith" there will appear in each issue of 'Faith Notes' a Bible study and prayer element. The Bible study will not require your reading of any book or passage in the Bible. Each book or selected passage will be presented in a summary format. It will be easy reading and will bring to the reader the essential lesson of the selected book or passage. Our goal is for all members to read the same portion of the Bible each issue, and when the opportunity arises to discuss the message it delivers with others in the congregation. If there is enough interest we may meet as a cluster group and further discuss the text. The article will end with a prayer, a vital ingredient in our walk with God. We will be most interested in any feed back you would like to offer.

Please see page 3 for this issues bible study, titled **THE BOOK OF PHILEMON**

SEEDS OF FAITH PRAYER

What is prayer? Talking with God is a good answer.

Why do we pray? There are many reasons. To name a few:

- To seek guidance
- To give thanks
- To ask God for help
- To ask for forgiveness
- To praise the Lord

We will start our Seeds of Faith Prayer portion with The Lords Prayer. You all know it therefore we will not repeat it here but please join us in the prayer this day.

When his followers asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he warned them about rattling off long prayers – "For your Father knows your needs before you ask him" Matt 6:8. Jesus taught his disciples to address God as "Abba" – Father. In the Lord's Prayer we ask the Father to give us what we need: daily bread to sustain us in life (both the earthly bread, and the Eucharistic bread which is the body of Christ); forgiveness of our sins as we have forgiven others; and that God may strengthen us when we are tempted to sin, and that he may deliver us from the power of evil. AMEN

Apple Festival

Saturday October 3rd 4-8pm



Please join us to enjoy great food and fellowship at our annual Apple Festival.

You will find all of you favorite foods including bar-be-que, hot dogs, and salads.

And make sure to leave room for all of the delicious desserts, like apple pie (sold by the slice or whole pie), ice cream, and apple dumplings.

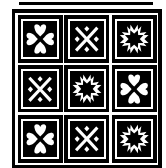
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Saturday November 14th

Handmade crafts, baked goods, and your help are needed.

See Jane Ruggiero or Pat Lambert for more information.



PAHS Alumni Association is hosting a trip to the American Music Theater in Lancaster on **Saturday December 5th**. A buffet meal is included. Please see Bill Ruggiero (610-863-6297) for more information.

THE BOOK OF PHILEMON

This epistle (letter) was written about AD 60/61 by the apostle Paul while he was in a Roman prison. Paul is writing to one of his earlier converts and devoted friend Philemon. Philemon, a wealthy Roman lives in Colosse, a small city in what is now Western Turkey. It is not recorded that Paul visited Colosse but some years earlier he spent three years in Ephesus (Acts 19) which is also located in western Turkey, and presumably at that time met Philemon.

This epistle concerned a runaway slave, Onesimus. Onesimus had robbed Philemon and escaped to Rome. Here he looked up Paul. The text does not discuss how he knew Paul was in prison, but as Rome was a city with over a million people one would think he wouldn't have located him by accident. In meeting with Paul, Onesimus was converted to Christianity. The Bible tells us that Onesimus was a big help to Paul in his work (Phil 1:10-11).

Paul knew what Onesimus had done was wrong and as someone who has accepted Christ Onesimus knew it also. Paul decided to intercede with Philemon on Onesimus' behalf and would ask him to forgive the runaway slave which by Roman law he could have been put to death. Paul prepares a letter in which he appealed to Philemon to receive Onesimus not as a runaway slave and robber but as a Christian brother (vs. 16). A brother in the Lord. This request was not made using Paul's authority but as a Christian friend. "Receive him as myself" (vs. 17). Paul asked one of his workers, Tychicus to go with Onesimus and deliver the letter to Philemon (CO 4:7-9).

Paul's short Epistle challenged Philemon to apply Christian love in dealing with Onesimus.

Scripture doesn't tell us how this turned out, but tradition tells us that a person named Onesimus afterward became a Bishop in Berea. A city in Macedonia. We do know that Paul's approach to slavery, treating all as Christian brothers and sisters would eventually cause its end.

Welcome him as you would welcome me – Philemon 17.

The Grace of the Lord Jesus be with your spirit – Philemon 25

AMEN



HOSPITALITY LUNCH

ALL WELCOME!

BEEF BBQ

SATURDAY AUGUST 29TH, 2009

12-2PM

NO CHARGE!

This is our ministry to the Slate Belt.

Mark your calendars for our next
Hospitality Lunch

Sept. 26th 12-2pm

Oct. 31st 12-2pm

Menu to be announced



LABOR DAY PARADE

Come wrap up the summer and enjoy a Pen Argyl tradition from a great location!

This year on Labor Day, the church will be open with access for parade patrons to use the bathroom facilities, and also bottled water will be handed out to the parade participants. Please contact Cindy Smith if you are available to help out or are interested in donating a case of water.

Prayer List

Evelyn Yeisley Geraldine Ceraul

Martha Budge Marion Hoffman

Mary Hontz Anita Amy

Norma Strunk Mim Dietrich

Helen Potts Peter Ghellar

Stew & Deb Leh

John & Sue Oliver

Dick & Betty Powell



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women are invited to join us!

**Thursday Sept. 3rd at 1pm &
Thursday October 1st at 1:00pm**

Birthday Wishes

September

1 Joshua Spencer
1 Naomi Wagner
3 Susan Antonioli
5 Patricia Schafer
6 Kayla Pickens
7 Stewart Leh
8 Debbie Leh
10 Richard Salch
10 John Spencer
12 Peter Ghellar
14 Garrett DeBoer
15 George Pultz
16 George Pultz V
17 Harrison Buchanan
20 Nona Wilson
21 Chuck Spink
23 June Wismer
24 Emily Arner
24 Cody Hagerty
27 Matthew Falcone
30 Cindy Smith

October

2 Ethan Iaccio
4 Dustin Flyte
7 Lynn Zorzetto
9 Gail Keyes
10 Ashley Flyte
10 Susan Oliver
11 John Sloan
11 Louise Williams
12 Ashley Lambert
14 Elwanda Cassady
14 Pat Lambert
15 Jeremy Carhart
16 Jane Paolini
16 Carter DeBoer
19 Art Rutt
21 Gertrude Roth
23 Jessica Kragh
25 Don Hontz
29 Roy Clewell

Sunday School News



- Thank you to all who participated in the Summer Fun Sundays!
- All are invited to ride on the float in the Labor Day Parade. Please call Megan Pultz (484-264-2203) or email (pultzclan@msn.com subject Sunday School) if you are interested.
- We will be having a put together the float day at John and Cindi Spencer's house. (date to be announced)
- We will be handing out Tshirts for the children in church on August 30th

THANKSGIVING IN SEPTEMBER

WHEN: **Sept. 13th, 2009**

WHERE: **The Land!**

WHAT TIME: **10:00 am**



Come one, come all and join us for a worship service/fellowship lunch that will celebrate and thank everyone who contributes to the continued success of our church.

PIZZA LUNCH!

FUN WITH FRIENDS

AND CHURCH FAMILY!

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!