

"Hot Off the Press"

*First Presbyterian Church
Newsletter*



September 2017

www.fpcgatesville.org

~ Pulpit Ponderings ~

I am sure everyone gets a little bored listening to me talk about praying all the time so I thought a bit of a respite was in order. And . . . I remembered something that Gayle put on her blog about prayer a few years ago and thought I would share that with you as I did once before at the two churches I pastored in Pennsylvania. This is her offering. Pastor Buddy

"CHUTZPAH"

Boldly persisting In Prayer

Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty-righteous people in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" – Genesis 18:23-25.

Abraham argued with God over the destruction of the city of Sodom. He bargained with God until God agreed that if ten righteous people remained in the city, God would spare it. Today, as I contemplate this story, I am more than a little surprised that Abraham argued so with God. I am surprised that a man would dare have such "chutzpah" (pronounced HOOTS-pah) with the Almighty God. Christians do not think it appropriate to be so bold with God.

The rabbis of Jesus' day had an interesting interpretation of Abraham's brashness with the LORD. These rabbis saw Abraham as a child who was particularly close to his father. A child who trusted his father so implicitly that he could talk to Him about anything.

Mysterious as it seems, for some reason, God wants us to plead and intercede on behalf of sinful people. "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none" – so God says in Ezekiel 22:30. We are not to stand by and allow judgement to come on others. God wants us to intercede on their behalf, not only begging Him for mercy, but telling them to repent.

Pleading with God for His people seemed to be the making of great Biblical heroes. Abraham pleaded for Sodom and Moses pleaded on behalf of the Israelites when they fell into sin.

Truly heroic was Jesus. At his crucifixion, he begged for forgiveness for his people saying, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” – Luke 23:34. He bore our sins. He became sin for us. He died for us. His is the ultimate act of gaining mercy for sinners.

Jesus seemed to be a fan of Abraham-like persistence. A Gentile woman was very persistent that Jesus heal her daughter. She even argued with Jesus until he healed her daughter (Mark 7:26). Then there is the parable Jesus tells of a widow who pounds on the door of a judge until he hears her case (Luke 18:1-7). If an unrighteous judge will grant her request because of her “chutzpah,” how much more will our good and loving God answer her prayers.

We should **NEVER** give up on prayer. Our chutzpah shows Father God, that like Abraham, we fully believe in His awesome power and His boundless love for us. I believe it also shows Father God that we are living our lives by the example that Jesus set for us...loving our fellow man, sin and all.

Resource: Listening to the Language of the Bible, Hearing It Through Jesus' Ears, by Lois Tverberg with Bruce Okkema.

**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 has been great for many and we now in the last holiday of the season observe Labor Day, which should be a great time with family and friends, experiencing new and beautiful parts of God's great creation, meeting new and interesting people, etc. Most of this always requires travel of some sort. When traveling, 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 has a super holiday – one to remember and jam packed with great times – and that each of you will return home healthy and in good spirits. God bless each of you – Pastor Buddy.

~ Boy Scout Eagle Project ~

Colin Jones expresses his most sincere appreciation for everyone who supported his Boy Scout Eagle Project. With all the assistance, he has now finished it successfully and will be receiving his Eagle designation shortly. He will let us know when that is to be.

~ 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.

“The doctrine of the atonement is to my mind one of the surest proofs of the divine inspiration of Holy Scripture. Who would or could have thought of the just Ruler dying for the unjust rebel? This is no teaching of human mythology, or dream of poetical imagination. This method of expiation is only known among men because it is a fact; fiction could not have devised it. God himself ordained it; it is not a matter which could have been imagined.” (SEP17)

“Learn to say no. It will be of more use to you than to be able to read Latin.” (SEP17)

“Sickness may befall, but the Lord will give grace; poverty may happen to us, but grace will surely be afforded; death must come but grace will light a candle at the darkest hour. Reader, how blessed it is as years roll round, and the leaves begin again to fall, to enjoy such an unfading promise as this, 'The Lord will give grace.'”

“Sin may drag thee ever so low, but Christ's great atonement is still under all.”

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.

The Holy Spirit:

“The Bible without the Holy Spirit is a sundial by moonlight.”

“There is no better evangelist in the world than the Holy Spirit.”

“God commands us to be filled with the Spirit, and if we are not filled, it is because we are living beneath our privileges.”

“If we are full of pride and conceit and ambition and self-seeking and pleasure and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God, and I believe many a man is praying to God to fill him when he is full already with something else.”

~ Announcements for September 2017 ~

ELDER & GREETER FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER: Elder Gail Johnson

The **LORD'S SUPPER** will be observed during Sunday's worship service, **September 3**. 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 is Wednesday evening, **September 6** at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will meet at 10:30am, Tuesday, **September 12**, in the Fellowship Hall for the Bible study and lunch TBD. All ladies are welcome.

The men of the church will gather for the **MEN'S BREAKFAST September 13** at 8:00am at Rancher's Steak House, Wednesday. All are welcome - bring a friend/neighbor.

The **SESSION** will meet 7:00pm, **September 20** in the Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is invited to the monthly **CHURCH DINNER** on Sunday, **September 21** immediately following the worship service. Our hosts are Lissa Derrick and Beverly Billings. Please join us for great food and warm fellowship. Bring a neighbor.

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 you need for the reading is provided.

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* ~

1110 East Main, Box 26

Gatesville, Texas 76528

254-865-5328

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.