



Princeville Presbyterian Church

SEPTEMBER 2018

With each passing month, the pastoral search committee moves closer to finding the man whom God has called to be the pastor of Princeville Presbyterian Church. As they have prepared carefully to seek God's will, and as the minister we seek must be someone also who is seeking God's will, the congregation of Princeville Presbyterian Church must also prepare to discern and receive the one God has selected and sent. To that end, wisdom dictates that I offer some instruction in order to sweep away some misconceptions and to keep in place the Biblical expectations for a pastor of the church. This will be the first of three articles on the matter.

Theologian and pastor David Wells authored an article in which he described the changing expectations of churches for pastors. In the early church, there were 3 expectations for pastors – preaching, teaching and prayer. In the 1950's the expectations expanded to 15 including being good looking, well-dressed and well-spoken. By the early 1990's, congregation's list of expectations for pastors exceeded 30 items including the 15 expectations from before plus being the Master of Ceremonies for every church event (and ministry), having a good radio presence, being a good administrator and personnel director, part entertainer, a family counselor, being a friend to everyone and a dozen other things. These changing expectations were not drawn from the Bible but were drawn from people's preferences and ideas as to what *they wanted* in a pastor – in other words

these preferences and ideas were fabrications arising out of human desire rather than learning God's will and conforming their expectations to it.

Early in the life of the church, the apostles came under pressure to meet the growing needs of the church. Part of those growing needs meant caring for the Greek-speaking Jewish widows. But the demands began to exceed the apostles' calling – not their capabilities, but their *calling* - which they were obligated before God to protect.

The twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But **we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.**" (Acts 6:2-4)

This is the first definition in the young church of the fundamental ministry that would keep the church alive and healthy – prayer and the ministry of the word. The ministry of the word encompassed preaching, teaching, and "discipleship" (that is, one-on-one training in living according to the word). Added to this was prayer because without seeking God's blessing, there was nothing that any mere man could accomplish. In nearly every passage of Acts, we see the outworking of that commitment.

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By the late stages of the apostle Paul's ministry he was most concerned to guide young pastors in the proper work of the church. His instructions touched on worship, selecting other leaders, and most especially on the need to preach and teach.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: **preach the word; be ready in season and out of season;** reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

For any man to be able to do this properly, he must know, *really know* the teaching of the Bible – and I can assure you, this is much more than “Bible stories”.

Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 1:13)

But as for you, **teach what accords with sound doctrine.** (Titus 2:1)

But to do this requires study, reading, meditation, reflection.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth.** (2 Timothy 2:15)

When the apostle Paul wrote this he was faced with pantheon of Roman deities, emperors who thought they were gods, and the Jews who rejected the teachings of their own Messiah revealed in their own Scriptures. Even Paul had to continue his own studying!

When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also **the books, and above all the parchments.** (2 Timothy 4:13)

Trust me – after 30 years of ministry, the need for study is greater than ever before. Paul wasn't having to deal with Socialism, Communism, New Age-ism, non-Christian cults, complete secularism, Post-modernism, Liberal theology that seeks to diminish the meaning of every page of Scripture, identity theology, the politicization of everything, genetic engineering, cyborgism, intersectionalism and a hundred other philosophies of life. Most people in most congregations cannot even recite the *names* of the Bible books in order, let alone give a summary of the content of each book. And they would not likely be able to give any kind of summary of doctrine essential to a healthy church. The people of God need a pastor who studies and who faithfully proclaims the whole counsel of God because the destiny of their eternal soul is at stake. Those who don't want such a pastor endanger their own soul and dangle by a thread over the pit of hell.

Consider this and pray over it for the next month. We need a faithful pastor who studies the Word of God, the Doctrine of the Church, the deep things of our Lord Jesus Christ, the unfolding of the Plan of Salvation, the Spirit-filled life, and who can faithfully proclaim these truths to God's people. And may God lead his people in triumphal procession (2 Corinthians 2:14).

Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ,

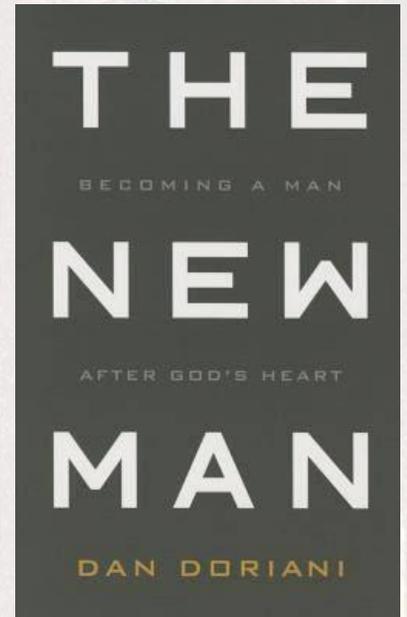
Chris



Men of Iron

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. - Proverbs 27:17

MEN (young and old)! We are starting up a monthly Men's fellowship breakfast on October 6. We will meet on the 1st Saturday of each month at 7:00 a.m., in the fellowship hall at Princeville Presbyterian Church. Fellowship will include a light breakfast and a short study through "*The New Man*" by Dr. Dan Doriani of Covenant Seminary in St. Louis, which will be made available through the Church office. Bring your brother, bring your sons, bring your friend (they don't have to be a member of Princeville Pres) and be sharpened for the Lord's work.



*... Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of man.
Ecclesiastes 12:13b*

Jesus tells us that those who love him will keep his commandments. What he commands us to do, he enables us to do.

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*"If you love me, you will keep my commandments"  
John 14:15*

## Welcome To Our Family

Charlotte Louise Williams was born to Bret and Rachel Williams on July 8th, 2018 weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz. and measuring 20.5 in. long. She had a full head of hair and chubby little cheeks. She loves to make all kinds of sounds and also enjoys eating. ;) She's a happy baby and thankfully a good sleeper. Mom and Dad are so in love with her!

*Congratulations Bret & Rachel!*



## ***Summary of Session Work for August 2018***

The August Session meeting began with a devotional from Nehemiah 5. In it we learned that leaders defend and seek to protect those who are being taken advantage of by others, especially by others who are part of the church. Following the devotional, the Deacons reported on their work discussing in particular the changes they were making in Pantry operations. They indicated that they have been approached by an Eagle Scout who desires to do a project for the pantry. He will be scheduled for his presentation in the September meeting. We then dismissed the deacons with prayer, dispatched quickly our routine business, and spent some time discussing the spiritual needs of the congregation. We adopted a Missions committee policy for the church, decided to ask for participants, and set the date of September 9 a congregational meeting to explain the Church Security Policy and the Missions committee policy. A vacation week was approved for Pastor Baker, and John Underwood and Kirk Potter were selected as delegates to the Rivers and Lakes Presbytery meeting at the end of September. Finally, the decision was made to carry out minor repairs on the manse in preparation for a new pastor. Prayer was lifted up for all the congregation and known specific needs, and then the meeting adjourned.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 7:00 pm. As always, session meetings are open for congregational members to attend unless there are matters to be discussed that require the protection of personal reputation.

## **Immovable**

*My dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. 1 Corinthians 15:58*

Paul has just spent an entire chapter explaining the reality of the coming resurrection, impressing upon the people at the church in Corinth that resurrection is not merely something religious and unreal but a matter of “first importance” (vs. 3, ESV). Because Jesus died and his body was resurrected from the grave, we can be sure that all who are joined to Christ will one day have that same experience. Death is not going to get the last word in the believer’s life.

Paul then points to the difference this belief and confidence in resurrection should make in the lives of believers. It should make us strong and steadfast. Confidence in the coming resurrection keeps us going until our work is done. It makes us immovable, meaning that we don’t easily lose our balance and get knocked down. Whenever the winds blow through our family in the form of difficulty, sickness, financial pressure, relational strife, or ungodly perspectives, we do not veer off course. We are resolute regarding what is true, what is reliable, and what is forever.

It’s not that we are unwilling to listen to others or that we are belligerent or intolerant with other views. It’s simply that we are so convinced that the gospel is true and that Christ has ultimate authority over everything – even death – that our confidence in him is unshakable.

As we persevere in the work of parenting, we can be sure that what we’re doing matters beyond this life. We are not laboring to create the perfect family here and now. We are laboring for the souls of our children because we know that the day is coming when bodies will be raised to be joined to those souls, and we long to be surrounded by our children on that day. So we are strong and immovable in loving the Lord, talking about his Word, and living like we really do believe that resurrection day is coming.

*Lord, may the truth of the resurrection of Jesus and the certainty of the resurrection of all believers make us strong and steadfast in our parenting work. May it make us immovable as we look to you as our only hope.*

*Praying Through the Bible for Your Kids – Nancy Guthrie*

# W.O.W. (Women Of the Word)

We all know it's important to study God's Word. But sometimes it's hard to know where to start. What's more, a lack of time, emotionally driven approaches, and past frustrations can erode our resolve to keep growing our knowledge of Scripture. How can we, as Christian women, keep our focus and sustain our passion when reading the Bible?

Our new study (Women of the Word) offers a clear and concise plan to help women go deeper in their study of Scripture. This book will equip you to engage God's Word in a way that trains your mind and transforms your heart.

This is a great opportunity for women who have not joined us before to dive in and learn and grow alongside your Sisters in Christ. Please consider joining us on a Monday morning at 10:30am or Tuesday evening at 6pm. This is a great study for all ladies in any stage of their faith walk.

