

FRANKLIN BEACON

Franklin Presbyterian Church

June/July 2019



The Pastor's Corner

CHRISTIANITY AIN'T FOR WIMPS!

"Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

-Matthew 16:24-26

It seems like only yesterday. Three years ago, I was having lunch with someone who was disenchanted. He had left the church for a long period, and when he returned, it was to another house of worship.

"Why?" I asked, thinking it might've been something I said. It wasn't. He was tired and getting up there in age and all he wanted, he said, was a church that "fulfilled" him; a church where he felt warm and safe; a place to escape.

I get his point, I really do. We work hard during the week. We encounter problems every now and then with family and friends. And church might be a great place to seek an escape.

Sometimes it is. No, let me correct that. Always... it is. Just not in the way we, or our culture, generally demand it; a give-us-what-we-want escape.

The true Christian church is an escape in that we leave the world with all its pleasures, temptations and lies to step into the world of the Lord; a world of truth and rejuvenation in that which eternally matters- union with Christ and one another.

That is a great relief... and escape... for most of us. Knowing that we are worshipping something much bigger than ourselves. Knowing that it is not all about us, our needs and demands. Knowing that the One who can "fix" everything can "fix" us... in His own way and His own time.

But we have to turn it over to him. We have to commit to follow him, and do so on a daily basis.

Jesus never, ever promised this would be an easy escape from the supposed rigors of everyday life. Instead, he promised that it would be the most challenging thing we ever attempted. It would require that we:

- *Deny ourselves:* No longer do we come first. Jesus is first and others are second and we are third. This is the single-most difficult thing we

can do. It is to deny the internal instinct to take care of ourselves first.

- *Pick up our cross:* Address the burdens that face us in our walk with Jesus. Help others with their burdens. Lay aside desired pleasures to learn about Christ, talk about Christ and worship Christ. Live not to ourselves but to God's attempts to mold us into righteousness.
- *Lose our lives to save them:* Give up on the notion that we can achieve righteousness, or purity, or anything eternal by our own efforts. Put ourselves into God's hands- *completely* -and accept whatever He has in store for us... hoping and trusting that salvation is on deck.
- *Turn our backs on the world's view of success:* We can make millions, win each argument, drive new Tahoe's, or F250's, or Jaguar's or whatever; we can win the admiration of every person on the street... and yet still be dead. "Gain," in its best sense, is life in Christ.

The world is full of so-called Christians who want to sit back in a building and get one hour of "fulfillment" every Sunday. What's more, there are thousands of "preachers" who will give it to them.

Need some of that? Here are some sermons being preached in our region on Sundays:

- "Got the Groans?"
- "Capitalism is Killing Creation"
- "Your Victories are Coming"

- "A Fresh New Attitude"
- "My Journey to a Genderqueer God"
- "The Power of I Am"
- "In Defense of Making Your Own Religion"

So, where is Jesus in all that gobbledygook? Where is God? Where is a hint of Scripture; you know, that book that we vowed to honor as the *inspired word of God*?

Why not just watch Oprah or Dr. Phil and save the gas money? Like I said, there are a multitude of places to get fluffy fulfillment messages each Sunday.

That's just not the way of Christ. He called us out. He challenged us to grow, to bear the pain as he chiseled away at our sinful nature... engrafting us into Him that we might grow towards true joy; the joy of righteousness in Him!

That is why I love our beautiful little church here at the end of the lane. It is not a place for wimps, or those seeking an easy way out. It is not a place for those who want a rubber stamp for their society-approved view of religion.

No. This is a church where we pick up our cross, again and again, every week; doing the work Christ calls us to do. Offering up our hearts in sacrifice to the One who can change those hearts.

Learning, little by little, what true sacrificial love is. Standing up to the forces of evil; forces which threaten our nation in ways so many cannot, or will not, understand.

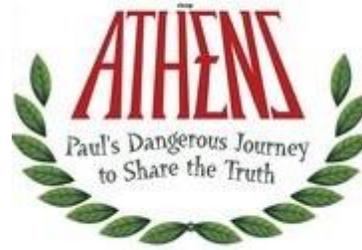
Know what? Sometimes I'm tired, and goodness knows I'm getting up there in age, but you think for a minute that I want church that "fulfills" me and my needs; a church where the emphasis is on feeling good and warm and safe?

