

1st Presbyterian Church of Greenfield, Indiana



August 2011

From The Pastor:

All of us are children of God! God chose us and loves us.

Because God so loved the world, God sent his only begotten son that whoever believes in him will not perish, but will receive eternal life.

Care for others, love your neighbors, share God's word.

Do obey God's commandments.

Eternal life is offered by God to all those who believe in Jesus as God's Son.

Faith is vitally important in our lives. Faith keeps us going when life is not going the way we want it to.

Go and teach all nations, sharing my story," said Jesus, "baptize in the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Help the helpless, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, love those who need love, visit the lonely, share with all. Our mission!

I will be their God and they will be my people, God said.

Jesus is the way to salvation! He has invited us to join him in paradise forever. We only have to accept Jesus' invitation!

Knowing the day and time for Jesus' return to reclaim his followers is none of our business. God knows and it will happen when God is finished with his work on earth.

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these, said Jesus.

My yoke is easy, and my burden is light, said Jesus. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me.

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money, says the Lord.

One God, One Spirit, One Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord! Believe and be saved!

Peter recognized who Jesus really is. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!"

Quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, James wrote, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Salvation is the goal of our faith, according to Peter. Salvation comes as a gift from God!

Trust in God trust also in me, said Jesus. Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Use the gifts that God has given you, the gifts of the Spirit to help others.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

When and where do you pray? God is always listening for our prayers for ourselves and for others. The Lord's prayer is always a good way to begin or to end your time of prayer.

Xcell in gifts that build up the church, Paul writes to the church at Corinth. But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us--see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.

See you in church!

Pastor John

LETTER FROM THE ELDER OF THE MONTH – Jean Garvey

Yes, it's already August and for many, school starts soon. Children and many adults will be studying. Some will study for an occupation, some study for general information and some study so that they can teach others. We know that in order to do most jobs we require some education to learn what is required in that job and we are given guidelines to perform those jobs well. Few people can step into a job without some preparation and expect to perform well. The more complex the job the more education we require.

Why then do we often feel that we can perform the job of living a Christian life without education and guidance? We are given a handbook, the Bible, to show us how to live. It teaches us what happened to people who did not listen to God's rules and it shows how blessed people can be when they do live the way God wants for us. There is much to learn from the Bible and it takes study throughout one's life to learn what we need.

Each Sunday, during worship service, we learn a little of what God wants us to know. But we still need to spend more time in the Bible to become what God wants for us, "a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15.

As Peter instructed in 2 Peter 1: 5, "Make every effort to add to your faith, goodness, and to goodness, knowledge." This tells us that we need to learn from the Bible what is expected from us beyond the Great Commandment to love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind and with all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. So as fall approaches, let's plan to find more opportunity to study the Word. We can participate in self-studies as many are available in books and online. We can attend church and learn from the scriptures of the day. We have an opportunity to learn in Sunday School, adult class with Pastor John is at

9:15 AM each Sunday that he is here. On Tuesday morning at 9:30 AM, Pastor John leads a study which varies in topic but often focuses on spiritual growth. Wednesday evening at 5: 30 PM, adult Bible study is held with topics selected by the participants. This will resume after Labor Day.

Please give some thought to how you can best add knowledge to your Christian walk through life.

ATTENTION ALL SESSION MEMBERS

The August Session meeting is
Thursday, August 11th at 7 p.m.



Char's

America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on Thee,
And crowned Thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea!

August is here and so is the heat! Many are vacationing, some have returned, and some are gearing up for school. But before we get lost in the hubbub of our daily lives, let us focus our summer thoughts on our Creator.

As we traveled across country from California, we were in awe of the majestic mountains, the serene valleys, the rapids in the rivers and bowed our hearts in worship as we saw the beauty of our country.

If you have to stay at home, take a "mini-vacation" by driving a country road and look for the beauty in the fields, the woods, the wild flowers along the road and just "Be still and know that I am God."

As always, keep a song in your heart. Char



GREETERS FOR AUGUST – To be announced!!!

Elder on Call for August
Jill Lyon 894-1648

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING

July	3	Attendance	36	Offering \$	705.00
July	10	Attendance	30	Offering	\$2125.00
July	17	Attendance	36	Offering	\$2645.00
July	24	Attendance	44	Offering \$	421.00

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

August Birthdays

8/02	Steve Sweet
8/08	Shirley Johns
8/09	Audie Trinkle
8/13	Emily Chandler
8/14	Jack Sweet
8/16	Pat Whitson
8/19	Gloria Stansifer
8/19	Sarah Warner
8/29	Larry Andis
8/31	David H. Paterson
8/31	Mary Poole

August Anniversaries

8/03	Tom and Carole Bloodgood
8/17	Gary and Rita Trinkle



August 14th Church Picnic

We will have our annual Church Picnic at Riley Park after church services. Fried Chicken and ice tea will be provided. Please bring your favorite picnic food to share. Paper plates and plastic wear will be provided. We will be playing games and if you have outdoor games like “corn hole” please let Jean Garvey know and plan on bringing them. Plan on bringing yard chairs for seating.

If the weather does not cooperate (too hot or rain) we will adjourn to the church basement.



Youth Group News

The Youth Group will have an adventure on August 4 when we travel to Holiday World and Splashing Safari for a day of fun in the sun.

We will continue every-other week meetings through August, meeting on August 10 and 17. Our weekly meetings will resume in September.



Special Prayer Concerns

Please continue to remember Shelia Hersberger, Pat Whitson, Carol Foster and Everett and Helen McCauley in your prayers. Shelia is receiving chemotherapy, Pat Whitson is recovering from back surgery, Carol Foster is experiencing a decline in health at Springhurst and both Everett and Helen McCauley are in hospice.

The following poem is submitted by Pat Foster. She said this poem was given to her by her daughter, Elizabeth, and it has helped her deal with the both the concerns for her parents and her own health problems. Pat hopes that it will bring comfort to others.

How to Recognize Grace *Marilyn Chandler McEntyre*

It takes you by surprise
It comes in odd packages
It sometimes looks like loss
Or mistakes.
It acts like rain
Or like a seed.
It's both reliable and unpredictable.
It's not what you were aiming at
Or what you thought you deserved.
It supplies what you need
Not necessarily what you want.
It grows you up
And lets you be a child.
It reminds you you're not in control

And that not being in control

Is a form of freedom.

God's View of Lawncare

GOD: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it -- sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bail it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No, Sir. Just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough. I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: Dumb and Dumber, Lord. It's a real stupid movie about ..

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.



So maybe the picture above is how we should be enjoying God's special creations instead of fighting them.

August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9:30 a.m. Promised Land	3	4	5	6 Men's Breakfast Mark G. – food Richard T. - devotions
COMMUNION 7 9:15 Adult S.S. 10:30 Worship	8	9 9:30 a.m. Promised Land	10 4 PM Pray with Pastor 5 pm Youth Group	11 Session Meeting 7 PM	12	13
14 Church Picnic 9:15 Adult S.S. 10:30 Worship	15	16 9:30 a.m. Promised Land	17	18	19	20
21 9:15 Adult S.S. 10:30 Worship	22	23 9:30 a.m. Promised Land	24 4 PM Pray with Pastor 5 pm Youth Group	25	26	27
28 9:15 Adult S.S. 10:30 Worship	29	30 9:30 a.m. Promised Land	31			