First Presbyterian Church, Mission

Where God's Love Makes All The Difference!

August 2013

Grace, Peace, and Mercy to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Bread of Heaven

I like lots of kinds of food. One of my favorites is Chinese food. One of the qualities of Chinese food is that an hour or so after eating it, I am hungry again. It satisfies me temporarily. I am satisfied with the flavors as I eat it, and my tummy is satisfied when I finish, but once the flavor is gone, my taste buds are no longer satisfied. Once the fullness in my tummy wears off in an hour or so, my satisfaction wanes. Chinese food, as wonderful as it is, seems to be a temporary fix to my hunger.

Like Chinese food, we live in a world where just about everything is temporary. The things of the world deteriorate. Food that sits on the shelf too long or in the "death drawer" of the refrigerator goes bad and has to be thrown out. Milk and even canned goods have expiration dates. There are beautiful flowers that bloom in the morning, but wilt before sunset. Our carpets, drapes and clothing fade and grow brittle. Paint peels from our walls. Our bodies grow when we are young and begin deteriorating as we age. The pigment for our hair runs out. The cartilage in our joints wears out. Our skin wrinkles and grows brittle. Our bones shrink and grow soft. Our eyesight and mental capacity fade. Things of this world are temporary. They deteriorate. In science, we determine the age of ancient things through radio carbon dating that measures the deterioration of the carbon in the item. Things of this world are temporary, they deteriorate in a predictable, measurable way.

The kingdom of God is forever. God's love is steadfast and sure, never wavering, never fading, never failing. We live in a tension between the temporary world of today and the kingdom that endures. God has created both the temporary physical world, and the kingdom. Both are good. The kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven is better. One is not the world we live in and the other the one we await. Both the world and the kingdom are present and real today, for today is part of eternity. God cares about both heavenly and earthly life, and provides for both worldly and heavenly needs today.

In the desert, God provided manna from heaven to provide for the worldly need of the people to eat. Manna was good for only one day. Manna could not be accumulated and saved. God's people had to learn to trust in God to provide fresh manna for them each new day. Like Chinese food, worldly things do not last, so it makes no sense to accumulate worldly things. Acquire and consume only what is needed and share the rest is God's lesson to the people in the wilderness, a lesson that our consumer and accumulation society has forgotten.

When God walked the earth, incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth, worldly needs of the people were met. Jesus healed people who needed healing. Jesus fed those who hungered for food. Jesus provided for people's worldly needs. But, this was not Jesus' primary focus. Jesus primary focus is life, not just worldly life, but eternal life. For this, Jesus fed them, feeds us, with heavenly food, the bread of heaven, which is found in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

CONTINUE →

SUNDAY SERVICES

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

Bread of Heaven (Continued)

People crowded around Jesus because he provided for their worldly needs of food and physical well-being. People crowded around Jesus because they hoped he would provide for their worldly needs of political and military victory against their oppressors, the Romans. Jesus scolded the people for focusing too much attention on their temporary worldly condition, calling all to pick up their crosses and follow him into self-sacrificing love. At this "difficult teaching," those who crowded around Jesus for their own worldly benefit abandoned Jesus and he was left with a smaller remnant.

The bread of heaven, the bread of eternal life is Jesus. To eat of this bread, his flesh and blood, is to live on both sides of earthly death, for it does not fade and it satisfies forever. This bread is God's Word of love, for Jesus is God's Word incarnate. Jesus is God's love incarnate. We eat of this bread when we share love with others as Jesus shared God's love with us.

God cares about our worldly needs. God wants us to eat and have shelter. God has blessed us abundantly with worldly goods, not just to keep for ourselves, to accumulate on our shelves, but to share with others, those in need. In Jesus, God has shown us that true love is sacrificial. Heavenly love cares as much about the well-being of others as it cares about the well-being of the self. To live a heavenly kingdom life, today, we are called to love one another as Jesus loves us. That means we are to place our priority on love, not possessions. We are to give as we have received. We are to share love by sharing both worldly goods and God's Word, the Good News that God loves us all unconditionally. We can't demonstrate such love if we, ourselves, place conditions on it. We cannot share the Good News of the certain resurrection of eternal life if we place conditions, or a price on God's free gift. God has paid the debt (forgiven the debt) for all in Jesus Christ.

This is, indeed, a difficult truth, the truth that God is sovereign, not us, the truth that our future is based on what God, and not we have done. Our role is not to save, or create a utopia, or to stop the world from deteriorating, but to serve God by sharing the love of God with the world. When, sanctified by the Holy Spirit, we begin to give and share, we will all be filled, finding joy and peace in the kingdom of God which is glimpsed today and is our sure and certain eternal future through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
In Christ, Eric.

