

November 2017
Tri-City Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Pray

*Please teach me, Lord...I want to know exactly how to pray.
I need some words, which ones are right? Please tell me what to say.*

*I've bowed my head, I have knelt down. But...should I be upright?
I've closed my eyes, I've raised my hands, or...should I fold them tight?*

*Do I stand up? Should I sit down? Dear Lord...what do you like?
Are lights turned on, or are they off? Maybe...candle light?*

*Wear my glasses? Take them off? Be at my desk, or table?
Should I whisper? Speak out loud? Do I quote the Bible?*

*What do you think about the time? Do You prefer the dawn?
Should I pray fast, or keep it slow? Better short...or long?*

*I'm new at this, what are the rules? I want to do it right.
How do I know You'll even hear? That I am in Your sight?*

*And while I sat there quietly, waiting for some sign,
I heard a gentle voice say, "Oh, dearest child of mine...
Do you think I really care about the time of day,
Or whether you are standing up, or kneeling when you pray?"*

*"I don't care about your posture, or about the place you choose;
Just open up your soul to Me. I have no other rules.
Tell Me what is in your heart, and tell Me what you seek;
Tell Me of your sorrows, and of those things that make you weak."*

*"Speak to Me in private, about what concerns you most;
I know about your good deeds...You have no need to boast.
My child, you don't need lessons, just talk to Me each day;
Tell Me anything you want, Dear Child, anyone can pray."*



Message from the Pastor



God's Call

Remember the accounts of God calling Samuel and Jeremiah? When God calls Samuel, Samuel merely says, "Here I am!" Samuel is ready and willing to serve God in any way God asks. But when God calls Jeremiah, Jeremiah has a million excuses why God couldn't possibly use him! Jeremiah protests telling God he is a mere boy. What could he possibly expect of a mere boy?

Isn't that how it is? God calls and we have a million excuses for why we cannot do whatever it is God may be calling us to do. Of course God doesn't speak out directly to us as he did to Samuel and to Jeremiah, but God does still call to us. God calls to us through the voices of others, or sometimes through a nudging deep inside of us. Sometimes God calls to us through the affirmations we receive from others, and sometimes even through a sermon or a prayer. But we have a million excuses; we're too busy, or we are too old, or like Jeremiah, too young.

God has plans for all of us. We are all called to serve God in some special way. We may be called to service within the church or we may be called to serve outside the church. We may be called to prophecy as Samuel and Jeremiah were. Whatever God has planned for us, we need to drop our excuses and try Samuel's approach, "Here I am! Speak, for your servant is listening."

God's response to Jeremiah was "Do not say, 'I am only a boy; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.'" God has the same response to all of our excuses too. God provides the words when we need them, the rest when we need it, and God delivers us when we need it. So put your trust in God and listen for what special ministry God might be calling you to, and just say, "Here I am God, speak for I am listening!"

In Christ,
Pastor Linda

Words for Thought

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

**Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.**

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have born my peoples pain.
I have wept for love of them,
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them,
Whom shall I send?

(Chorus)

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?



**Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.**

Apples... This is as good as it gets!!!

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago .. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. In their rush, with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly-missed boarding...

ALL BUT ONE!!! He paused, took a deep breath, got in touch with his feelings and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him, waved good-bye, told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain his taking a later flight. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the terminal floor.

He was glad he did. The 16-year-old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her; no one stopping and no one to care for her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them back on the table and helped organize her display. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket.

When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$40 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" "She nodded through her tears. He continued on with, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister...." He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in mid-stride and he wondered. He gently went back and said, "No, I am nothing like Jesus - He is good, kind, caring, loving, and would never have bumped into your display in the first place." The girl gently nodded: "I only asked because I prayed for Jesus to help me gather the apples. He sent you to help me, so you are like Him - only He knows who will do His will. Thank you for hearing His call, Mister."

Then slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "Are you Jesus?" Do people mistake you for Jesus? That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace.

If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting scripture and going to church. It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day.

You are the apple of His eye even though you, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked up you and me on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit.

Sometimes we just take things for granted, when we really need to be sharing what we know..."Being happy doesn't mean everything is perfect. It means you've decided to see beyond the imperfections."

Solar Eclipse

Solar eclipse of August 21, 2017, dubbed "The Great American Eclipse" by the media, was a total eclipse visible within a band across the entire contiguous United States, passing from the Pacific to the Atlantic coasts. As a partial solar eclipse, it was visible on land from northern Canada to as far south as northern South America. Prior to this event, no solar eclipse had been visible across the entire contiguous United States since June 8, 1918; not since the February 1979 eclipse had a total eclipse been visible from anywhere in the mainland United States.

The event was celebrated at our church by members meeting in the parking lot to watch the event as a group and a way to remember where we were when the historical event occurred.



Sue Hilton

JoAnne Johnson



Ken (& dog)

Elizabeth

grandson



Melanie, Elizabeth and grandson,
Linda Gregg, Melody & Sue



David



Todd and Jean



Judy and Mike

Please Pray For:

Almighty Lord, Cover this your child with your sovereign hand, bring restoration and healing to their bodies. In Jesus name, Amen.

Please keep our friends in your prayers. Special prayers for: Duane, Wanda and Judy Brooks, Sue Hilton, Lloyd Shields.

September 24: Pizza at Abby's instead of monthly pot-luck. Fun by all!



Sharon Scherer:
July 10, 1937 -Oct. 5, 2017



A Memorial Service was held in remembrance of long-time member Sharon Scherer on Sunday, October 8th. The service was well attended with friends and family. Sharon will be missed in our church.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

November

- Ken Roan (5)
- Todd & Jean Snyder Anniversary (17)

December

- Todd Snyder (6)
- Mike Watkins (19)
- David Tenchiera (21)
- Joanie Bangs (22)
- Marilyn and Bill West Anniversary (31)



Special Music on Oct. 9 – Maylee, Brielle, and Maverick led by Jean Snyder treated the congregation with good music. Hope to hear more from these wonderful kids.



Maverick and Ann Share August Marilyn, Maylee, and Dee Everhardt (September)



October: Lloyd, Melanie, Jean, Debbie

MISSIONS: (shoe boxes)

Sunday, October 29th was the day our church filled the shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This mission is a year-long project for our small congregation and we have much to be proud of and thankful for in our participation, more than 200 boxes were filled again this year. The Samaritan Purse, Operation Christmas Child Mission is led by Jean and Todd Snyder and once again, GOOD JOB!!



Maylee Torkelson



Debbie Bramlett & Nancy Atkinson



Mike Watkins, Lloyd Shield, David Tenchiera



LaMar Bramlett



Christmas Joy Offering: Supporting past, present, and future leaders. The Christmas Joy Offering is traditionally received during the Advent Season.

How is my gift used? Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

A Touch of Humor:

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of life. As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost, and being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone, and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left, and they were eating lunch I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave, looked down and saw that the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played "Amazing Grace", the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently, I'm still lost ... it's a man thing. _



It is “that” time again: *Early peek for January Per Capita*

For the year 2018, the PROPOSED per capita apportionment rates are:

- Presbytery – \$19.05 (increase of 34 cents)
- Synod – \$5.22
- GA– \$7.73
- Total = \$32.00

The per capita for Synod and General Assembly pays for the administrative structure of our denomination and allows for participation of persons from large and small churches from all areas of the church, thus making our representative form of government possible. It means also that dollars given for mission are used to fund mission projects and work rather than in paying for administrative “overhead”.

New to Myrtle Creek

Have you tried the new business in Myrtle Creek?
Great food and *the price is right!!*
New folks in town from Coos Bay.
Make them feel welcome...this place is a winner.

