



Presbyterian “Connection”

August 2009 Volume 16 Issue 8

by Elder Randi Saba



“PEACE”

If we have confessed our faith, belief and trust in God, and are now trying to walk with Him, trying to do what He wants us to do, and what He tells us unmistakably in His Word, we should be prepared to experience His peace. Because He gives it. Jesus said, “I give it, not as the world gives, with strings attached or ulterior motives, but voluntarily and with love.” We should also be prepared to be strong in Him. Being ‘strong in Him’ is a complex thing.

God’s words and truths are simple, they form a network, a grid, a base that holds up a complete total work. God tells us and encourages us to be weak, that through that weakness, we are strong. I understand this to mean, be meek, pliable, soft enough to be worked through by God, molded into what God needs us to be able to do to work through us.

Actually, that weakness and softness, takes strength. It takes strength to ‘hold back’, to be gentle, to be soft, to be able to touch a new born baby, a baby bird, a fragile flower and not hurt it, bruise it or crush it. So, when we admonish and encourage each other to be weak, we are encouraging each person to hold back, hold in strength what God gave us. That strength is to be used when God (in God’s wisdom) call upon us to use it and use it for God’s purpose, God’s work. So I understand that to be weak takes strength! And that strength is to be used only by God and for God’s purpose.

God’s Purpose? At this point in time, it is preparing for His kingdom, His rule. That purpose began to be implemented when God made humans, to become God’s children, God’s helpers, servants and slaves, just as family members help run the business and work together. There is nothing Small or unimportant in being a helper, a servant. Jesus himself, while on Earth was a Helper and a servant, by doing things (Acts of kindness, forgiveness, healing and mercy; teaching; preaching and praying) for the sick, the maimed, the poor, the oppressed. That is what being a servant is all about. He did these things for others (not for himself, but others), and through all He did, He was dignified. He stood up tall, just like us when we fill a coffee cup, help a person up the stairs or run an errand. We do it, and can do it with dignity too. The meekness, we are showing is God using us, through us, and in eternity, we will be doing the same thing with God’s attitude. We will have become a ‘reflection’ of Jesus, God’s Son, and remember all the encouragement and help Scripture spells out for us? It tells us that Jesus came to earth to show us the way, to show us what we can do with God’s help.

There is nothing wrong or bad in accepting help. When we are born we take the help our parents and our teachers give us. As adults we continue to take the help the Pastor and Bible study leaders, and co-workers try to give us. As adults, we also begin giving help to others. Do you feel downsized or less than when you give help to someone? I don’t, I feel the PEACE Jesus said that He gives you and me will suffice when we are ‘weak’ enough that God can use us _ as a vessel through which to work. We are assured that we will receive His PEACE and His strength.

CHURCH USHERS AND GREETERS

August 2—Bob & Gloria Wiles, Bill & Mary Kerr

August 9—Bob & Arabella Richardson, Irene Bere and Betty Aaron

August 16- Paul & Mary Ann Smith, Warren Heydt & Norm Hockley

August 23— Gail Sanderson, Sandy Erickson, Faye Brackett & Betty Aaron

August 30— Tywllah Schauer, Esther Roberts, Sandy Erickson & Peni Lloyd

PRAYER LIST FOR CONGREGATIONS, PRESBYTERY OF AR.-2008

Aug 2	First, Morrilton	First, Springdale
Aug 9	Wynne Church, Wynne	First, Berryville
Aug 16	Faith, Pine Bluff	First, Beebe
Aug 23	Central, Pine Bluff	First, Little Rock
Aug 30	First, Brinkley	First, Jonesboro

PLEASE NOTIFY IRENE BERE IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO SHOULD BE ON OUR PRAYER LIST.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m.— Coffee & Fellowship in Memorial Hall

Choir practice every Thursday at 7:30p.m.

Sunday, August 2—Communion Worship Service

Friday, August 21—9:00 a.m.- Session meets in the Christian Education room.

Sunday, August 30—6:00 p.m.—5th Sunday Community Hymn Sing at the First Baptist Church of Bull Shoals. Bring your friends and neighbors!



Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Hebrews 12:3,4

BIRTHDAY WISHES

August 7—Ed Chapman

August 18—Zack Meyers

August 20—Bob Wiles

August 22—Phil Hofer

August 23—Irene Bere

August 27—Betty Mentlewicz



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 1, 1959 Dale & Shirley Jensen

August 5, 1965 Jim & Joanne Kahm

August 10, 1962 Marvin & Sharlo Cullison

August 22, 2008 Phil & Jean Hofer

August 25, 1975 Dick & Elaine Matejka

August 27, 2005 Scott & Sandra Dockham

LIBRARY LINES

The book of the month is **FRIENDSHIP CAKE** by Lynne Hinton.