Worship Texts for August

The Worship scriptures for the month of August are as follows:

	First Reading	*Gospel Reading*
August 4	*Hosea 11:1-11*	*Luke 12:13-21*
August 11	*Isaiah 1:1, 10-20*	*Luke 12:32-40*
August 18	*Isaiah 5:1-7*	*Luke 12:49-56*
August 25	*Jeremiah 1:4-10*	*Luke 13:10-17*

Worship begins at 10:30 each Sunday morning in the sanctuary. On August 4 we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Join us in worship and give praise to God for what God has done, is doing and will do for us now and forevermore. In Christ, Eric

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FPC CALENDAR

August

Aug 2	**6:00 PM**	Paper crafts group
Aug 4	**9:30 AM**	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
Aug 9	**6:00 PM**	Paper Crafts Group
Aug 11	**9:30 AM**	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
Aug 16	**6:00 PM**	Paper Crafts Group
Aug 18	**9:30 AM**	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	Bells of Hope
	6:30 PM	Bells of Faith
Aug 19	**6:30 PM**	Session
Aug 23	**6:00 PM**	Paper Crafts Group
Aug 25	**9:30 AM**	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	Bells of Hope
	6:30 PM	Bells of Faith
Aug 28	**6:30 PM**	Choir Potluck
Aug 30	**6:00 PM**	Paper Crafts Group

SINGING IN CHURCH

I'm sure that you have noticed the "ropes" that were placed in the Sanctuary to close off some sections of the pews . . . some of you have taken that action in stride . . . and some of you have taken issue with it. It was never intended to make anyone unhappy! In truth, the ropes were placed there to facilitate a summer "ushering" problem: NOT ENOUGH USHERS! When people are spread out it makes ushering and serving communion more difficult.

I, for one, am happy to have everyone closer together! It makes your singing so beautiful – confidence is gained when you HEAR others around you joining in song.

That humiliating moment when you realize that the program said to sing verses one, two and three, but not four.

Did you know that before the Reformation, laypersons were not allowed to sing in church? They were expected to stand mute as sacred music was performed by professionals (priests and cantors), played on complex instruments (pipe organs), and sung in an obscure language (Latin).

After the Reformation, worship was given back to the people in the form of congregational singing. They composed simple tunes that were easy to sing, and mated them with theologically rich lyrics. Since most people were illiterate in the 16th century, singing became an effective form of catechism. Congregants learned about God as they sang about God.

Congregational singing helps us to PRAISE God, PRAY to God, and to PROCLAIM God's word. So, if you see me smiling during a congregational hymn, know that I am truly happy to join you in PRAISING, PRAYING and PROCLAIMING! Don't worry what about what other people think. "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth." Psalm 100:1

JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR!

POT LUCK SUPPER

August 28, 2013

6:30 PM

FPC Fellowship Hall

Try us out!

FPC SonShine Players
September 11, 2013
Watch for more information!

The FPC Handbell Choirs will resume practice on AUGUST 18:

BELLS OF HOPE5:30 PM
(This choir is for Beginner/Intermediate ringers. No audition is necessary.)

BELLS OF FAITH 6:30 PM
(By audition only.)

Please call Pat Hudsonpillar (956) 581-3990 for more information.

Church Directory UPDATE

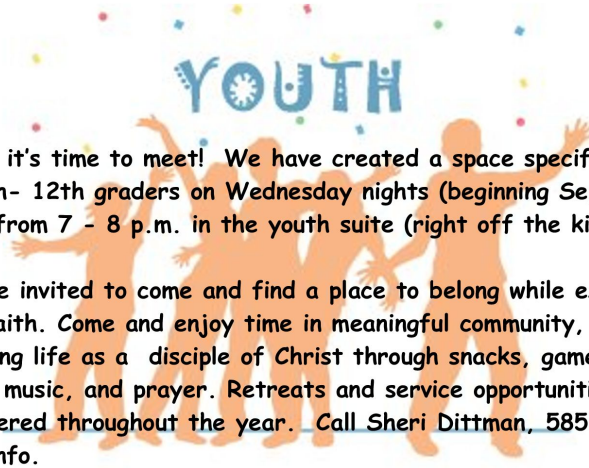
One of your Elders, JENNY HUDSONPILLAR, has taken on a big task – one that she needs HELP with!! Our Church Directory is out-of-date, so Jenny and several volunteers have set up a table in the Narthex on Sundays to talk with you about updating your information: current address, phone numbers, email . . . you get the idea, I'm sure. This information is a vital part of shepherding our church family. Please stop by on Sunday morning!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education committee is gearing up for a new year! While some events are still in the works, we can announce our three Sunday morning classes: children, youth, and adults! Ruling Elder Kathy Dickey and Ruling Elder Sheri Dittman will help children and youth explore and connect with our faith stories while helping students experience Scripture through story-telling, drama, and a variety of activities that appeal to various learning styles.

