

First Presbyterian News

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Missional Mindset:

Last month we looked at God's plan to spread the Gospel message far and wide, to every nation and people group, and how we as the Body of Christ have the wonderful privilege of being a part of that plan. In the May Newsletter I said, "We are one body with many parts guided by one Spirit. Therefore, our part in God's mission is clear. It is to spread the love and grace of God to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth," but how do we do that? Spreading God's love to the ends of the earth sounds very daunting, and the thought can even paralyze us at times. It is perfectly understandable that most people do not even know where to start. Like most things, we start with the right mindset. We need to develop a missional mindset, or a missional heart.

"Pastor, that sounds very abstract. I have no idea what that means." Let me explain. A lot of times when we hear things like "spreading the Gospel," or "evangelism" we get this picture in our minds of two people going door to door trying to convince people to believe in Jesus. Or perhaps the guy standing on the street corner preaching to anyone in earshot. Luckily, that is NOT what I am talking about. Let's think about missionaries for a minute. What do they do, and how do they do it? First, they identify a region in need. Then they learn about the culture, they observe and interact with the people, which results in the missionary identifying a specific need within the region or specific community. Usually, it results in something like digging wells, building schools, or providing education. While all of this work is being done the missionaries are building relationships and trust with the people, so that when they do share the Gospel message it is more likely to be received, but the goal is not to make converts to Christianity, the goal is to love others as God loved us. One of the last lessons Jesus taught the disciples before he went to the cross was to love one another. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love... This is my command: Love each other." (John 15:9, 17; NIV) This is a missional heart!

So, how does that relate to you and me in our local church? Can we not apply this same missional heart in the community around us? One of the book studies offered recently was a book called *They Like Jesus but not the Church*, by Dan Kimball, and in this book the author talked a lot about getting out of our church bubbles and seeking out relationships with those who are not in church. The goal, he said, is not to view them as an evangelistic target, but to show them God's love. He said, "May we... have the strength and courage to escape the Christian subculture and truly be a church on a mission. May we pray fervently with a missional heart, asking the Spirit of God to move in the lives of those we are befriending." (Kimball, Dan: *They Like Jesus but Not the Church, Insights from Emerging Generations*. Pg. 253)

Let us change our mindset to a missional mindset and ask the questions:

- * Do I know any non-Christians, or people who do not go to church?
- * Who is around me that needs to feel God's love?
- * How can I observe and interact with the culture and people around me to identify a specific need? How can we as the church help address that need?
- * Are we showing God's love to those right around us?

Father God, please give us your eyes, your heart, and your burning desire to love your beloved children. Please send the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

In Christ,

~ Pastor John McCarthy



Worship Schedule for the Summer

June 2 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "A Walk Through Luke", pt 15

Scriptures: Psalm 27:1-14; Luke 7:36-50

June 9 - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "A Walk Through Luke", pt 16

Scriptures: Isaiah 6:1-13; Luke 8:1-15

June 16 - 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "A Walk Through Luke", pt 17

Scriptures: Jonah 1:1-17; Luke 8:16-25

June 23—5th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "A Walk Through Luke", pt 18

Scriptures: Psalm 9:9-20; Luke 8:26-39

June 30 - 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "A Walk Through Luke", pt 19

Scriptures: Psalm 130; Luke 8:40-56

July 7 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: Guest Speaker

Graduate Celebration - Mark your calendars! Our annual celebration for our high school graduates will be Sunday, June 9. We will honor them during worship and then gather together for fellowship and a covered dish luncheon. Chicken, potato salad, lemonade, and tea will be provided. Congregation is asked to bring a side or dessert to share. All are welcome and encouraged to bring friends and family.



Men's Bible Study - Taking a break for a bit, stay tuned for updates.

Women's Bible Study—meeting 1x/month on the second Wednesday (June 12) at 10:30 am—at The Busy Bean.



Evangelism Study - a new emphasis, they continue to meet 2 times/month. The first meeting will be Thursday, June 6 at 1pm at The Busy Bean.

GOD HEARS YOUR PRAYERS

Prayer List - Grace T. Seat's family after her passing. ³
Barney Newberry receiving chemo; Lilly Tysinger - cancer.
Mark Foster's grandson. George Ann High.
Bob Riley - Parkinson's and gall bladder issues. Kenneth Irby's family after his passing.

Praise - Chris Jones' mom is back home.

Prayers continue: Many in our congregation are struggling or dealing with health issues. Let's continue to pray for them.

Missionary update:

Matthew and Teresa Lee - Bible Translation in Cameroon.

Matthew and Teresa were able to "get away" to the beach at Christmas time. They enjoyed the peaceful relaxing time, and all of God's beauty around them.