This is a new book to the library that was donated by one of our members.

“When five women from the Hope Springs Community Church form a committee to create a cookbook, they embark on a project more meaningful than they could ever have imagined. As novice Pastor Charlotte Stewart, no-nonsense Margaret Peele, maverick Louise Fisher, steadfast Jessie Jenkins, and busy-body Beatrice Newgarden meet to share recipes, they begin to open their lives and hearts as well.”

TAKE TWO by Karen Kingsbury is now available on the new book shelf. This is book two of her new series “Above the Line.”

Faye Brackett, Librarian



BE THANKFUL

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Psalm 100:4,5

Even if you think your situation is so bad that you need to gripe and complain, enter into His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. For every five minutes you spend whining, spend another ten minutes thanking God for His goodness. If you do that, you’ll find that your gripe will have shrunk really small by the time you get around to it. Then you’ll look at that thing and say, “It’s no big deal.”

Taken from the book, Discover the Keys to Staying Full of God by Andrew Wommack

THREE BULLETS

There once was a man who had nothing for his family to eat. He had an old rifle and three bullets. So, he decided that he would go out hunting and kill some wild game for dinner. As he went down the road, he saw a rabbit. He shot at the rabbit and missed it. The rabbit ran away. Then he saw a squirrel and fired a shot at the squirrel and missed it. The squirrel disappeared into a hole in a cottonwood tree.. As he went further, he saw a large wild 'Tom' turkey in the tree, but he had only one bullet remaining.

A voice spoke to him and said, 'Pray first, aim high and stay focused. However, at the same time, he saw a deer which was a better kill. He brought the gun down and aimed at the deer. But, then he saw a rattlesnake between his legs about to bite him, so he naturally brought the gun down further to shoot the rattlesnake.

Still, the voice said again to him, 'I said 'Pray, Aim high and Stay focused.'

So, the man decided to listen to God's voice.

He prayed, then aimed the gun high up in the tree and shot the wild turkey. The bullet bounced off the turkey and killed the deer. The handle fell off the gun and hit the snake in the head and killed it. And, when the gun had gone off, it knocked him into a pond. When he stood up to look around, he had fish in all his pockets, a dead deer and a turkey to eat for his family.

The snake (Satan) was dead simply because the man listened to God.

Moral of the story:

Pray first before you do anything, aim and shoot high in your goals, and stay focused on God. Never let others discourage you concerning your past. The past is exactly that, 'the past.'

Live every day one day at a time and remember that only God knows our future and that he will not put you through any more than you can endure.

Do not look to man for your blessings, but look to the doors that only He has prepared in advance for you in your favor...

Wait, be still and patient: keep God first and everything else will follow.

Submitted by Tywllah Schauer

The Armor of God

In Ephesians 6:10-20 (in the lectionary for August 23, 2009) the author writes about being strong in our faith. We are told to “put on the whole armor of God” (v. 11) in order to defend ourselves from enemies.

Instead of being military hardware, we are invited to wear some clothing that at first might have seemed to the Ephesians as a joke. Tie truth around your waist? Wear the gospel of peace as shoes? These things seem strange.

Maybe the author of the letter (we’re not sure who it really was) wanted to make a different kind of point. Perhaps they were trying to say something like “you know, there is a lot of fighting in our world, and there are a lot of dangerous and difficult forces out there. The way to tackle them all is not to try to fight them the way we’ve fought for years, but in a different way – Jesus’ way.”

In verses 14-17 the author lists some kinds of “armor” we can put on. What might that look like?

Using a marker, draw a huge outline of a person – make it as big as you can. One option is to take a piece of butcher paper, or tape several small sheets together. Then, lie down on the paper, with your legs slightly apart and hands away from your body. Invite someone to draw a rough outline of your shape with a marker.

Illustrate some of the things in the Bible passage – you can write down words that describe the actions, or draw pictures, or cut out pictures from magazines and glue them on.

