



Parkway Baptist Church

The Messenger

July 2018



PASTOR KEVIN'S WELL OF LIVING WATER:

Flowing with the Spirit

One thing I have learned in life is that life doesn't often go as we had planned. Sometimes it is bad planning on our part, sometimes it is just the way of the world and sometimes it is because God had other plans that weren't the same as ours.

But for whatever reason may lay behind life's letdowns, we can always be assured of two things: 1) that God has the ability to still **Redeem** a day that doesn't go accordingly as planned and 2) God can actually use those same experiences to build a tighter-knit community when we open up and share them to give us opportunity to **Relate** to one another. I would say those are **Results** worthy of **Rejoicing** over!

Case in point. Recently, I wanted to surprise my 25-year old son Kendall by picking up his car from where he worked in High Point and take it to a mechanic in Graham to fix his long-standing "AC-Less car"---car without air conditioning (WARNING: Sarcasm alert...sarcasm coming in now...Although I know how most of us love to drive around in 100 degree heat without AC in our vehicles, I decided to take a risk and attempt to remove this "heat blessing" from him).

Now my 9-year-old son Trevor happened to be with me on this day and I told him that if he wanted a challenge we could: A) walk 4 miles home together or...

Now let's just stop right here and insert his response that he gave at that moment in time as there was a bit of delay from it before we could rebound to share the other options (that I admittedly was in the "operating on the fly" mode).

Trevor: **"What, walk home!?!? In this heat?"**

Dad: **"Ok. Ok. We have some lesser challenging options. We could do either option B) walk .5 miles to the Library, pick up a book that I was notified was in for Trevor (see, must have been God's will for Him to do some summer reading after all in how this plan was shaping up...although he would beg to differ), and then we could walk another 3 blocks to Zaxby's and eat lunch together, or C) we could call Brandon, our 19-year-old son, to pick us up or wait an hour for mom to get off work and come get us."**

Trevor mulled over the options and chose options B and then A (he apparently thought about refueling at Zaxby's before the long trek home).

Let's fast forward this story. About 1.5 miles into the trek home Trevor said he would not be able to continue and wanted me to exercise option C (call Brandon). When I called Brandon, my assumption that he was at home was wrong (he was at work). When I called mom, she said, "Don't you remember that I told you that I was working an hour over today? (Insert both bad listening skills and bad planning here on my part) Now before you judge me...have you ever been guilty of either of those two things yourself? Trying to get you to relate to me and build community here.

Upon my wife's recommendation to call one of our neighbors, I admittedly hesitated in wanting to do so, but humility seems to come more quickly in the heat and with a fussy kid.

And in case you're wondering, yes, we did make it home, but only after waiting another 20 minutes for a neighbor that must have been engrossed in some activity because 2 miles isn't that far away.

One thing I have learned in life is that life doesn't often go as we had planned (assuming we even had a plan). Oh...one thing I did forgot to mention though. As far my assertion that God can still redeem our days. I did forgot to tell you some "minor" details that Trevor later told why it turned out to be one of his greatest adventures and one of his best day's ever:

- 1) The water sprinkler he got to jump through on the way to the Library was really cool and refreshing (don't worry...he had shorts and sandals on)
- 2) He enjoyed showing and sharing with me all about the different creatures (especially the pink moths) at the Library
- 3) He said that crossing the overpass of I-40 was breath-taking as he watched all the fast paced cars drive down below
- 4) He enjoyed waiting for our neighbor as he got to eat his favorite chocolate candy in the Air Conditioned BP gas station

The key to finding redemption to and in our days is through a continual renewal at being determined to flow with His Spirit. It is learning to receive what only God can give (i.e. The reworking or tweaking of plans) and His ability to give us the grace to roll with "life's punches".

And life can throw us some nasty punches...just ask the cashier at the auto place that I picked up my son Kendall's car from two days later. After getting to know her a bit and asking her some spiritual questions, she revealed to me that not only was she going through a painful divorce, but that she had decided to walk away from God and the church due to one of her sons being sexually abused at the church she was attending at the time and by her best friend's son.