Teaching elder Eric Dittman will continue with his adult education class. Topic: TBA

We hope you plan to make Sunday morning a regular part of your day. We have a place reserved just for you! Sunday classes are from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.



Youth, it's time to meet! We have created a space specifically for our 6th- 12th graders on Wednesday nights (beginning September 11th) from 7 - 8 p.m. in the youth suite (right off the kitchen).

You are invited to come and find a place to belong while exploring your faith. Come and enjoy time in meaningful community, faithfully exploring life as a disciple of Christ through snacks, games, Bible study, music, and prayer. Retreats and service opportunities will also be offered throughout the year. Call Sheri Dittman, 585-1548 for more info.

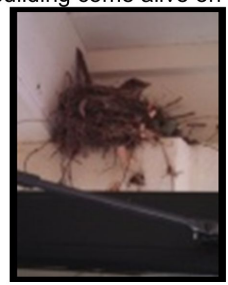
Ministry

FPCMISSION TEXAS on Facebook!

Check it out! Click on the 'LIKE' button and you will see the daily devotional posts by Pastor Eric and photos of events as they are added to our page. If you have any suggestions for what to include on the website, just let us know! We hope this is a way for all of us to keep up with the "happenings" at FPC Mission even when we have to be far away!

THE BUILDING SPEAKS

There has been a lot going on, even though it's the summer time. It was brought to my attention that we have a tenant living in the breeze way by the front door. All creatures big and small feel right at home here at God's house. A group has come and gone, so it is pretty quiet around here except for cleaning noises and the paper craft group. Their giggles and talk make the building come alive on Friday nights.



An inspector came by and we were asked to put a dead bolt on back door of kitchen. We were also asked to fix the rug going into the nursery. Both jobs have been done, but there's one to go. We need to put cages around the a/c units outside so we can lock them up, to keep thieves from stealing the copper out of them. Does any one remember the day when we didn't have to lock a church?

All is doing pretty well, and there's a lot to do to keep us busy. We need to do a little summer cleaning so if anyone has some free time let Susie know. We will put you right to work. We appreciate all of our church family here who take the time to smile and talk to us as you go into worship and Sunday school.

Sarah's Garden Gab

It's very hot outside!! I'm glad we got some rain, but not enough to make all the plants happy. White flies are out and putting in some over time. I scared a cat out of the garden so he wouldn't dig up our plants. Amanda, Gen and Susie are starting to trim the garden again. Other than that, I guess all is going well. Blooms are blooming pretty pinks, oranges, purple and whites. We will continue to pray for rain.

Sarah is Mrs. Sue's chocolate lab that protects our garden!

August Birthdays

Aug 1 - Dominic Jirovec
William Bishop
Aug 2 - Pat Yount
Aug 6 - Joyce Harper
Candice Smith
Aug 9 - Gerdina Huenink
Helen Dick
Betty Lou Bennett
Aug 10 - June Birdwell
Neil Waldorf
Aug 14 - Libby Freeman
Aug 15 - James LaVigne
Aug 16 - Michael Chancey
Aug 17 - Alfred Denham
JoAnn Classen
Aug 19 - Pat Chancey
Aug 20 - Anna Nelson
Aug 24 - Mary Jane Meyers
Jeri Smith
Bernice Patterson
Aug 26 - Bill Ellisor
Linda Ingram
Aug 28 - Carla Badgley
Eric Gray
Aug 29 - Loretta Carson
Aug 31 - Robert Briggs

August Anniversaries

Aug 2 - Richard and Lucy Tornow

Aug 7 - Terry and Robin Premus

Aug 17 - James and Victoria Burgoon

Aug 19 - Steven and JoAnn Higley

Aug 20 - Mike and Jenny Hudsonpillar

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Have some info for the next newsletter?? Got a story about why you love FPC?

Want to share your favorite recipe??

Our goal for this newsletter is that it reflects who we are and what we do at First Presbyterian Church—Mission. The most important part of this newsletter is YOU! So, please send your submissions to Jordan:

jordan@fpcmission.com