



## PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW



Michael P. Rucker

Grace and peace brothers and sisters!

Every one of us has heard those "words of wisdom" that trip easily from the tongue, but hearing the words and doing as they say are two different things! We may smile, nod, and murmur, "I'm sure you are right," but when we try to put the advice into practice – "Ah, there's the rub!" Take these words of wisdom for example:

**"Be still and know that I am God."**

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding."**

**"If anyone lack wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly and it will be given you."**

Positive, affirming words, yes? Indeed. They are biblical. They have a fine ring to them. But to put the words into action...really? How?

May I share the secret I've discovered that makes these hallowed words doable? It takes time. It takes time and practice. It takes time, practice, and stillness. The stillness, the trusting, the wisdom are all there waiting for you. How quaint that advice sounds! Especially in our instant gratification driven world where we can buy or numb our way through many of life's challenges. Quaint but true.

Listening for God's word, opening ourselves to God's presence, and discerning the wise words takes time... practice...stillness.

During these crazy, deeply unsettling times nothing is going to be easy. From the events unfolding day by day in our nation, or discovering the next step for our congregation to take, or learning to live in the bodies that don't work as well as they used to, *and* finding the peace of God in the midst of it all? It may not going to be easy, but is still possible. God works best in the dark.

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## Worship Schedule for May

### May 6

As we celebrate the Lord's Supper we will gather with Jesus and his disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. We will receive the bread and the cup—so that we can feed others with the things of God that nourish us. It really is true—the Lord's Supper is not about us, but about those among whom we work and live.

### May 13

We call this Ascension Sunday. When Jesus was lifted away from his disciples – which way did he go? Up to heaven? Or was he raised to be among us? Both? This is one of the more mysterious, hard-to-figure stories in the New Testament. Whichever way Jesus went, where he is now, how he is alive to you, matters.

### May 20

What a Sunday this is going to be! Our Praise Ensemble will lead us in song. We will celebrate God the Holy Spirit on this Pentecost Day. Even more, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. The Bible stories tell us of fire falling from heaven and God's life-giving breath blowing into the dry bones and saddened spirits of his people.

### May 27

On this Memorial Day weekend, our worship service will be followed by a brief Memorial Day ceremony of remembrance and honor in front of the memorial wall across the street from the church.

## STAFF DIRECTORY

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News from the Edge is the monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. If you have information you would like to include in the next issue, email Judy Mysels at office@fpcedgewood.org by the 15th of the prior month. Sponsorship is available for \$40 per month.

### Pastor's Point of View (cont'd.)

If there is any advice that I, as your pastor, have for you it is this: Take the time. Practice, every day. Be still. Pray. Meditate. Find that still, quiet center within you that is the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is there. Strong, patient, expectantly waiting for you.

*"I have set the Lord always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken...  
my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices." (Ps. 16:8)*

*Pastor Michael*

### The Great Spiritual Migration

The Bible is a story of migration. A story of people moving. From Eden to the Land of Nod. From dry land onto an ark. From the Land of Ur to Canaan. From Babylon back to Jerusalem. From Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

It is not only physical migration that the Bible speaks of. Spiritual migration is just as real. From loneliness to fellowship. From despair to hope. From being lost to being found. From death to life.

We are in the midst of an immense, earth-moving, ground-shaking, cataclysmic, gut-wrenching, soul-shattering migration right now. Remember, we Presbyterians say we are *"Reformed and always reforming."* Well, a reformation is occurring—now...and it's a big one.

Heather and I recently attended a day-long presentation by a pastor, writer, theologian, future-thinker, church planter, social movement leader named Brian McLaren. His most recent, and some say his most important, book is entitled The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way To Be Christian. You will be hearing much more about this book and others like it over the next year. Here are a few insights for us to begin to think about...pray about...talk about:

1. *Church life is perfectly designed to get the results we are getting right now.* Thing is, more and more people no longer believe the mainline church is offering hope in this confusing world.

2. *Spiritual maturity is not based on right-thinking or correct believing, but by embodying the presence and love of Jesus.* Frankly, the younger people especially are not as interested in what we believe as in who we are. Authenticity not orthodoxy.

3. *The primary biblical message of Jesus is not, "You must be born again" but "The kingdom of God is at hand."* The two messages are not irreconcilable, but the emphasis is different. Born again usually means that if we believe rightly and confess publicly we will be saved this world and promised eternal life in heaven. The kingdom of God is near means that God is present to us in *this world*—thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth...

4. *To repent means to re-think everything.* "To be saved" is to be set free from the values of this world and raised to new life—now —*in this world*.