Since I happened to have an extra copy of a book entitled "*Emotionally Healthy Relationships: Day by Day*" by Peter Scazzero that has ministered to me tremendously, I felt as if the Lord wanted me to give it to her in hopes to minister to her as well. You see, I was trying to flow with the Spirit. And I am certain now as I write this that there was more than one reason that the Lord wanted me to take my son's car into that particular shop that day (the cashier had only been there two months). There was someone that needed encouragement and there was a bigger picture of redemption here than my son Kendall's car getting AC and Trevor getting a day of adventure.

You see, I am convinced there is someone out there in need of you to flow with the Spirit so that you can participate in God's glorious attempts to bring redemption to not only our lives, but to the lives of others as we minister to them in Word or in Deed..INDEED!

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30)

Until next time,

Kevin VaLeu



THE CHURCH ON MISSION: KNOWING AND DOING MISSIONS

Prayer & Ministry Group

The next meeting of the Prayer & Ministry group will take place on July 26, 2018 at 10:45 am in the Conference Room. Please bring \$1.00 for Mercy & Grace Ministries in Honduras & 2 jars (16-18 oz.) of peanut butter, & 2 small boxes of dried milk for Urban Ministries. Lunch will be provided by the Cardiac Care group. Also, the ladies from Hannah's Haven will be with us. Please bring cleaning & laundry supplies, paper goods or feminine hygiene items for this ministry.

Come and be blessed by Bonnie & the ladies of Hannah's Haven! All women interested in missions and ministry are invited to join us!



Dear Parkway members and staff,

Since I was your church secretary in May 1962 you have embraced us with your love! You were the "village" that helped James and me raise our three children. You witnessed three baptisms, celebrated two weddings, and mourned with us in the passing of Ted. You listened to us talk about our six grandchildren and our six great-grandchildren. You learned a lot about alzheimers and Parkinson's.

Now it is time for us to make another transition in our lives. We will be entering Countryside Manor about July 1. I will be in a private room (A-7). James will be in skilled nursing. Our address will be Countryside Manor Room A-7, 7700 US Highway 158, Stokesdale, NC 27357. Our phone number has changed and will be effective on July 2 (336-288-7653). We will welcome visits, phone calls, and cards! Most of all, please keep us in your prayers!

We love you,
James and Meda Howell

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Youth Mission Trip to Cincinnati Ohio Dates: July 15th-21st - Those going JT Kever, Cole Johnson, Rob Gaines, Kevin VaLeu, Lacey Johnson, Carleigh Burton, Emily McKenney, Madison Duncan, Matilyn Welch, Kaitlyn Welch, Johannah Welch, & Tracy VaLeu. We are so grateful to our church for sending us on this trip and look forward to sharing the details of our trip on July 29th. Through the youth spaghetti luncheon, the youth sponsors, and through our church budget, we are well taken care of financially. We are so grateful for your continued investment in our youth!!

A community gift will be collected during the week of our VBS for children in the Cincinnati area to be given out at different feeding locations. We will be collecting notebooks, pencils, rulers, folders and markers. There will be a marked box in the downstairs entrance the week of our Vacation Bible School if you would like to help collect these items. Again thank you so much for your continued support and prayers.



Susan's Scribbles

As we celebrate America's Independence Day on July 4th, it seems a good time to reflect on the religious freedom we have in the United States. The first amendment to our Constitution deals with religious freedom and it says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." This guarantees that there will not be any religion established by our government and that we will be able to practice our religion freely.

I think we often take this freedom for granted or we just focus on how we want religious freedom to promote our own religion. We don't often think about the difficulty that our ancestors faced as they fought to achieve this precious freedom.

