

Dear FPC family and friends,

It all begins on Monday! We are starting a 90 Day Challenge here at First Presbyterian Church where we are encouraging everyone who is within earshot of this enews to read Scripture for about 5 minutes every single day. The goal is to begin on Monday, this Monday September 7, by reading Matthew 1. Just one chapter, that is all. The next day, Tuesday, to read Matthew 2 and so on for the next 90 days. If you do that do you know what will happen? You will have read through every single one of the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in just 90 days. Just like that, you will have read all of the accounts of the life of Jesus written by first century authors who lived and walked with Jesus.

I heard the intensity and the difficulty with which you found our Read Through the Bible program which we have done a couple of times, so I wanted to throw you a bone and get you back on track to read Scripture. There are so many spiritual disciplines that are important to us and that increase our faith and strengthen our walk with Jesus, and reading Scripture is one of them. You can pick up a booklet when you come to church this Sunday, and/or you can find it here as well: [90 Day Challenge](#).

The last week of August I found myself at the flagship camp and conference center of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is called Montreat and it is located in North Carolina. I was invited to attend what is called a Wellness Retreat hosted by the Board of Pensions of the PC(USA). I signed up for seminars and had my time pretty well scheduled for my time there. When we arrived, the main speaker told us that the objective of our time at Montreat was for our wellbeing. This meant, they said, that if we wanted to attend the seminars we could, or we could go for a walk in the woods and consider that a step toward wellbeing.

Have you ever had a time in your life that lasted more than a few days where it really didn't matter what you did with your time? For some of you that is why you have been so looking forward to retirement. For others of you this seems like a dream from a far far galaxy as you are up to your eyes in diapers and 3am feedings. For others of you it seems like an impossibility as you are the superUber for your family transporting kids from one activity to the next. I understand, for some of you this simple is out of reach. But if you are just able to carve about 3 days out of your busy schedule, if you are in a time in your life where you can ship the kids out to the in-laws, or in your retirement cancel those three days of meetings that you really don't need to have, go away to a retreat center and just let time not control your life.

I have to say, it was quite liberating and it gave me a perspective that I had thought I had lost. You know when Jesus says that people were not made for the Sabbath, but rather the Sabbath for people, he meant that it was in place to help us, not to create a legalism that is impossible to obey. The same is true for time. God created time for us, not for us to be slaves to time and to always feel as if it is the rarest commodity found on earth these days. No, time was made so that we could freely live within it, not so that it can govern us. One of my favorite truths of Scripture is that you never ever see Jesus in a hurry. Now that is saying something.

So, I know that you have the five minutes a day that you need to read through the Gospels over these next 90 days. I just know it. Take the time, you owe yourself that, to read a

chapter a day starting on Monday. The neat thing is that in the booklet you will pick up on Sunday there is a space where you can reflect on what you read and write in, only if you want an answer to these two questions for each chapter that you read: What did you learn about Jesus, and What did you learn about being a disciple-maker. I pray that you will be strengthened in your relationship with Jesus as a result of this discipline.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Bob

HAPPENING IN THE LIFE OF FPC...

The best laid plans of mice and men, gang aft agley: We have really good news to share with you. Kristin Kondratowski is going to stay at First Presbyterian Church as our Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. We give thanks to God to she and her family are remaining at FPC and we so look forward to carry on the momentum in the programs and ministries that she has begun and into which she has poured her life. As a result, I probably don't need to say this but I will, we will not be having a going away celebration for her on September 6. But when you see her, let her know how pleased you are that she is staying put.

Bluegrass concert tomorrow, September 5: Come join us at 6pm for a Bluegrass concert sponsored by First Presbyterian Church at the Strasburg Park.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Please mark your calendars that we will be starting a new Bible Study on Tuesday, September 22nd. Classes will be held at 9am and 7pm in room 4. All are welcome! This fall, we are using a study by Kristi McLelland entitled "The Gospel on the Ground - The Grit & Glory of the Early Church in Acts". For any questions please contact Linda Bredin, Stacy Bronkema, or Sandy Wenger.

Keep in your prayers Ray and Carol Reeder: Michael Reeder, their son, passed away suddenly on Wednesday, September 2 at LGH. Let's surround Ray and Carol with our presence and our prayers.

COMMUNITY WIDE WORSHIP: Gather with all the churches of Strasburg for worship at the Strasburg Park on SUNDAY, September 20th at 10am. There will be no worship here at FPC, so come and join our brothers and sisters in Christ from Strasburg to worship on this day.

FRESH PRODUCE!!: Is your garden producing more vegetables than you can use? Bring your extra produce to church and share it with friends and fellow church members. Your abundance could be a blessing to someone else!

GOLF ANYONE? Join Pastor Bob at Meadia Heights for golf on September 29th at 1pm. The cost is \$75 and there are 8 open spots. Let him know if you are interested!