



October 2016 Newsletter

**Thyatira Presbyterian Church
at Mill Bridge
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Volume 39, No. 10

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PASTOR'S PAGE

Burning Questions at Thyatira...

This month, I'd like to answer some questions I've heard asked more than once lately.

So, what's the deal with this whole visioning team I keep hearing about?

The vision team of five people whom we prayed for on Rally Sunday will be coordinating the entire congregation's participation in a process of discerning God's vision (direction) for our ministries over the next few years. This team, made up of Karen Townsend, Jada Ware-Guy, Carly Moore, Greg Hager, and Bill Hall, will not be making any decisions about the future of the church, except the form of a process which will be open to everyone. The result of this "vision discernment" process will guide the development of a plan for ministry which will help us make good decisions about ministries, staffing, budgeting, education, and the use of buildings and grounds among other things. God knows where we are headed; we just have to figure it out! This team will help us all do this together.

What is that new "I Give" card in the pews all about?

Thyatirans give, both generously and in a variety of ways. Some give once a week, some once a month, and some by direct deposit from their bank. The time in our service set aside to collect the offering is really a time for us to express our gratitude to God for the gift of Jesus Christ, and an opportunity for us to focus, however briefly, on our call to be good stewards of that gift.

The "I Give" cards found in each pew are there so that all may be able to participate fully during the offering. If you give once a month, use the card on the other Sundays to remind yourself of your offering. If you left your cash or checkbook at home, use the card knowing you would have given had you been able. It's great for visitors too who give to their home church or came not knowing we collect an offer. With the cards, everyone has something to give each Sunday!

Who are the Sabbath Kings and are they going to lord it over me?

The Sabbath Kings is a group for men between the ages of 18-45 to help keep faith and balance in the midst of a hard-working life. Meetings take place once a month and feature the opportunity to have fun and conversations about things that matter. It is open to all men whether or not they are members of Thyatira, and no, they won't be lording it over anyone! Please keep this group in your prayers!

If you have any other burning questions you think should be addressed in the newsletter, please send them on to me in the church office.

Peace, Stacey

AROUND THE CHURCH

ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, AND HAPPENINGS

Invite-A-Friend Sunday is October 2

As we prepare for Invite-A-Friend Sunday on October 2, here are a few thoughts on making sure that once our guests arrive, they will want to come back again!

- Come a little early whether with guests or not. Let's look like we really want to be here instead of arriving just in time!
- Please park as far away from the building so that first time visitors will have an easier time.
- Be intentional about saying Hello and Good Bye, wherever you may be. Be sure to smile and offer a firm handshake.
- If someone needs to know the locations of restrooms, nursery, etc., accompany them rather than just point.
- Wear a nametag!
- Practice the "rule of three" which means avoiding conversation with fellow members the first three minutes immediately after the service.
- Using the "circle of ten," make an effort to greet everyone within a 10-foot radius of you, both member and non-member alike.
- Let your guests know we would like to introduce first timers, but also let them know that if they prefer not to be introduced, we will honor that too.

Children's Choir

The Children's Choir is off to a great start. Please make sure to arrive at 9:30 so we'll have plenty of time to praise the Lord.



Upcoming Mill Bridge Fellowship Events

In October, the Mill Bridge Fellowship will be going to the mountains to see the leaves and eat lunch at Shatley Springs on Tuesday, Oct. 11.

On November 1st (change in day due to Election Day on the 8th), they will meet at the Church in the Fellowship Hall and share a pot luck meal. They will have a speaker who will talk about the history of voting.

In December, they will go to Salisbury to see some Christmas Trees and eat at a restaurant to be determined.

October 2016 Youth News

The Youth Group is off to a great start. We are doing a Bible study on the New Testament and learning a lot from one another.

The following are two mission projects that we are working on:

Blessings Bags: These are gallon Ziploc bags that we will fill with items that should be of use to homeless people or "panhandlers" that you see at highway intersections. We will ask for donations from church members (including our parents!), prepare the bags, (including handwritten note) and then give them back to members to carry in their cars to give out. If we have enough, we hope to also give them to RHM to give out to residents. This can be an ongoing mission. (Check the bulletin board outside the church office for list of recommended items to donate).

*Shoe boxes (Operation Christmas Child) - details on back pg of this newsletter.

Upcoming Event!! Fall Festival!!!

Saturday, October 29 at 5:30 pm

We plan to collect donations for the Shoe Boxes or food donations for Rowan Helping Ministries as "admission to the festival".

Event highlights will be a Trunk or Treat, costume contest, cake walk, bingo, indoor games for small kids, and haunted wagon ride for big kids. Make sure to mark your calendars!!

Assistance needed from church members:

- *Cakes/desserts for cake walk
- *Candy and small treat items for game prizes (think Oriental Trading)
- *Volunteers to provide "trunks" for Trunk or Treat
- *Invite your friends!

Consecration Sunday Is Coming—October 30

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

The Session has selected the *Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship.

Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader, the Rev. John Milholland, will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and session members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Yours Sincerely,

Joyce Caldwell and the rest of the Consecration Team

PRAYER CONCERNS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Liberty Commons:</u> | Frank Fuller |
| <u>Lutheran Home:</u> | Mullie Varner |
| | Rebecca Morrison |
| <u>C/O George Calhoun:</u> | Mary Alice Calhoun |
| <u>White Oak Manor, Charlotte:</u> | Ruby Erwin |
| <u>At Home:</u> | JoAnn Kerr |
- Stacey’s stepmother, Ann, recovering from hip replacement surgery
 - Jimmy Hoffner’s father, Bill, in rehab following a stroke
 - Nell Fuller’s niece, Mary Jo Wood, is undergoing cancer treatments
 - Judy Leazer (co-worker of Sharon Deal) is taking Leukemia treatments
 - Mark Quinn (the husband of Sharon Deal's best friend) has been diagnosed with Rectal/Colon Cancer in Florida
 - Muriel, mother of our housekeeper, Kim Eagle
 - Drema Clemens’ mother, Bertha Warden
 - Drema Clemens’ sister, Debbie Meadows is undergoing radiation treatment
 - Millicent Hoffner’s brother, Joe Kerr
 - Jeanie Irvin, wife of former member Kevin Irvin and daughter-in-law of Kitty & Tony Harris, is recovering from surgery
 - Mike Hawkins who has RA
 - Former member, Pat Hall
 - Debbie Belk, a friend of Joyce Caldwell
 - Jimmy’s mother and father, Ernestine & Bill Hoffner
 - Matt, Desha Carson and family, friend of Corrie Connolly, Asia missionaries
 - Paul Rogers’ daughter and family are missionaries in Pakistan

Thank you for the “Let the Journey Begin” book. I will enjoy reading this book during the next chapter in my life. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Love, Miranda Belk



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Aiden Best
- 3 Roselind Steele
- 5 Phares Sechler
- 7 Landon Beard
- 9 Debbie Edwards
- 9 Tom Hall
- 12 Grady King
- 13 Jonathan Graham
- 13 Jaymes Graham
- 14 Catherine Wolfingbarger
- 15 James Reber
- 16 Laurel Harcum
- 16 Chris Rivera
- 17 Doug Patterson
- 17 Brittany Thompson
- 18 Carol King
- 19 Michael Connolly
- 21 Cara Blake Cruz
- 21 Candace McKnight
- 23 Norman Shaver
- 24 Anna Edwards
- 25 Lisa Armstrong
- 25 Ada Jo Sloop
- 26 Kristy Seaboch
- 29 Anthony Armstrong
- 30 Norma Lauder
- 30 Mary Hall

OCTOBER SCHEDULES

- | | |
|---|---|
| <u>Greeters:</u> Bill Hall, Doug Patterson, Janet Lambert | <u>Liturgists:</u>
2—Debbie Edwards
9—Flora Calderón-Steck |
| <u>Ushers:</u> Greg Hager, Eddie Bell, Ryan Sloop, Bill Bergstrom, Richard Luther, Sam Hager | 16—Melissa Kluttz
23—Janet Lambert
30—Leigh Anne Wetmore |

**There will be NO 5th Sunday Program in October.
Adult Classes will meet as regular.**

Generosity Update: For September, we reached 100.2% of our goal. Let’s keep the momentum going. Thank you for your generosity in so many ways.

Items Approved at the September 11, 2016 Stated Session Meeting

- The Session approved the request of the Witness Committee that the request from the Witness Committee that the Two Cents a Meal offering be held at appropriate times during the year. Rev. Steck suggested that the Presbytery Action Committee send someone to speak to the congregation about the program's importance.
- There will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers to accompany the Rev. Steck in taking Communion to the shut-ins after it is served at Worship service.
- After a discussion, the Session's agreed that there would be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 25, 2016. There will be the Christmas celebration during the 11AM Worship Service.
- The Session approved to raise Kim Eagle's salary to \$675 a month immediately. Also, the Children's Choir will receive additional money for music.
- Paul Gaylor, Deacon Representative, presented the HVAC report concerning the heating and A/C problems at Thyatira. After much discussion, it was decided to relegate the old pipes and boiler system to be a back up system, and install heat pumps which will provide heat in the winter and A/C in the summer. This will be done in two phases: First Phase to be started soon, a heat pump for the 2nd floor of the manse and two heat pumps in the Education Building for an estimated total of \$12,000. Phase Two will be during the 2016-17 winter, a heat pump will be put into the Sanctuary with a total cost of \$14,160.00. Half of the cost for each phase will be presented at the beginning of each job. The second half of the money will be paid at the completion of the work. The Session approved this work and will look forward to the fuel economy that will result with the efficient heat pumps.
- The Session approved Debbie Edwards, Doug Patterson, and Alice Sloop to be the Task Force to prepare for the church office manager Carolyn Haggerty's retirement at the end of February 2017 and to begin looking for her replacement.

PRESCHOOL NEWS....

