



*Princeville
Presbyterian
Church
Newsletter
July 2018*

A Word From Pastor Baker...

Christians live by an interesting tension of having their feet in two worlds. On one hand, by virtue of being born again we live in an eternal kingdom, held in store for us for when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to bring the consummation of all things. On the other hand, we live in an earthly kingdom which presses in on us with daily expectations of conformance and support for the things we can see with our eyes but often wage war with our souls. We are citizens of two kingdoms, or as St. Augustine described it, two cities - the City of God and the City of Man. These two cities do not move in the same orbital plane nor around the same centerpoint. The City of God faces always the eternal divine One who has made all things and sustains them by his good pleasure, and the City of Man is like a wandering star whose path is always changing and rarely faces the divine. Each city kingdom strives for headship over us and each presses us to declare our loyalty.

But we cannot serve two masters. We feel the tension of this in everyday life. One can only imagine working in a stressful environment with 2 bosses having equal authority who expect you to do conflicting tasks and each believing that their task is more important than anyone else's. It's not that we shouldn't serve two masters, although this in itself is true. It is simply a reality - we are UNABLE to serve two masters. When it comes to living in two kingdoms at once, at some point we will be required to choose. How then shall we do so?

July Events

- 1st - Communion
- 5th - Food Pantry
- 8th - PSC Mtg.
- 10th - Deacons/Session
- 14th - Food Pantry
- 15th - Fellowship Meal
- 19th - Food Pantry
- 22nd - PSC Mtg.
- 29th - Rockin' Seniors

*The Administrative Office will
be closed from July 30th-August
6th for Amanda's vacation.
Pastor Baker will keep normal
hours.*

I love my country and her principles as they are set forth in the *Declaration of Independence*, the *Constitution* and the *Bill of Rights*. I have served her with faithfulness at the time I was called to do so. My country in many ways is the best and the greatest on earth. I believe I am a patriot. At times, the appeal to patriotism resounds strongly in all but the most cynical citizens. However, let us be clear - *mere* patriotism is dangerous. *Mere* patriotism means to hold allegiance no matter what to a community or country of fallen beings whose will quickly slides to self-advancement, self-indulgence and self-preservation, (which also make my country in many ways the worst and the most debauched on earth.) This kind of patriotism results in uncritical acceptance of perverted purposes of a kind that gave rise to the likes of Idi Amin, Pol Pot, Joseph Stalin, Adolph Hitler and hundreds of other self-willed leaders of nations. Patriotism itself needs a strong counterbalance. It needs to be cabled to eternal verities such as righteousness, mercy, love and holy fear.

It is by holding allegiance to the City of God that we can be a great blessing to the earthly City. Our allegiance to God's eternal kingdom can keep our earthly allegiance in a proper orbit. Such an allegiance enables us to stand *with* our country when she is rightly aligned with God's upright principles, and enables us to stand *against* her when she is wrong and drifting. This produces holy citizenship and is a preserving influence in the body politic.

Our founding fathers understood this well. They too read the records or saw the rise of tyrannical or debauched regimes and from a genuinely Christian perspective asked questions of allegiance to the Creator and "Nature's God". It is what motivated them to take their unique testimony to the world, to take their stand against the overbearing regime they had come to these shores to be independent of, and to craft the kind of government that took holy fear seriously. Holding true to the City of God enabled them to hold this American quarter of the City of Man

July Birthdays

6th - Phyllis Carroll

7th - Brenda Peterson

14th - Rylan Freres

15th - Ron Basehoar

19th - Delores Shepard

23rd - Jerry Dwyer

29th - Randy Snodgrass

30th - Cleta Riggins



true to its purpose as they "pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor".

May we be the right kind of patriots who love our divine master while rightly loving our earthly city as we celebrate the anniversary of our dependence on God and our independence as a nation from the rule of other nations.

"No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other."

Luke 16:13

"We must obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29

Taking Every Thought Captive To Christ,

Chris

Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry. What is this? When I took the position of women's ministry coordinator in 2014, I had in mind a ministry that taught women scripture; a gathering of women who were hungry for the Word of God and a better understanding of His Word. This is such a beautiful and huge part of women's ministry, but over the years, and these past 4 months especially, I have learned that women's ministry is so much more than this. Teresa and I have read the book "Women's Ministry in the Local Church," and have had our eyes opened to the depth that our women's ministry could and should be. Our church, our women, our community, and our world need to know what biblical womanhood looks like. They need to know why is so important that we not deny the uniqueness of woman's design and role. We must celebrate the value of God's creation design and redemptive calling and the necessity for it to be employed in our lives and in our church. We must see how, as women, we are related to God, how scripture defines womanhood, and how then we are related to others. The answers to all of these questions are found in scripture. We need look no further than the very Word of God. But in order to understand the depth of these things, we must be looking. We must be studying. We must desire that the Lord open our eyes to illumine the words and make them come alive to us. We must set aside our own ideas and the world's ideas of what womanhood looks like and seek the Will of our Father.

As the women's ministry coordinator, I want you to know that I am committed to studying these things and in turn, making them known to you through study, teaching, prayer, Titus 2 groups, brunch devotions, and social events. Each of these activities must reflect this commitment. That is why I do not take lightly the task at hand. Each event and study are thought through and evaluated to make sure the commitment to scripture and proper teaching of the Word is present. The women's ministry falls under the headship of the Session. This is not because I am ill-equipped to make decisions or because the Session has to have their hands in everything. This is because that is exactly how scripture tells us to go about life in the church (and at home). This kind of submission comes out of a love of the Lord and respect for his Kingdom order. It also offers a benefit of protection as I am accountable to the Session, and they are accountable to the Lord's will.

