



Faith Matters

Volume 13, Issue 7

Faith Presbyterian Church

August 2010

Rincon, GA

From the Pastor's Desk

So, we've got a lot of teachers in our congregation. Is there something developmentally appropriate about inviting teenagers to take a risk and expecting that at least some of them might actually do it? It seems like a time in life when so much is up in the air, the message may resonate.

At least it seems like that's what most of the preachers at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium were hoping, because that was a common theme throughout the week. Maybe Graham Baird said it most directly, but it was certainly behind Debra Matthew's message of "Step into Greatness" or Tony Campolo's "I've been waiting for this generation."

It may have been because we were studying the book of Esther. Here's a review in case it's been a while since you read it: Esther was a Jewish girl in the kingdom of King Xerxes. Her cousin, Mordecai, was a close associate of the king. When Xerxes' first wife denied a request of the king she was exiled from the kingdom. The search was on for a new, more compliant wife. Esther won the king's beauty contest, and like it or not, she was the new queen. Now Haman, the right hand man of the king, hated Mordecai, because Mordecai would bow only to God and not the king, or more accurately, to Haman as the king's representative. So he hatched a plot to get the king's approval to exterminate all the Jews in the kingdom. Mordecai begged Esther, as queen, to go to the king and put an end to the plot. But Esther knew that

seeking out the king without invitation was reason for her to be killed. Remember, the king wanted a subservient wife, not a risk-taker. After three days of prayer and fasting, Esther did take the risk, did talk to the king – and after feeding him a great meal, perhaps worthy of one of Margaret's best, the king put an end to Haman's plot and the Jews were saved.

So, the youth were encouraged to find God's call on their lives and take a risk, step out in faith, and be catalysts for change in the world. No, not your typical crazy teenage risks: texting while driving, drinking, drugs. But the kinds of risks that Jesus calls us to in the gospels: "Follow me!"

Tony Campolo is a world-famous preacher and college professor of sociology. His sermon hit the nail on the head for me. Prior to getting his degree in sociology, he went to seminary. And he joked about how glad he was that he had gone to seminary so he could learn to read the Bible correctly. You see, before seminary, he said, he thought that the words in red, the words that Jesus said, meant what they said. "If you have two coats, give one away." "Sell all you have and give it to the poor." Here's my favorite: "Maybe when Jesus said, 'love your enemies,' he meant you shouldn't kill them." Campolo was so glad that at seminary they taught him how to interpret those passages so that he didn't have to actually DO what Jesus said in order to be a good Christian.

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"O my Strength, I will sing praises to thee, for thou, O God, are my fortress."

–Psalm 59:17

(RSV)

From the Pastor's Desk cont.

by Mary Beene

Except that maybe, he had been right before seminary. Maybe we really are supposed to take a risk and at least try to be "red letter Christians" – those who try to do what Jesus said. He talked to the youth about the decisions they need to make at this critical time in their lives. If they're called to be a doctor, are they called to serve in Haiti or as a New York City breast augmentation surgeon? Has God touched their lives to buck the crowd and go into non-profit work rather than Wall Street? Are they called to live sexually pure lives rather than buy into a culturally promiscuous norm?

So here's the thing I want to know. There must be some developmental reason that it is good to ask our young people to "risk," while we live our safe, comfortable lives as 30-40-50+ year olds. Once we get older, once we have

a family to support, once we have "done our time" in the trenches are we exempt from the red letters of Jesus' words in the Bible? Or is there a message of "risk it" that we also need to hear as individuals and as a church in this time and this place and at this stage of our lives?

I'm not sure I really want to hear a message of "risk it." Like Esther, I fear for my life, or at least what my life looks like now. But I do want to hear Jesus' message straight to my heart: "Follow me!" Maybe they are one and the same thing at every age. And so, like Esther, I pray.

I hope you will join me.

Blessings,

Pastor Mary



Finance Report: July 2010

by Lewis Miles

June giving totaled \$4,775.92. Our faithfulness in giving for July was \$4,612.52. We are running a budget deficit for the year of \$6,680.57, but we are managing so far to keep our checking account stable. By not spending against budget line items such as Christian Education, Church Activities, and Administration and keeping Supplies and Maintenance to the bare minimum, we are making do with our current giving. This is good news, as earlier in the year the checking account was dropping dangerously low.

Thank you for your support helping to keep things running at Faith, and know that if you give more we will be able to support our programs.





Worship Volunteers

by Julia Pratt

All Faith members are invited to take an active role in worship. You can do ushering/offering, lead the "Children's Sermon" (Betsy or Amy can direct you to great websites for ideas), or serve as the Lay Reader at the start of the

service. See Julia Pratt or Pastor Mary if you have any questions. The sign-up sheet is on the hallway bulletin board.

Session Highlights

by Charlotte McClain

The session has decided to have their regular session meetings every other month with a brief meeting in between to go over the financials. The meeting months are January, March, May, July, September, November and December.

The session decided to have a congregational meeting on Sunday, August 15, 2010 for the election of a new elder to fulfill Art Wlodarek's term. Please make plans to attend.

If anyone is interested in attending a Christian Education Workshop at White

Bluff Presbyterian Church on Saturday August 21, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., please contact Amy Greene.

Pastor Mary Beene will have acolyte training for the children in the next several months. Upcoming details to follow for a time and date.

Betsy deQueljo sent out the following cards for the month of July; 8 birthday; 7 anniversary and 1 thank you for visiting.