They did a baby reveal with the students. The students and Teresa were so excited as she had taught most of them over the past 7 years. Teresa has had a good pregnancy so far, and has been able to keep teaching every day and running a few times a week.

When Matthew joined Wycliffe Bible Translators as a single missionary in 2008, his intention and hopes was to do whatever/wherever God need him to be. Cameroon came at a perfect time and place for him with high school French classes behind him.

Fast forward 5 years, he and Teresa got married and she soon began to serve and teach Kindergarten there. They found life, community, friends, and family as they served the people there for the many years.

The goal of the ministry was always to empower local workers to get to a point where they could sustain the ministry in each country.



In 2018, Matthew was diagnosed with ADHD. Managing his health has been more complex there in Cameroon, so they were praying and considering a transition back to the US. With the birth of their new little girl, Juliette Madison Lee on May 14th, Matthew's health concerns, and many other reasons, it seems the right time to transition to "Ministry 2.0".

They expect to be on the East Coast for the most part of Summer 2024 to Summer 2025. Being close to family, sharing their new bundle of joy and reconnecting with ministry partners. Matthew is an adjunct faculty member at Dallas International University. They likely will transition there after their 1 year furlough.

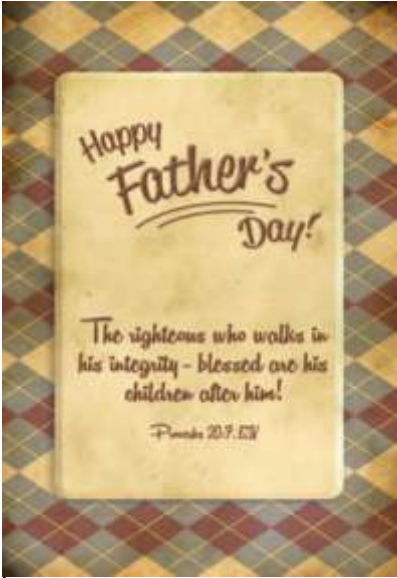
With a growing family and coming transition to the US could mean that their needs and estimated budget will increase by twice. More ministry partners are needed.

"In summary, this seems to us like an ideal time for our growing family to transition to "Ministry 2.0" in the US in order to have closer access to family and proper mental health support, as well as being able to reach further in international ministry. I believe that even when God whispers, it's loud enough for others to hear Him and give wise Christian council. We are eager to hear your thoughts and hope for your continued support as we embrace this new phase of our mission. Your commitment to partnering with us is crucial as we navigate these changes and continue to serve with dedication and passion."

With heartfelt thanks and anticipation,

-Matthew and Teresa Lee +1





As Father's Day approaches, I can't help thinking of the greatest example of Fatherhood that we have recorded throughout scripture. Jesus Christ, is known as Son, (Son of Man and Son of God/the Highest - see Luke 9:22; Luke 1:32) but we also call Him Father, as it was through Him that all earth and sky were created (John 1:3) He helped form us, His children, from the dust of the earth (see Gen. 2:7).

I love knowing He came to earth as a baby, and had to grow, as we do. Even though He was a God, He still had to learn and grow (Luke 2:52). Paul tells us He learned obedience by the things which he suffered. (Hebrews 5:8). John also tells us He learned and grew as He did not begin with the fullness, but received grace for grace; until he received a fullness.

Through His example we see one who is loving and patient, even in His discipline, He shows compassion and mercy. We have so many examples, but one that quickly comes to mind, is that of the woman found in adultery. He knew she had sinned, and He knew she could repent. Though the law was harsh He was loving, and knowing that we all sin, He is the only one who should be judging, and who can excuse. He tells us to forgive all men (Luke 17:3)

It is because of Him that we do not have to worry about the future. It is because of Him we can have peace, even in the midst of trials and worldly chaos, we can know of a surety that all will be well. That He will make every wrong right (John 14:27).

He was the perfect example. Just as our earthly fathers (parents) are familiar with our struggles, and how tough our lives can be, He knows to an even deeper extent. He knows what concerns and worries we have. He knows how it feels to be judged incorrectly, how it feels to be lonely, betrayed by "friends" and humiliated. It is unlikely that we would have to experience these things to the same degree He did, but by Him going through them, He is aware of our hearts and troubles. He knows how to comfort us. What better father and friend could we ask for?

When we have trials, we can see that His were so much greater, and that can/should give us courage to continue on, even if just for another hour or day. As we continue to hang on, soon we will find, we have gotten stronger and feel closer to Him who has guided our path.

I am grateful for the variety of seasons, the chance we have to recognize our mothers in May, our fathers in June, and the greatest of all examples each and every Sunday, and hopefully each and every day we are showing Him our gratitude, and becoming more like Him.