Are we ready to become part of the great migration – or will we be content to watch it walk on by? That is the question.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING immediately following worship on Sunday, May 6.** We will elect an officer, receive update on the church renovation, a report from our stewardship chairperson, and how session continues to respond to the conversations we had last fall. Please plan to join us.



**SESSION NOTES ....**

At their April meeting, Session chose the following areas, from the Congregational Conversions, on which to focus:

1. Have one major mission emphasis/year.
2. Get into the Edgewood community-connect locally to market FPCE.
3. Monthly potluck for community and congregation with a speaker, movie, musical performance, etc.
4. Open church nursery for young parents to bring their kids for play time/parent fellowship.
5. Work on front of church-to show that we are open.
6. Revive activities like Christmas Caroling, movie nights, Community Easter Egg hunt, chili cook off, etc.
7. Service/mission opportunities for church and community.
8. Worship at other times of the week.
9. Get addresses from a mailing service that tracks all new people moving into our community and send a welcome letter and a “welcome wagon-like” package. Session approved the use of the Gathering Place by the Horner family on April 21, 2018. At the request of Mandy Rineer, Session approved the use of the Gathering Place for a performance of the Munhall Community Band on April 29, 2018 at 3-6PM.

**RENOVATION UPDATE**

The current work on the HVAC renovation consists primarily meetings with the HVAC, electrical and plumbing contractors to review the final drawings and specifications to get final pricing. Getting all contractors to understand the project requirements, and all limitations and potential problems areas of a 100 year old building is important to getting accurate pricing. When final pricing is received, contractor will be selected and installation will begin.

*Tom Ochs*

**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND HONOR**

will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, May 27. As a congregation we will walk across the street to gather in front of the borough’s Memorial plaque. Please plan to be part of this community event.



FROGS will be ending for this session on May 31. During those last days, we hope to make a few trips down to Koenig Field to play, but also have time to make Mother’s Day and Father’s Day crafts. We also plan on a pizza/ice cream party on our last day!

We have had a very busy year, with a great group of kids! Our FROGS always seem to have a lot of energy, don’t always want to do their homework, etc., but at the end of the day, when hugs are exchanged and they walk out the door with their parents/guardians, we feel a huge sense of accomplishment!

Many thanks again to our fantastic volunteers: Flo Raisig, Dan Mielke, Mary Ross, Ruth Miller, Rick Masten, Ed Masten, Sallie Monk, Mary Ann Hartman. Special treats from Rick Masten (Easter Egg Hunt) and those yummy little donuts the kids love, Mary Ann Hartman/Sallie Monk treating them with cupcakes made into Easter baskets, homemade treats from Ruth Miller, goodie bags from Dan Mielke, games and craft projects from Mary Ross, special monthly books, crafts, educational packets from Flo Raisig; *plus any others I might have forgotten*

*Judy Mysels, Director*

**COLLECTING BLUE GIANT EAGLE PLASTIC BAGS. COLLECTION BOX IS AT SIDE ENTRANCE. THANK YOU.**

# Stewardship

## The “S” Word

BY ROBERT BOHL

*Reprinted from the May 1997 issue of Presbyterians Today*

One of the curious things about Presbyterians and stewardship is that those who have the least tend to give the most. Percentage-wise more people with incomes of less than \$25,000 tithe (give 10 percent) than those with a greater income. The same is true of the way they give their time and talents to the church.

Perhaps it is because they have learned one of the great theological and Biblical truths that Malachi taught the Hebrew people about the reward of the faithful: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, ... see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing” (3:10).

This is not a gospel of prosperity, but an illustration of who receives the greater benefit, the giver or the receiver. We discover the joy of giving when we discover that stewardship is everything we do from the moment we confess Jesus Christ as Lord. The Russian writer Nicholas Berdyaev once said: “If I am hungry it is a material problem. If someone else is hungry it is a spiritual problem.” Those who exhibit exemplary stewardship have made this an intensively spiritual matter.

A poor church is not one without money, but one without a vision. When people have a clear Biblical and theological understanding of the mission of the church, healthy stewardship practices emerge. The New Testament church leaders discovered that stewardship did not come naturally; it was a learned discipline. Paul wrote to his young colleague Timothy to teach the people in Ephesus that “there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it” (1 Timothy 6:6-7). We might say it this way: we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give away.

If we believe that the mission of the church is to “make disciples,” to teach people to obey the commandments of Christ (see last month’s article, “A Mission-Minded Church”), we have to remember that Jesus also said: “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me ... For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?” (Matthew 16:24-26). Exciting things are happening in many Presbyterian churches today as they put a new emphasis on stewardship in its fullest dimension — which includes a person’s time, talent and treasures (financial resources). More and more congregations have begun to talk about tithing time, talent and treasures. They are emphasizing that Christian living necessarily involves Christian giving.