Men and women face different kinds of temptations and issues. The church needs to address these issues properly and deliberately. *Mankind, without living out the God-given distinction of male and female, relating to one another as God intended them to relate, cannot give adequate expression to this aspect of what it means to be created in the image of God.* (Susan Hunt) Our women's ministry is one place that we can be open about these temptations and differences and discover God's will for defeating and understanding them. Will you let this be a place where you can come and learn and grow? It is my prayer that you will embrace your creation design and seek out what area of the women's ministry best works for you. We will begin study and monthly brunches again in the fall and then beginning next year, we will have a new Titus 2 small group ministry. Please be in prayer about this. If I can be praying for you or you need anything, please reach out to me at the office or on my cell. Love in Christ, Amanda~~

Interim Update

We are entering our 9th month of the transitional process, and I want to begin this interim update by encouraging the congregation. Sometimes interim work is obvious where everyone can see what's going on. At other times interim work is being done in the background; it doesn't look like much is happening, but in fact, piece-by-piece, the ways in which we do things are being strengthened and step-by-step we are moving forward in our efforts to get a new pastor. We have been working in the background through the last few weeks to strengthen the church and I am very encouraged about the progress we have made.

The Search committee has composed a revised Church information "narrative" to give a more expanded description to candidates as to who we are and where we are. This will be newly re-posted on church denominational and seminary webpages. This reposting will put our church at the top of lists in order to draw fresh attention to our opening. It will also be distributed to friends and friends-of-friends so as to attract ministers who might be interested in our church.

The Session and members of the former Missions committee have been discussing a smoother process by which the committee can relate to the church leadership as well as carry out its duties and passion in evaluating, supporting and promoting missions here at Princeville Presbyterian. We will soon be "advertising" for members of a re-established missions committee which our church very much needs.

In the meantime, our greatest tool is prayer. In session meetings, in search committee meetings, in small groups, individually and now in Wednesday evening prayer services we pray for the Lord to sustain us, to guide us, and to guide the man whom God is preparing for us. All the while, the search committee is still reviewing and discussing the candidate materials that have been sent in to us. We trust the Lord to bring to us the one who will best fit our shepherding needs.



Life... What is Good?

By Kailee Keighin

What is good? I am asked that question a lot in my life. When people ask me on the spot, it is hard to come up with a good answer, other than things like my favorite person or my favorite food. When you step back and see your whole life, it is filled with many good things. Sometimes it is hard to look past all the bad that clouds your thoughts. Your judgement on what is good and bad becomes crowded with the rules and regulations of this world. Recently, I have been through some very challenging situations. The good things in my life have made those situations not as hard. Good things in life don't have to be big, they just have to make your day better. They could range from small things, like your mother's homemade casserole, to bigger things like your best friend. They don't have to be significant or important to other people, as long as they make you truly happy; they are "good" things.

One great example of something good in my life is my mother. She gave birth to me, feeds me, clothes me, and does everything in her power to make me happy. She tries to be there whenever she can. She has three children, but she makes time for each one individually. I think it would be hard to be a mother, but she does an amazing job. There is no one better than her.

Another significant example of something good in my life is God. He planned out my entire life before I was ever conceived. He knew that I would have a lot of good things in my life, But He purposely uses the bad things in this world to shape who I am today. This makes me so happy. He loves me, and I love Him. He shows me how I should live through my amazing mother and He guides me by using other people in my life, and with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Unfortunately there is not enough paper in the world to tell about all the good things there are in my life. God gave me these good things so that I could be a light in this dark world. What makes me so happy is when I thought that no one cared, He did. He put me through some rough situations so I could come out of them even stronger. I was made in the image of himself, the most Holy and righteous God, and He chose me to be His daughter. He made me the way I am today and that's what makes me happy. Life could not get any better than this.

July 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Communion	2 Prayer Group @ 9:30am	3	4	5 Food Pantry @5pm	6	7
8 PSC Mtg. @7pm	9 Prayer Group @ 9:30am	10 Deacons @6:30pm Session @ 7pm	11 Prayer Service @6:30pm	12	13	14 Food Pantry @5pm
15 Fellowship Meal	16 Prayer Group @ 9:30am	17	18 Prayer Service @6:30pm	19 Food Pantry @5pm	20	21
22 PSC Mtg. @7pm	23 Prayer Group @ 9:30am	24	25 Prayer Service @6:30pm	26	27	28
29 Rockin' Seniors	30 Prayer Group @ 9:30am	31	Administrative Office Closed Through August 6th			

Summary of Session Work – June 2018

The church Session met on June 19 at 7:00 with a devotional from Nehemiah 4. In this passage, we saw that the leaders of God's people were working on the wall, laboring with their tools in their hands, and their swords strapped to their side. It is a picture of how we are to labor faithfully and be ready for battle at the same time (in our case, by wearing the armor of God – Eph 6). After opening with prayer, we heard a report from the Deacons regarding matters of interest to them. Of note was the setting aside of August 9, 2018 to host a Blood Drive. More information will come out on that later. We reviewed various routine reports which prompted a desire to have a sermon on tithing and one on evangelism. At this point we entered into a season of prayer for the congregation, after which we took up the remainder of our business. There were several reports as to the status of ministries in the church – W.O.W., VBS, Sunday School, Interim work – all received as satisfactory. Three items especially were given attention in discussion. 1) An estimate was submitted to clean and tune the organ; which the session chose not to engage the service. 2) A revised "church narrative" was reviewed (and approved) for submission with our church information form as we sought additional candidates for the pastoral opening. 3) A new version of a missions policy was reviewed (and approved), setting the stage for further reading and comment from former mission committee members. The meeting was closed with prayer and thanksgiving.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 7:00 pm. Session meetings are open for congregational members to attend unless there are matters to be discussed that require the protection of personal reputation.