

"Hot Off the Press"

First Presbyterian Church Newsletter



August 2017

www.fpcgatesville.org

~ Pulpit Ponderings ~

For those who have often thought that their prayers were wasted, consider what the Holy Scriptures tell us about what happens to them once they are received in Heaven.

"And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense which are the prayers of the saints" – Revelations 5:8.

"Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer with the prayers of the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. The angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth, and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake!!" – Revelation 8:3-6.

Sounds exciting, doesn't it? Incense, fire and thunder!!! Did you ever think that your prayers caused that kind of action? Just like us, you may think of your prayers as words floating heavenward, from your mouth to God's ear!!! Well, my dear friends, think again. Your image of prayers is about to change forever!!

Dudley Hall says this in his book, *"Incense and Thunder"*. This is the picture of what prayer looks like in heaven. Every time we lift our hearts toward God in Jesus name, an angel of God takes incense in his hand (our prayers), mixes it with fire from the altar of God, flings it back to earth and it enters earth's atmosphere as spiritual thunder, lightening, and earthquakes. I encourage you to read Psalm 18:7-19 and see what David's spirit saw when he prayed. It sounds a lot like this description in Revelation.

In Revelation 8:3 the censer is a container for burning incense. This passage and a passage in Psalm 141:1-2 – *"Lord we cry to you; hasten to us. Hear our voices when we cry to you. Let our prayer be set before you like incense and the lifting up of our hands like the evening sacrifice"* links prayer with burning incense. This image of prayer as incense appears before both the seals and the trumpets in Revelation emphasizing the power of prayer to be God's intervention.

If you have previously thought of prayer as a passive action or if you have said, as we have so many times, "All we can do now is pray," do you see the error of our ways? How wrong we are!!!

Your prayers are golden bowls of incense, tended by the angels, causing all kinds of havoc within the spiritual realms of the earth. Think of your prayers as lightning bolts chasing after Satan and his demons, hurling evil to the ground in peels of thunder and lightning and earthquakes. Now that is powerful stuff, my friends. If this doesn't excite you about prayer, nothing will. Don't miss out on the thunder of your prayers.

Prayer is not a substitute for action – prayer is an action for which there is no substitute!!!

I pray that God continues to make his presence known to all His creation. Have a victorious month in the Lord! God bless all.

*Standing on His Promises and, As Always,
In His Grip ...Shalom Aleichem (Peace Be Unto You) ...
Your Most Obedient and Humble Servant,*

Pastor Buddy

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” – Matthew 28:19 (NIV).

~ Summer Safety ~

Summer time is great for many reasons – time with family and friends, experiencing new and beautiful parts of God’s great creation, meeting new and interesting people, etc. Most of this requires travel of some sort, so when traveling and “doing” your vacations please do so safely and with concern for yourself and others – at all times. Nothing ruins a great time more than an injury or worse. I pray that each of you will have a super summer – one to remember and jam packed with great times – and that each of you will return home in good spirits and health. God bless you and all that you will do this summer – Pastor Buddy.

~ Boy Scout Eagle Project ~

Colin Jones is working on his Eagle Scout and his project is a book drive for children’s books. The books will be given to the children of our community through CPS, the Fire Department, and the Gatesville Library. Please bring new or used books (good condition please) and place them in the box provided in the hallway where they will be packaged in gift bags with a card identifying the project and Colin. Let’s get behind this.

~ Famous Quotes ~

Charles Spurgeon and D.L. Moody are two of my favorite evangelical preachers and I want to share some of their famous quotes with you, so for the foreseeable future I will offer these tidbits.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon became a Christian at the age of 15 and at the age of 19 became a pastor at the largest Baptist church in London. It did not take long for him to become one of the most famous preachers around. He was soon preaching to crowds of over 10,000 and his preaching was published and circulated to thousands every week. He later formed a pastor college and continued writing numerous famous books that are still read today.

“Ought we not to look upon our own history as being at least as full of God . . . as the lives of any of the saints who have gone before? We do our Lord an injustice when we suppose that He wrought all His mighty acts, and showed Himself strong for those in the early time, but doth not perform wonders or lay bare His arm for the saints who are now upon the earth.”

“Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years.”

“The way to do a great deal is to keep on doing a little. The way to do nothing at all is to be continually resolving that you will do everything.”

“No faith is so precious as that which lives and triumphs through adversity. Tested faith brings experience. You would never have believed your own weakness had you not needed to pass through trials. And you would never have known God’s strength had His strength not been needed to carry you through.”

“Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, but only empties today of its strength.”

"We have all things and abound; not because I have a good store of money in the bank, not because I have skill and wit with which to win my bread, but because the Lord is my shepherd."

