

Covenant Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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A Christ centered covenant community;

Loving God,

Loving people,

Making disciples

September 2019

Pastor's Ponderings

We have been talking about faith sharing, and as promised I wanted to share with you, in print, the Christian pick-up lines I have suggested.

So, when you greet a friend who is far from God, but close to you, and they, "How are you?" we might answer in one of the following ways:

- "I'm great! I'm really curious to see what God is up to today."
- Or we might say, "I'm pretty good, I've been praying for something, and I want to see how that plays out today."
- Or we might say, "Good! I feel like God said something this morning that was pretty important and it was good for me to hear that."

Or, as we are enjoying a cup of coffee with them, we might introduce spiritual opportunity into the conversation by saying something like, "Coffee is proof of God's love for us" (or chocolate, as the case may be). Or you might ask, as you enjoy that cup of coffee, "Is the world a good place or a bad place?"

Or, "If you could ask God one question, what would it be?"

Or, "If God could ask *you* one question, what do you think it would be?"

Any of these will add salt to the conversation, as Jesus has called us to be salt and light in the world (Matthew 5:1-16). I have called them Christian pick-up lines, and William Barclay has suggested we need to fit the bait to the fish. However, you think about it, the main thing is that you think about it! Pray earnestly and boldly for the Spirit to show you a moment (maybe even today) when you can speak these lines, and then just see what happens!

It sort of all comes down to how expectant you and I are that a spiritual conversation can happen, and that if it does happen, God will be present and it will be a good thing. In his recent book *The Reluctant Witness*, Don Everts acknowledges that almost all Christians feel fearful about these conversations, and less than 50% of Christians feel prepared to have them. But in his research, he also found that *during* spiritual conversations 71% of Christians report

feeling peaceful, almost 60% said there was even laughter, and almost 40% said that someone believed in Jesus after they talked about faith with them.

We used to sing that it only takes a spark to get a fire going. We meant that to talk about the warm glow of God's love at work in our midst, but the same is true of the spark of faith in our friend who is far from God. Will you be that spark today?

In Christ,
Brant

P.S.

Please remember to be praying for "your four," those people in your life who are on your frontline, the relationships God has put right in front of you, people who are missing hope in their lives. Please pray for them for the next 30 days, consider an act of kindness you might do for them (send them a note, take them out for coffee, mow their lawn...), and finally, engage them in an intentional conversation about spiritual matters (use one of the pick-up lines above to get it started!). May God bless the harvest of our wild gospel flinging!

FROM THE CLERK

More information cards will be sent out to new homeowners in Casa Grande. If you have any new neighbors, be sure to reach out to them and invite them to our church. Pastor Brant and Elders are continuing to make home visits to new homeowners.

Since we will be helping to build another Habitat for Humanity House, this might be a good time to invite friends to join with us and build relationships too. Besides our offerings/financial gifts to the Home of Hope, Pastor Brant has been asked to speak to the ladies at Home of Hope in one of their worship services soon.

Thanks to Rex Little who continues to show us the amazing reality of scientific proof of the Bible's accuracy and authenticity. These classes are also a good opportunity to bring a friend to church.

The Christian Education team is planning to ask the children to stay in worship on Communion Sundays and go to their classes on the other Sundays. Thanks to all the volunteers who have been helping our young people to know how much God loves them!

Tina's Insights

Tina Hudson was a beloved former member, who for a while wrote devotional thoughts for the website. Over the coming months we will post her devotions in the newsletter...

I looked at the night sky, it took my breath away
Pinpricks of light strewn like gems across the vast black canopy of space
Tilting back my head I caught some winking at me
Brighter ones, playing hard to get, yet persistent in their brightness

What do they want...to point the way?
To say look up and out not down or around
Maybe they just want to gleam in the dark
Letting us know that even a tiny glow, so far above
Can send a thrill of hope below

I love to look up into the night sky. There is something about the dark velvet backdrop and the little scatterings of diamonds. The darkness of the night sky does not cause me to be afraid. It is the lack of light that makes me fearful. Jesus, in John 8:12, says "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life." So many times, I have felt the darkness. It can envelop you. Only when I see a glimmer of light does that fear of the darkness leave.

Jesus can be just a glimmer, or He can burst through the darkness like the sun. He is always the Light, it's just that I tend to stumble around, searching for the light switch. I remain in the darkness. I question His word. Do You really mean You will dispel the dark?

Those stars, so far away, are just pinpricks. But if you gaze at them long enough you can see patterns and pictures. So, with His Word. When I find that light switch and allow each pinprick to illuminate the shadows, the darkness fails. God's precious Word turns the night to light. When the dark seems unbearable, His light spreads through my mind and His Spirit shines in my heart.

Adult Sunday School

September 15, 11:15 - 12 Noon, Covenant Presbyterian will host another Adult Sunday School. The subject this month will be "Modern Day Prophecy Fulfillment". Emphasis on examining what we believe and the reasons we believe. Pizza will be provided so no one will be hungry except for the Word of God. Please plan to attend and invite friends."

Men's Bible Study

The men of the church meet at the church each Thursday at 11:00am. All men are welcome and you can bring a sack lunch if you like.

Neighborhood Help Team

The Neighborhood Help Team is continuing a service for those who could use a little bit of help. We would like to help you in replacing A/C filters or with some landscape trimming on the 4th Saturday of each month. Contact Nelson Moore in person or call him @ 520-483-0461.

September Calendar

- 1 Communion
- 7 Deacons Meeting at 9:00am
- 11 Prayers at the flagpole at 7:15am @ McCartney Ranch Elementary
- 12 Worship Team at 1:00pm
- 15 Adult Sunday School, "Modern Day Prophecy Fulfillment"
- 18 Prayer Night at 6:30pm
- 19 Session Meeting at 6:00pm

September Birthdays

- 6 Jacie Childers
- 8 Everett Greenwood
- 12 Jayla Childers
- 15 Manny Ferro
- 18 Henry McLaughlin
- 23 Brayden Moore
- 27 Luke Slaughter
- 27 Merlen Slaughter

September Anniversaries

None