Congregations of all sizes, from very small to very large and from every part of the country, are developing ways of making people the focus of their mission. They are sending members on mission work trips throughout the United States and to other countries. This has produced a new and fresh understanding of stewardship both for individuals and for congregations.

On average Presbyterians give 1.5 percent of their annual income to the church—an average of about \$580 annually, which results in a total amount of \$1.5 billion. If every Presbyterian tithed, together we would give \$9.5 billion.

It has been said that no two Presbyterian congregations are alike, but we do share some common characteristics. One of these is that we do poorly in the area of stewardship. One of the basic reasons most churches have such poor stewardship is that they think stewardship is fund-raising. It is how you pay for the church’s budget; it is the awful code word church officers and pastors use for money. Stewardship for many churches is what they do only one Sunday a year, usually in November. When church leaders and pastors make stewardship a taboo subject, poor stewardship results.

Where there is a vibrant, exciting church, that congregation has made stewardship a spiritual matter. For those Presbyterians stewardship has to do with how they live and their daily commitments to Jesus Christ as their Lord. I once heard a pastor say, “When you give only your money, you give very little; it is when you give of yourself that truly give.”

First Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth, Texas, has a goal that each of its members will be a tither by the year 2000 (a program the congregation started in 1991). That church discovered people need to learn stewardship and to discover the joy of giving. The emphasis began, not on the giving of money, but on the giving of time through volunteer service within the church and to mission programs supported by the church in the city of Fort Worth. One member says: “We have discovered it is far easier for Christians to act their way into a new way of thinking than it is to think their way into a new way of acting.”

In the decade of the '90s more and more congregations have been introduced to the concept of tithing. It is not clear whether this is the result of a lack of money to support the mission or ministry of the church or if it is coming from committed pastors and sessions who believe this is what a faithful Christian is called to do by Jesus Christ. I believe people who enjoy tithing do so, not out of a legalist Biblical interpretation, but out of gratitude to God for God's grace given to us in Jesus Christ. Certainly helping others is an authentic Christian trait.

The good news about Presbyterians and their stewardship of time, talent and treasure is that when authentic mission needs are presented, many respond generously. But more and more congregations are discovering that the Sunday morning offerings are inadequate to meet the growing mission needs in the world. Their solution is to invite people to give to a permanent endowment fund for the ministry of the church. These can be gifts over and above an annual pledge and can be given during a person's lifetime or through a bequest in a will.

The mission and ministry of Presbyterian congregations would be vastly more significant if every member tithed and if every member left a tithing of their estate to the church. This can happen only when we all believe that “were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.”\*

\*“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 101.

**The Book of Order is explicit in its stewardship emphasis:**

“Giving has always been a mark of Christian commitment and discipleship. The ways in which a believer uses God's gifts of material goods, personal abilities, and time should reflect a faithful response to God's self-giving in Jesus Christ and Christ's call to minister to and share with others in the world. Tithing is a primary expression of the Christian discipline of stewardship.”

“Those who follow the discipline of Christian stewardship will find themselves called to lives of simplicity, generosity, honesty, hospitality, compassion, receptivity, and concern for the earth and God's creatures.”

“The Christian life is an offering of one's self to God. In worship the people are presented with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ, are claimed and set free by him, and are led to respond by offering to him their lives, their particular gifts and abilities, and their material goods.”

*Submitted by Paul Otori, Chair of Stewardship*

# The Bulletin Board

- Thank you to Ruth Miller, Flo Raisig, and Florence Pickels for decorating our sanctuary so beautifully on Easter.
- Sympathies to the family of John (Lou) Wickstrom, long-time member who moved to Florida many years ago. Mr. Wickstrom died April 22, 2018.
- Congratulations to confirmands, Spencer Lehrian and Jake Santo, who joined FPCE on April 29.
- Congratulations to Jeffrey Mellon, Nancy Ernst's son, who graduated from Pitt on Sunday, April 29.
- Memorial service for Ruth McCormick will take place on May 19 at 1:30PM, followed by a light luncheon.
- Congratulations to the family of Veronica Jo Simon, daughter of Elizabeth Raisig and Scott Simon, granddaughter of Flo and Russ Raisig. Veronica will be baptized on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Belated birthday wishes to Florence Pickels, who turned 103 years old !!!

## Christian Depth Development

**PASTOR RUCKER WILL CONTINUE TO LEAD TWO CLASSES PER WEEK THROUGH THE MONTH OF MAY.**

9:45 a.m. Sunday in the lounge, become part of an informative and invigorating discussion on what it means to live as people of the resurrection *in this world, during this lifetime*. The Bible and Eugene Peterson's intriguing book, Living the Resurrection are our resources.

6:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the lounge a mutually supportive and down-to-earth group of us gather to talk about how our faith changes and supports us in our more mature (i.e. older!) lives. Will we fall upward into a deeper faith?

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

#### SPENCER LEHRIAN, CONFIRMAND

As a Christian, we believe in the Lord that created everything. We believe that the son of the father is Jesus Christ. We know that the son died for all of our sins. We know that he was resurrected. We believe in the Trinity (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit). We believe that while the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are the Lord, they are not one and the same, but they are still all the Lord, similar to how water is not water vapor and how water vapor is not ice and how ice is not water, but they are all water.

I have struggled with my faith throughout my years, but I have come back to the Father for his love. He has welcomed me with opened arms, like a shepherd who lost one of his sheep. He called me back to him and covered me in his love. I've been called to Christ for my entire life, but on this day I answer his call. I didn't pick up when my nanna and Pappap were in the hospital. I didn't pick up when my dog passed away, but it is time where I answer the father and join the church of the one and only God, Lord Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

When I was a child, I was born with cysts on my lungs and I would have died, if God was not in control. He had a plan for me just like any other person. I believe that this is his path for me. While we cannot understand everything that God does, I do know that it is time for me to accept his warm embrace, that he has so graciously handed out to me and all of his sons and daughters.

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

#### JAKE SANTO, CONFIRMAND

God loves us, he cherishes us, and no matter what shape, what race, and how you think, he cares for us. He is the creator, our God.

We Christians believe that the Bible has the word of God. We believe that Christ is our savior. We also believe God is the creator of the Heavens and the Earth.

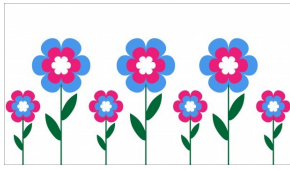
Jesus is our savior, he is 100% human, 100% God. God has taught us to love one another as a neighbor. While Jesus has taught us to love one other as I have loved you. Witch that love is infinite. Love is around us all, just like the Holy spirit.

The Holy Spirit is all around us. The Holy Spirit is essential for personal salvation. The Holy Spirit gives love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness.

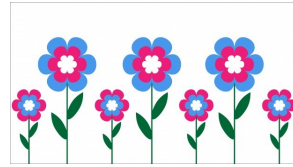
God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit all part of the trinity. As a Christian we believe in the trinity. I Believe in Jesus being are savior. God being the creator. the Holy Spirit being the source love all around us. to love one other As Jesus loved us, and to follow the word of the Bible.

As a church I believe that our goal is to get new family's to join are the church is having a hard time to get people to join the church.

Bless this church....



# May



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
		10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA	6:30 Soup and Spirit	3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship <b>Cong. Mtg./ Deacon Mtg.</b>	7:00 Scouts	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 Session Mtg. 7:00 AA	6:30 Soup and Spirit	3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
<b>MOTHER'S DAY 13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship <b>12:15 Muffins for Moms</b>	7:00 Scouts	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00AA	6:30 Soup and Spirit	3:45 FROGS	5:30 AA's Ann. Party	1:30 Ruth McCormick service/recept. 8:30 AA
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
PENTECOST 9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship/ <b>Baptism</b> 12:15 Fellowship	7:00 Scouts 7:00 Joy Circle	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA	6:30 Soup and Spirit	3:45 FROGS	8:00 AA	8:30 AA
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		
9:30 Choir Reh. 9:45 Adult Class 11:00 Worship <b>12:15 Memorial Day Obsv.</b>	<b>MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b> 7:00 Scouts	10:00 Book Club 3:45 FROGS 7:00 AA	6:30 Soup and Spirit	3:45 FROGS (last one)		



**BLANKETS FOR MOM  
 SUNDAY, MAY 13**

Honor your mom by giving the gift of love and hope in her honor or memory. Church World Service (CWS) and FPCE's Mission Ministry Team are sponsoring

"Blanket Sunday" on May 13. Your donation of \$5 per blanket will help provide warmth and the knowledge that someone cares to refugees, victims of natural disasters, and many others across the world. Fill out a bulletin insert or form below through May 6 or call the Church Office, 412-241-4613.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

in Memory of \_\_\_\_\_



*Summer  
 Needs*

- Sunscreen
- Pool Toys
- Beach Towels
- Bubbles
- Shower Shoes  
 (adult sizes 5-12)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Gatorade
- First Aid Kit  
 Supplies
- Clorox Wipes

MARS HOME FOR YOUTH IS ASKING FOR DONATIONS FOR THESE ITEMS. DONATIONS' BOX WILL BE AT THE SIDE ENTRANCE AT THE END OF APRIL. COLLECTION WILL END ON JUNE 1.