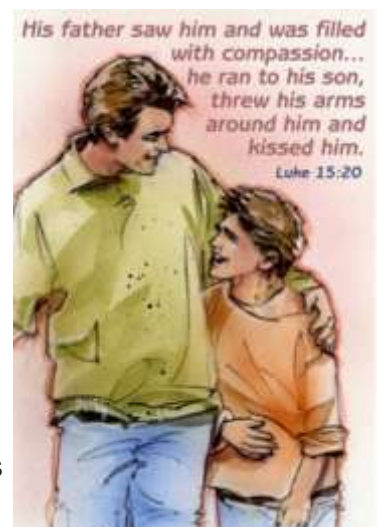
~ Sherolyn

Our Father's arms

As a young boy, J. Ellsworth Kalas had to visit the Mayo Clinic for tests. His parents, knowing their son was safe in the hospital overnight, slept at a nearby hotel. But Kalas was so lonely and scared that a nurse called his folks. Kalas, who later became a pastor, recalled what it was like to have his father arrive.

"I remember his dressing me there in the darkness," he said. "Then I remember getting on a streetcar, sitting way at the back as we rode to the hotel. He held me very close to him, his long, ungainly arm wrapped around me. And the little boy who had been so frightened was now at peace."

We all face trials that can seem overwhelming. "How good, then, to draw deeply on the resources of God!" Kalas said. "In him there is a peace which is greater than the trouble. How good, indeed, to burrow into a place of security, and to feel an arm wrapping strong about us and to know that it is the arm of our heavenly Father." ~ NewsletterNewsletter



JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 26 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	May 27 - Office Closed 	28	29 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	30 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	31- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	June 1
2 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	3 - Office Closed Sherolyn on Vacation	4 10:30 am GCM	5 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	6 1:00 pm - ES @ Busy Bean 6:30 pm - MBS 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	7 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	8
9 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	10	11	12 10:30 am - WBS at The Busy Bean 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	13 6:30 pm - MBS 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	14 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	15 9-12 NA
16- 5 Cents a Meal collection 9:00 am - Session 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship ** Father's Day **	17	18 	19 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	20 1:00 pm - ES@ Busy Bean 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	21- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	22
23 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	24 -	25	26 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	27 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	28- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	29
30 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4 - Office Closed 	July 5 - Office closed	July 6



- 1 Laylo Ridgeway
 - Lorene Gilliam*
 - 4 Corinne Williams*
 - 6 Carol Foster
 - Janet Adams*
 - 7 Katye Temple Nelson
 - 9 Paul Edmunds
 - 12 Ken Cochran
 - Lauren Henderson
 - Jennifer Lee Miller
 - 13 Robert Guthrie
 - 16 Veronica Raney
 - 20 Carol-Ann Lawson*
 - Scott Carter
 - 26 Jack Morgan
 - 29 Grace T. Seat



We want to recognize everyone. If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office and let us know.

* In Memory

Since our last Newsletter, our Session on May 19, discussed:

1. Rev. Coleman opened the meeting with prayer.
2. News of the congregation was shared.
3. Minutes of the April 21st Stated Session Meeting were approved.
4. The 2023 combined Session Minutes and Session Records Review form were submitted to the Presbytery Records Review Committee.
5. Presbytery Meeting Report at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg Saturday, May 4, 2024, was given by Don Cherry – Commissioner.
6. Membership Roll –
 - A. We continue to reach out to inactive members on the church roll.
7. Pastor John took the Worship and Sacraments Ordination Exam on 5-17-2024. He will be taking the Polity Ordination Exam next month.
8. Outreach –
 - A. Joni Owens discussed some mission possibilities at Commonwealth Senior Living.
 - B. International Mission – Received \$2000 grant check from the Presbytery Justice and Mercy Commission for the Persecution Project.
9. Property –
 - A. Roof leaks being addressed, no leaks seen during the last heavy rain.
10. Budget & Finance –
 - A. Financial reports for April 2024 were reviewed.
 - B. Reviewed some reports generated from the new church accounting software.
11. Worship –
 - A. The Deacons have scheduled a Graduate Recognition Celebration for Sunday, June 9th with a luncheon after worship.
 - B. Next communion date is Sunday, June 19, 2024.
12. Rev. Coleman closed the meeting with prayer.
13. Next Stated Session meeting will be on Sunday, June 16, 2024, at 12:30 pm.



- 5Greeting Card Ministry** - Tuesday, June 4 at 10:30.
- Evangelism Study** - 2x each month. Beginning Thursday June 6 at 1 pm at Busy Bean.
- Cents-a-Meal collection** - Sunday, June 16
- Elders** - Sunday, June 16 - at 9:00 am
- Choir** - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.
- Deacons** - Not meeting in June or July.

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