Mission Trip to Nashville

by Mary Beene

Mark your calendar for a mission trip to Nashville to help rebuild after the flooding there. White Bluff Presbyterian Church is organizing a trip

from Savannah Sun, Sept 26 - Sat, Oct. 2. Contact Ed McCarthy at White Bluff for more information: 230-6045.

Christian Education

by Amy Greene

Christian Education is about to get back into full swing after taking the summer off from our normal Sunday School and Wednesday night routines. Here's a summary of what occurs this month:

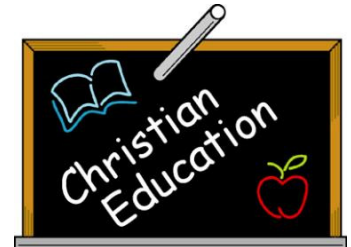
Sunday, August 8th - Back to School Cookout begins at 5 pm. Please plan on bringing a kid friendly food to share.

Wednesday, August 11th - Wednesday night bible study for kids and adults

begins again. Financial Peace University begins this night also. All programs start promptly at 6:45 pm. Fellowship supper at 6:00 pm.

Saturday, August 21st - Christian Education Seminar at White Bluff Presbyterian Church in Savannah from 10 am to 3 pm. If you are interested in attending, please see me. Registrations are due August 5th. \$20 fee includes lunch.

Sunday, August 22nd - Back to Sunday School celebration (often referred to as Rally Day). Pancake breakfast begins at 9 am followed by an all church art activity and skit. Please invite your family and friends! It's going to be a ton of fun!

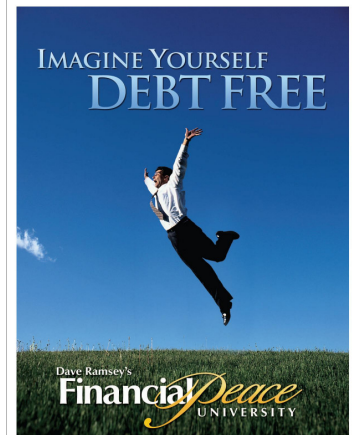


Financial Peace University

by Brian Greene

We have received a very favorable response to our upcoming Financial Peace University series. As of today, we have 11 membership kits sold to individuals/families planning to attend. Classes begin on Wednesday, August 11th at 6:45 pm, immediately following our fellowship supper. If you know of anyone who may be interested in participating, it's not too late for them

to enroll. The first class is FREE so please invite your family, friends, coworkers, associates, and neighbors to come. If they'd like to learn more, please have them contact me at (912) 704-7743.



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

by Mary Beene

Rev. Andy Meeker of Wilmington Island Presbyterian Church (he preached at Faith earlier this year!) will be leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, October 11-23, 2010. Building on his past trips and Biblical, historical and archaeological knowledge, this trip

promises to be a faith-building experience. The cost is \$1995 + airfare. The trip is open to all, but space is limited. For more information, please contact Rev. Meeker at revmeeker@hotmail.com or 912-897-1840. Pastor Mary also has additional information and a trip brochure.



Janet's Famous Texas Caviar Recipe

(Recipe courtesy of Janet Weier)

TEXAS CAVIAR (BEAN DIP)

1 CAN BLACK EYED PEAS WITH OR WITHOUT JALAPENOS (DRAINED, THEN RINSED)

1 CAN PINTO BEANS WITH OR WITHOUT JALAPENOS, (DRAINED, THEN RINSED)

1 CAN BLACK BEANS WITH OR WITHOUT JALAPENOS, (DRAINED, THEN RINSED)

1 SMALL JAR PIMIENTOS

1 ONION, CHOPPED

1 CUP CELERY, CHOPPED

1 CUP GREEN PEPPER, CHOPPED

1 CAN WHITE SHOEPEG CORN, DRAINED



DRESSING:

1 tsp. SALT

½ tsp. PEPPER

1 TBSP. WATER

¾ CUP CIDER VINEGAR

½ CUP OIL

1 CUP SUGAR

*MIX ALL THE DRESSING INGREDIENTS IN A PAN AND BRING TO A BOIL AND COOL.

*POUR DRESSING OVER THE VEGETABLES.

*I USUALLY MAKE THIS UP A DAY AHEAD AND LET STAND IN REFRIGERATOR

*YOU CAN PUT A JALAPENO AND A TOUCH OF RED PEPPER IN THE LIQUID WHEN COOKING AND THEN REMOVE THE PEPPERS. ***THIS IS ONLY IF YOU HAVE VEGETABLES WITHOUT JALAPENOS IN THEM.***

*SERVE COLD WITH TOSITO CHIPS

ENJOY

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 – Suzanne Hansen | 24 – Lisa Harrigan |
| 12 - Dave & Lisa Harrigan | 25 - Margaret Shaufelberger |
| 13 – Katie Bellows | 27 - Joe & Brenda Harrelson |
| 22 – Jack Hansen | 31 – Kevin Nixon |



August Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for August! Please sign up on the sheet hanging on the bulletin board outside of the Fellowship Hall.

	August 1st	August 8th	August 15th	August 22nd	August 29th
Acolyte					
Usher 1					
Usher 2					
Communion 1	Julia Pratt				
Communion 2	Amy Greene				
Children’s Sermon					
Liturgist					
2nd Cup	Harrigan	Pratt	D. Harrelson	A. Greene	Miles



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