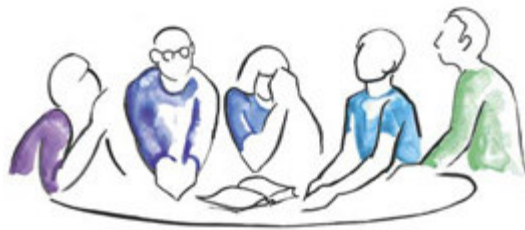
- A belt of truth. We use a belt to hold up our pants or skirt and for holding things together. Think about truth. When we are honest in what we think and say and believe, it holds together. Use your imagination to think of ways to express holding the world together.**
- A breastplate of righteousness. This armor protects our heart and other organs from being pierced by arrows. Instead of hardening our heart out of fear the author suggests something else. How can we defend ourselves from other’s hurts?**
- Shoes of peace. How can you share God’s peace in our world? What images might you use? How can we counter the world’s hurt by telling others about God’s unconditional love and grace?**
- A shield of faith. What do we carry out in front? What do others see first about us? Draw a large shield and add words or pictures that speak of our faith in God.**
- A helmet of salvation. Salvation is that sense of knowing that God loves us, no matter what. What kind of hat would tell others that we know and love God? Draw it.**
- A sword of God’s word. Instead of a sword that we can poke, stab, and hurt people with, we are invited to tell the message of God’s love. Draw some wonderful words of love and reassurance in a big balloon (like a cartoon) coming out of the mouth.**

~~~~NOTES FROM SESSION~~~~

Session Minutes will be posted on the bulletin board in the office and on the church website after they are approved. You may come by to read them or we will make a copy if you wish. In the newsletter we will let you know the actions taken by the session at the previous meeting. All stated session meetings are open to the whole congregation for observation. You may address the session by letting the Clerk (Vicky Bair) know in advance and she will put you on the agenda. You may have a voice but no vote on actions. Remember that everyone is invited to be on any committee they feel called to serve on (where you do have a voice and vote as a member of this church). Committees bring items to the session for vote.

A summary of the Stated June and July Session Minutes will be available in the September Connection.

Anyone with questions can contact the Clerk of Session, Vicky Bair at 445-7218 or 405-0047.



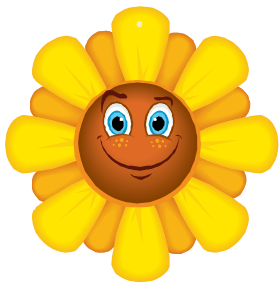
Don't Fuss

The pastor began the meeting by reading from Luke 12:25-26: "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

One of the women started to cry. "If only you knew," she said. "We're having trouble with our mortgage, and Gene's been laid off, and things are really tough. I was crying in my office not half an hour ago; now you remind me that, no matter what, God is somehow with me, caring for me."

How simple are those words and yet, at the same time, how difficult to live by. Often people will say "consider the lilies" but we can be too busy to do that. Yet when we do stop and open ourselves to God's presence, we can indeed be amazed at how close that presence really is, and the effect it can have in our lives.

Taken from August 2009 Editor's Clip Sheets



AUGUST 2009



EVERY Thursday 10 a.m.—11 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
 EVERY Thursday 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2 Rev. Mark Preaches Communion	3 8 pm– AA	4	5	6	7	8
9 Rev. Mark Preaches	10 8pm-AA	11	12	13	14	15
16 Roger Simons II gives the Message	17 3p.m-Historical Society 8pm-AA	18	19	20	21 9 AM –Session	22
23 Rev. Dick Shinkle Preaches	24 8pm-AA	25	26	27	28	29
30 Stacy Shinkle gives the Message 5th Sunday Hymn at Baptist Church -6 pm	31 8 pm—AA					

THIS WE BELIEVE

August

**Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.
Ephesians 4:2**

~MISSION STATEMENT~

**“We will be scripture-based to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and spiritually led to guide all people
to be active doers of the Word” Approved by Session on November 16, 2007**

CHURCH STAFF

Church Secretary: Debbie Heroux

Clerk of Session: Vicky Bair, Church Treasurer: Peni Lloyd

Financial Secretary: Dick Sass, Asst. Financial Secretary: Elaine Miller

DEACONS

Class of 2009

**Elaine Matejka
Pat Erlewine**

Class of 2010

**Jini Sass
Gloria Wiles
Betty Aaron**

Class of 2011

**Bill Kerr
Irene Bere
Sandy Erickson**

THE SESSION

Class of 2009

**Norm Hockley
Randi Saba
Shirley Jensen**

Class of 2010

**Bob Wiles
Tywillah Schauer**

Class of 2011

**Peni Lloyd
Mary Kerr**

**Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals
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STAMP