Dwight Lyman Moody, more commonly known as D.L. Moody was born to a farmer's family in 1837. He only attended school until grade 5 and left the busy farm life at age 17. In Boston, his uncle hired him as a shoe salesman, but he could only keep his job if he attended church regularly. He had high hopes of earning great money in shoe sales. His Sunday school teacher visited him at his Uncle's store where he led D.L. to Christ. Soon he moved to Chicago in pursuit of that shoe sales career. It was there that he was called to ministry through the YMCA where his desire was to begin a Sunday school for the children. He is known for his work with the youth of the city in his Mission Sunday school. In 1864, he founded and pastored the Illinois Street Church, now known as The Moody Church. He expanded into more evangelist ministries, including a great Civil War outreach to both Union and Confederate troops. D.L. Moody was a great leader and trainer of missionaries in America. Long after his death in 1899 his ministry continues through the Moody Bible Institute. He was not a man of few words. The Lord gave him great speech and his quotes are repeated by many even today.

"I would rather a thousand times be five minutes at the feet of Christ than listen a lifetime to all the wise men in the world."

"The preaching that this world needs most is the sermons in shoes that are walking with Jesus Christ."

"If He laid down His life for us, is it not the least we can do to lay down ours for Him? If He bore the cross and died on it for me, ought I not to be willing to take it up for Him?"

"Shame on the Christianity of the nineteenth century; it's a weak and sickly thing. Would to God we had a few men like Daniel living here today."

"A man ought to live so that everybody knows he is a Christian... and most of all, his family ought to know."

"There is no man living that can do the work that God has got for me to do. No one can do it but myself. And if the work ain't done we will have to answer for it when we stand before God's bar."

~ Announcements for August 2017 ~

ELDER & GREETER FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST: Elder Linda Davis

THE LORD'S SUPPER. The Lord's Supper will be observed during next Sunday's worship service, **August 6**. All who have joined with Jesus Christ through their baptism as well as children who have been instructed by their parents are welcome to participate.

LADIES' EVENING BIBLE STUDY & PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN. The Ladies' groups will not meet until September.

MEN'S BREAKFAST. The men of the church will gather **August 9** at 8:00am at Rancher's Steak House. All are welcome - bring a friend/neighbor.

SESSION MEETING. The Session will meet 7:00pm, **August 16** in the Fellowship Hall.

ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL. The end of summer is near and our youth will be returning to school. So.....whether it is a celebration or a "cry in your melted ice cream" event, please bring your favorite ice cream, toppings, fruit, other ingredients to the Fellowship Hall on August 20, at 5pm. Bring a neighbor and enjoy the fellowship as well.

LITURGISTS (LAY READERS). Pastor Buddy is always looking for a few good men and women who will assist in the worship service as lay readers. If you can breathe and read this is a great way to contribute to the worship of God. Just pick a Sunday, sign up (sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway), and everything is provided for you.

BIRTHDAY FUND. Several years ago, the Birthday Fund was established to raise funds to use in our community mission outreach. Each birthday celebrant was to donate a dollar for each year celebrated. Recently the funds have been used to assist people getting back on their feet after a tragic fire, American Cancer Society, and for Senior Night; therefore, the funds are very low because our birthday folks have forgotten to donate. Please consider donating to this gracious fund when you celebrate your birthday. If you desire, you may designate your donation to support special missions by noting that on the check.

~ *First Presbyterian Church* ~

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www.fpcgatesville.org

Office Hours: 9 AM - 5 PM, Monday through Thursday

Mission Statement

Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the . . .

Beauty of liturgical worship

Love of Family gathered and called by God

Desire to Serve people who are in need.

Church Leadership

Minister: The Entire Congregation

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. D.D. "Buddy" Wheat, Jr.

Email: pastorbuddy@embarqmail.com

Cell: 254-223-2999

Music Director/Organist: Elder Sue Ashby

Clerk of Session: Elder Linda Davis

Church Treasurer: Elder Richard Ashby

Church Secretary: Carol Kacy

Session of Ruling Elders:

Class of 2017: Jack Barcroft, David Byrom, Linda Davis

Class of 2018: Claire Ashby, Gail Johnson, Bonnie Wolfe

Class of 2019: Sue Ashby, Kendra Gustin, Jyane Pearson

Scheduled Monthly Events

Sunday School	9:45 AM
Sunday Worship Service	11:00 AM
Sacrament of Communion:	1st Sunday of the Month
Penny Sunday:	2nd Sunday of the Month
Fellowship Luncheon:	3rd Sunday of the Month
Women's Circle (Bible Study & Lunch):	2nd Tues, 10:30 AM
Men's Breakfast:	2nd Wed, Rancher's Steak House 8:00 AM
Women's Evening Circle (Bible Study):	1st Wed, 7:00 PM
Choir Practice:	Wed, 6:00 PM
Session Meeting:	3rd Wed, 7:00 PM
Prayer Meeting:	Thu, 9:30 AM

~ *Session Committee Chairpersons for 2017* ~

Committee

Chairperson

Administration and Stewardship

David Byrom

Worship

Gail Johnson

Christian Education

Kendra Gustin

Mission and Evangelism

Claire Ashby

Congregational Life & Membership

Jyane Pearson

Facilities/Property

Jack Barcroft

Pastoral Care

Bonnie Wolfe

NOTE: Please feel free to contact any chairperson with questions, assistance, recommendations, or critic. Also, if you would like to serve on any committee(s), please let the chairperson know your desire.