I was recently reminded of how important this freedom is as John and I traveled through several countries in Europe. Established religion played a huge role in the history of these countries. We viewed magnificent cathedrals built as part of established religion. We heard about a history where civil leaders were also the leaders of the established religion. We heard about wars fought to protect established religion and saw a little town that was established because all the Protestants were expelled from a nearby city. We learned that even in 2018 Germans are required to pay a church tax.

Baptists especially need to carefully guard this precious freedom. Early Baptist were not welcome in many Protestant circles because of their insistence on baptism by immersion. From the beginning of our nation, Baptist have been strong supporters of religious freedom because of their long history of persecution for their beliefs—not just in Europe but also in early America as well. Early on Baptists held that all people needed to have the freedom to worship or not worship according to the dictates of their conscience, as long as it didn't infringe on the rights of others.

As we celebrate this July 4th it is important for us to understand that my freedom to practice my religion as I see fit is only secure if you are free to practice a religion that is different. Governments change and policies shift, so religious freedom for all is the way to protect our own freedom. When you are free to worship so am I.



Congratulations on a successful Vacation Bible School
A Special thanks to Tracy VaLeu for all her hard work and to all those who volunteered.

Dare Tinnen
Barbara Harris
Barbara Seay
Paul Curry
Cyndy Davis
Nicki Dodd
Kathy Roberson
Kevin VaLeu

Gina Johnson
Katherine Curry
Charles Greer
Shana Doss
Susie Doss
LeeAnn Greer
Donna Burton
Sarah Caldwell
Johannah Welch
Rob Gaines
Crystal Roberson

JT Keever
Cole Johnson
Lacey Johnson
Emily McKenney
Tracy VaLeu
Bobby Doss
Matilyn Welch
Kaitlyn Welch
Carleigh Burton
Madison Duncan

Director Of Music and Worship Ministries

The choir has been learning a new song called “Open Up the Heavens”. I love this song as it invites Jesus to come and show us His glory and power, burn our hearts with truth and to open up the heavens because we want to see you and we want to see His glory on each face as we all worship together. Worshipping God is the reason we come together. Can’t wait to teach a new song of Worship.

"Open Up The Heavens"

Written by Meredith Andrews

We've waited for this day
We're gathered in your name
Calling out to you
Your glory like a fire
Awakening desire
Will burn our hearts with truth

You're the reason we're here
You're the reason we're singing

[Chorus:]

Open up the heavens
We want to see you
Open up the floodgates
A mighty river
Flowing from your heart
Filling every part of our praise

Your presence in this place
Your glory on our face
We're looking to the sky
Descending like a cloud
You're standing with us now
Lord, unveil our eyes

You're the reason we're here
You're the reason we're singing

[Repeat Chorus]

[Bridge]

Show us, show us your glory
Show us, show us your power
Show us, show us your glory, Lord

[Repeat Chorus]

**1411 Benjamin Parkway
Greensboro
North Carolina
27408-4518**

Phone 336-288-2710

Email info@parkwaygso.org

Website www.parkwaygso.org

**Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Greensboro, NC**

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Our Church Staff

Senior Pastor

Pastor Kevin VaLeu
kevinvaleu@parkwaygso.org

Administrative Secretary

Libby Boggs
info@parkwaygso.org

Financial Secretary

Amber Bolling

**Director of Music & Worship
Ministries**

Chip Holden
chipholden@parkwaygso.org

**Director of Discipleship & Church
Ministries**

Susan Small
Susansmall@parkwaygso.org

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

(1st grade-12th grade)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUMMER FUN SCHEDULE

BEGINNING JULY 11th (JULY 11, 25 AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22)

6:00-8:00 PM

Dinner, Fun & Games, Bible Devotion

We are looking for Individuals, Families, Sunday School Classes, Ministry Groups that would like to provide a meal for one of the Wednesday nights.

Sign-up in the hallway. You will be blessed!

THEME: SLIMED

Sometimes in life it feels like we've been slimed! Sometimes it's because of decisions we make, sometimes it's from decisions others make that hurt us. Through the life of Jacob, kids will learn that when we stick to God, He can make something beautiful out of any slimy situation.