The two year old class is off to a great start to a wonderful and sweet school year. They made a great transition into class. We started the month off with "All About Me" and "I Am Special, Friends and Families." We are learning the Pledge of Allegiance and ABC's, as well as colors and shapes. We are also counting to 10. Our nursery rhyme for this month is "Mary Had a Little Lamb." The little ones made little people, and friendship trees with their hands. We talked about how God made each one of us and how special we are. We enjoyed Grandparents day, and sang a song for them. All the little ones did such a great job. Thank you for sending your child to preschool and sharing them with us.

The 3 year old class began with a unit on "All About Me". We stressed that God made us special and each one of us different. We spent 2 weeks reviewing shapes and colors. The children made a caterpillar spelling out their name and a tree of shapes. For their grandparents they made a special gift and sang songs followed by refreshments. This is a great group and I'm looking forward to teaching them this year.

The four year old class blasted off to a great year. We studied astronauts and aliens for letter A week and used our imaginations to turn our playground into the moon. We learned about Neil Armstrong and made our own lunar landing to collect moon rocks. For letter B week we learned all about bears and had a teddy bear picnic. We even went on a bear hunt! We ended the month with the study of letter C. Our theme was cats. We read Pete the Cat books and made a cat craft. On September 29 we celebrated Grandparents Day. What a joy to have our special grands here at school with us! We studied the creation story and how we are all fearfully and wonderfully made. Praise be to God for an amazing beginning to another year here at Thyatira.

PARISH NURSE NEWS....

Emotional Health Is As Important As Physical Health

We owe our children, our grandchildren and ourselves commitment to knowledge and practices which control and even eliminate senseless aggression and violence. We love to talk about win-win situations, but violence only leads to lose-lose situations for everyone.

Studies have shown that violent or aggressive behavior is often learned early in life. However parents, family members, and others who care for children can help them learn to deal with emotions without using violence. These are lessons which are not confined to childhood, but may be learned by young or even older adults.

Every child needs a strong, loving relationship with parents or other adults to feel safe and secure and to develop a sense of trust. It is not always easy to be loving in difficult situations, but there are individuals to help in very trying times. Doctors, ministers, or even friends can often provide the support that may be needed. (No parent is perfect, so do not let a sense of inadequacy or shame keep you from seeking help.)

Keep violence out of the home. Violence in the home is frightening and harmful to children. Just as many poor health practices influence individuals throughout life, the exposure to violence can have lasting effects. Children deserve a safe and loving home where they do not have to grow up in fear. A child who has seen violence at home does not always become violent, but he or she may be more likely to try to resolve conflicts with violence. Keep in mind that hostile, aggressive arguments between adults frighten children and set a bad example.

Try to minimize the violence which is brought into your home through the media. Studies show that seeing a lot of violence on television, in movies and in video games can have a negative effect on children and perhaps even adults. When we view violence, it is important to keep in mind how painful this imagined violence would be in real life and to talk about the serious consequences of violent behavior.

The community unrest and violence taking place in Charlotte has affected us all. Some may view the situation with anger, some with sympathy, some with prayer and some with all of these and more. No matter what the facts are, the end result is a great tragedy for everyone. These times offer us opportunities to grow emotionally and spiritually as we work to replace aggressive and violent attitudes with love and understanding.

Health Note: Flu season in the United States can begin as early as October and last as late as May. An annual flu vaccine is the best way to reduce chances that you will get flu this season. When more people get vaccinated against the flu, less flu can spread through that community. The CDC recommends the use of injectible flu vaccine during 2016-2017. Although nasal spray flu vaccine has been used, it is not recommended for the 2016-2017 season. It is recommended that the flu vaccine be taken in October, but it can certainly be taken later if you do not get the vaccine immediately. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body.

Interesting Study: Open-concept living is the rage right now, but recent research suggests that such easy access to the kitchen may lead to overeating. "Open kitchen-dining areas floor plans remove visual and physical barriers between humans and food," said Kim Rollings, an assistant professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame. Investigators discovered that students in the open plan were more likely to get up and head toward the food more often-serving themselves more food and eating more as well. (As we have recently changed to an open floor plan, I may need to keep an eye on my weight to test this idea.)

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October 2016

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

The youth is sponsoring the OCC Shoe Box drive again this year. We are asking for completed boxes or items for us to package. These will have to be ready to be delivered on November 19th.



Information for boxes:

Boys and Girls; ages: 2-4, 5-9, 10-14

A WOW item:

Ball (not fluid filled)

Stuffed animal

Toy truck, baby doll

Barbie doll, play dough, musical instrument,

Yo-yo, jump rope, bright colored water squirter

School items:

Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, coloring & picture books, dry water colors, glue sticks, scissors

Non-liquid hygiene items:

Tooth brushes with covers, bar soap (individually wrapped or in Ziploc bag), combs, wash clothes, toothpaste (6mos expiration), wet wipes

Accessories:

Hair clips, t-shirts, socks, hats, socks, jewelry, watches, flashlights (batteries), sunglasses, glow sticks, chap stick, mirrors

Candy: Hard candy, gum, gummy bears, caramels, taffy

***no chocolate or fruit rolls

***Do not include: War related items (toy weapons), drink mixes, liquids or lotions, vitamins, snow globes, aerosol cans, hand sanitizer, bubbles, glue, paint, lip gloss