NO. Heck no! Give me Franklin Presbyterian Church any day of the week.

So, let's keep at it. Let's get to church, to Bible Study, to Meals on Wheels, Circle meeting, Sunday school, youth group, fellowship meetings, concerts, Men's breakfasts, Fridays on the porch, etc. etc.

Let's stay challenged. Jesus wants it that way... and we can still lift big crosses... together!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor John



VBS 2019

June 23-26

5:30-8:00 PM

Volunteer Sign Ups

If you are interested in serving during VBS this year we have a place for you!

Sign up below and return form in the offering plate or give to Mahaley!

Name _____

I am interested in:

I will serve anywhere!

Snacks

Games

Crafts

Preschool

Decorating

Registration

Nursery

June Elder ... Andy Gardner

Greeter: Eden Hager

Money Counter – Mahaley Jarvis

Announcers:

- 2 Tom Pickett
- 9 John Lowe
- 16 Frank Thomason
- 23 Doug Foxworth
- 30 Grace Lowe

Psalm Readers:

- 2 Frank Thomason
- 9 Bonnie Williams
- 16 Lisa Kluttz
- 23 Andy Gardner
- 30 Eden Hager

Lay Readers:

Alternate-

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 2 Lisa Kluttz | Jan Hollis |
| 9 Cindy Grant | Grace Lowe |
| 16 Andy Gardner | Cindy Grant |
| 23 Tom Pickett | Karen Pickett |
| 30 John Jarvis | Lisa Kluttz |

July Elder John Lowe

Greeters: Jan Hollis

Money Counter – Tom Pickett

Announcers ~

- 7 – John Singleton
- 14 – Tom Pickett
- 21 – Frank Thomason
- 28 – Toby Morgan

Psalm Readers ~

- 7 – John Lowe
- 14 – Jan Hollis
- 21 – John Singleton
- 28 – Bonnie Williams

Lay Readers ~

- 7 – Andy Gardner
- 14 – Cindy Grant
- 21 – John Lowe
- 28 – Lisa Kluttz

Alternate~

- Frank Thomason
- Andy Gardner
- Tom Pickett
- Bonnie Williams

~Scholarship Announcement

If you are a high school senior or you are attending full time at a college you may be eligible for the Malissa Fielder Mowery Scholarship. Contact the office for a copy of guidelines.

Applications due July 1. Thank you - Telka

~Safe Sanctuary Training – if you are helping with **VBS** it is a requirement to have this training (**and we NEED your HELP – every one of you to make this project a success**) you must attend on Sunday, June 16 after Worship

Mission Report

Thank you so much to the church for allowing me to talk about my Savior from the pulpit. It was an honor and privilege to share with you during that time. It gives you a deeper appreciation for our beloved Pastor who does a GREAT job every Sunday for us here at Franklin Presbyterian.

Since our choir will be off for the summer, if anyone knows someone who would like to share in music on a particular Sunday this summer, please point them in the right direction.

A reminder, that VBS is coming up this June 23rd and we will be studying Paul's dangerous mission into Athens to spread the saving grace message of Jesus Christ. Haley will be passing a signup sheet to the church for assistance with this. A special thank you to Summer who is putting together columns for VBS upstairs.

Even though there is six months until we collect the Christmas boxes for children across the world, I will be seeing what it takes for our church to be a drop off site for Samaritan Purse this November. I envision a good way to advertise our church during this week. More on this later but be in prayer.

Pastor is working on church brochure and tracts for Jesus have been received from Billy Graham (Ann's Attic). Hope to do this as a youth and adult outreach to our neighborhoods this summer. More information coming.

Special thank you to all who prayed and participated in the "The Porch". A special time of fellowship and community awareness of Jesus Christ and our church. Even our neighbors participated with us. The chairs and signs will be stored upstairs and this October when it cools down, we will give it another go.

Pray without ceasing for our church and our faith walks.

Doug Foxworth