Please see Amanda, Teresa, or Michaela for any questions or to sign up. Sign-up is also available in the narthex. We will begin on September 17/18<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$12 (please see Amanda if you need help with the cost as we never want this to be a barrier).

It would be a good idea to read the material several times as we will be having a discussion and answering questions about it when we gather together.

## SCHEDULE

Sept. 17/18<sup>th</sup> – Read Intro, Chapter 1 & 2

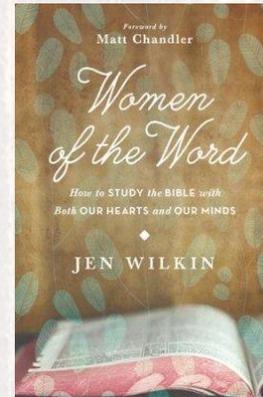
Sept. 24/25<sup>th</sup> – Read Chapters 3 & 4

Oct. 1/2<sup>nd</sup> – Read Chapters 5 & 6

October 13<sup>th</sup> – Ladies Brunch @10am Location TBD

Oct. 15/16<sup>th</sup> – Read Chapters 7 & 8

Oct. 22/23<sup>rd</sup> – Read Chapters 9 & Conclusion



## Mea culpa

It has recently come to my attention that some in the congregation have mistakenly believed that Holly Litwiller has stepped down from being an elder, meaning that she will no longer be an elder in the church. That is a misunderstanding which has come about through a failure of clear communication on my part – for that I am sorry (*mea culpa* – my fault). Holly has NOT stepped down from being an elder - rather, effective February 1, 2018, after two 3-year terms of faithful (and demanding!) service Holly rolled off of active duty as an elder for a much needed 1-year sabbatical rest. She will return to active duty as an elder February 1, 2019.

Chris Baker, Interim Pastor

## September Events

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Communion
- 3, 10, 17, 24<sup>th</sup> – Prayer Meeting
- 5, 12, 19, 26<sup>th</sup> – AWANA
- 6, 8, 20<sup>th</sup> – Food Pantry
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Deacons & Session
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Ladies Brunch
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Rally Day & Potluck at the Farm
- 17/18<sup>th</sup>, 24/25<sup>th</sup> – WOW Bible Study
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Rockin' Seniors

# September 2018

| SUNDAY                            | MONDAY                                          | TUESDAY                                                                   | WEDNESDAY                                       | THURSDAY               | FRIDAY                        | SATURDAY                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----|
|                                   |                                                 |                                                                           |                                                 |                        |                               | 1                          |    |
| 2<br>Communion                    | 3<br>Prayer Group @ 9:30am                      | 4                                                                         | 5<br>AWANA @ 6:15pm<br>Prayer Service @ 6:30pm  | 6<br>Food Pantry @5pm  | 7                             | 8<br>Food Pantry @5pm      |    |
| 9                                 | 10<br>Prayer Group @ 9:30am                     | 11<br>Deacons @6:30pm<br>Session @ 7pm                                    | 12<br>AWANA @ 6:15pm<br>Prayer Service @ 6:30pm | 13                     | 14                            | 15<br>Women's Brunch @10am |    |
| 16<br>Rally Day At The Farm @Noon | 17<br>Prayer Group @ 9:30am<br>W.O.W. @ 10:30am | 18<br>W.O.W. @ 6pm                                                        | 19<br>AWANA @ 6:15pm<br>Prayer Service @ 6:30pm | 20<br>Food Pantry @5pm | 21                            | 22                         |    |
| 23<br>Rockin' Seniors             | 24<br>Prayer Group @ 9:30am<br>W.O.W. @ 10:30am | 25 <b>Church Office Closed (Amanda's Surgery &amp; Pastor's Vacation)</b> |                                                 |                        |                               | 28                         | 29 |
|                                   |                                                 | 26<br>W.O.W. @ 6pm                                                        | 27<br>AWANA @6:15pm<br>Prayer Service @ 6:30pm  |                        | 28<br>Presbytery (Moline, IL) |                            |    |

## Birthdays

4<sup>th</sup> – Heather Thomas  
 5<sup>th</sup> – Kelly Bent  
 6<sup>th</sup> – Kathy German  
 7<sup>th</sup> – Kelli Dwyer  
           Rebecca Heck  
 10<sup>th</sup> – Parker Litwiller  
 13<sup>th</sup> – Marilyn Kuntz  
           Diana Williams  
 17<sup>th</sup> – Bret Williams  
 18<sup>th</sup> – Marilyn Baker  
           Gavin Beckett  
 26<sup>th</sup> – Marilyn German  
 28<sup>th</sup> – Christopher Shepard

## Anniversary

30<sup>th</sup> – Bob & Denise Elwell