

FROM BRIDGE STREET

News & Updates From Our Church



PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Last month we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. This month I would like for us to take the time and think about the promise of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts. Jesus told us in Acts 1:5 that He will baptize us with the Holy Spirit. Sometimes as believers much of our focus is only on two persons of the Godhead.

However, the Holy Spirit is as equally important. So what does Jesus mean that He will baptize us with the Holy Spirit? John's baptism was one of repentance and preparation for the coming Messiah. The Baptism by the Spirit is to be soaked with the Spirit. It is to be filled, empowered, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. It is not just an external act, but an internal and eternal transformation.

When we are filled with the Spirit, we receive our spiritual gifts that allow us to serve the Lord better in the church, community, and world. It affects our whole being. It empowers us for service for the Lord where He has planted us.

In Acts we see a powerful promise that is fulfilled even today in believers' lives. We experience the transformative power of the Holy Spirit on a daily basis as we serve the Lord and worship Him. Let us make sure to be a little more attentive of the work of the Spirit and thank God for sending Him into our lives.

Pastor Eric

SEWING FOR MISSIONS

CLARICE LAKE

Many in our church family are familiar with our Sewing for Missions and Cap Ministry. Here is the full story of these worthwhile missions.

Over 35 years ago, a mission leader from the Charleston Baptist Association was our guest speaker during Mission Week and explained mission work in their association. During his talk, he spoke about the knit caps made for the seafarers who dock in the Charleston port and other ways they minister to them.

Louise Stone and I decided the caps were something we could do. We began by asking those who we knew could knit or crochet to join us. Soon we had our group, Sewing for Missions! We met once a month to knit or crochet caps. In November, we would deliver the Christmas-wrapped caps as well as leftover Sunday School literature and devotionals and even magazines to the Charleston Association building. Over the years the delivery location changed to a church and finally to a permanent location near the Navy shipyard.

As the ships would come into port, the caps and reading material were distributed to the grateful seafarers. Christopher Dale has overseen the ministry for many years and has even given us tours of the port when we delivered the caps. The total number of caps we have recorded since 2009 is 9,151.

There have been changes over the years, but the caps remain our first priority. Other projects we've done include pillowcase dresses and drawstring medicine bags for a Swansea mission group to take to Kenya, large drawstring bags containing personal hygiene items for the seafarers, knitted prayer shawls for the seriously ill, caps for children in Peytona, West Virginia, and caps and turbans for a cancer clinic in Orangeburg.

At the present time we are only making caps. Our group is small in number, and we welcome any who would like to be a part of this mission. We have the yarn, needles, and patterns ready for you! Come meet with us the third Wednesday of every month at noon for soup and fellowship before "working".



LESSONS FROM THE PURPLE MARTIN

BY PASTOR ERIC
TRUESDALE

This month our town will celebrate the return of the Purple Martin. This bird is actually a very unique bird that serves many purposes for our community. However, I want to highlight some comparisons between the Purple Martin and Believers.

I am reminded of the Scripture in Matthew 6:26 (NKJV), "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

I want to share some similarities between the two.

Dependence on God's Provision:

Just as the Purple Martin relies on God's provision for sustenance, we are reminded of our dependence on the Lord for our daily needs. In Matthew 6:26, Jesus urges us to consider the birds of the air, who neither sow nor reap, yet are fed by our heavenly Father. Likewise, as Christians, we trust in God's faithfulness to provide for us, knowing that He cares for us even more than the birds.



Community and Fellowship:

Purple Martins are known for their communal nesting habits, often forming large colonies where they work together to protect and care for one another. Similarly, as members of the body of Christ, we are called to live in community and fellowship with one another. Romans 12:5 (NIV) reminds us, "so in Christ, we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." By supporting and encouraging one another, we reflect the love of Christ to the world.

Faith in Flight:

With their agile flight and graceful maneuvers, Purple Martins inspire us to soar with faith in our spiritual journey. Just as these birds navigate vast distances during migration, we are called to trust in God's guidance and provision as we journey through life. Isaiah 40:31 (NIV) assures us, "but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Stewardship of Creation:

Purple Martins remind us of our role as stewards of God's creation. As these birds depend on human-made nesting structures, we are called to care for the environment and all living creatures. Genesis 2:15 (NIV) tells us, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." By conserving nature and protecting wildlife, we honor God's creation.

Let us take to heart the lessons of the Purple Martin as we journey in faith. May we depend on God's provision, embrace community and fellowship, soar with faith in our hearts, and steward God's creation with care and compassion.



April 2024

Upcoming Events

1st- Current Missions
2nd- Trustees
2nd- Vision Group
4th- 150th Anniversary Meeting
7th- Deacons Meeting
10th- Golden Group
14th- Lord's Supper/ Fellowship Meal to Follow
14th- Experiencing God
17th- Sewing for Missions
20th- Purple Martin Parade & Booth
22nd- Roundtable
23rd- Constitution and Bylaws

Birthdays

Elizabeth Shay Hane- 1st
Rebecca Zeigler- 2nd
Debbie England- 3rd
Jimmie Terry- 4th
Molly Paulling- 5th
Kristen Pascoe- 9th
Charlie Rucker- 11th
Wayne Harley- 11th
Penny Rheme- 12th
Becky York- 16th
Breland Smith- 16th
Caroline Hair- 16th
Banks Smith- 19th
Susan Rucker- 22nd
Gabriel Golden- 27th
Janet Whetstone- 29th
Spike Pipkins- 29th



*Building bridges for Christ in
St. Matthews and the world!*

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