

GRAPEVINE

August 15, 2007

Parson to Person

Summer provides a great time to catch up on some reading. One book I read this summer is Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know - And Doesn't. Author Stephen Prothero, a professor of religious studies at Boston University, claims that while the U.S. is one of the most religious places on earth, it is also a nation of shocking religious illiteracy. Prothero presents an historical review of the presence and influence of religion (Christianity) in the social, political and intellectual development of our national life. He chronicles how our nation moved away from its essential religious foundation. The nemesis in this shift was not so much anti-religion forces as the Christian church itself. The church has repeatedly (and often obliviously) abandoned the culture-religion blend of religious mind and religious heart for an elevation of heart over mind and passion over knowledge. The result is widespread religious illiteracy (all heart and no light) within the nation and more surprisingly and more tragically, within the church. In both arenas, heart too often trumps head.

Religious Illiteracy is a very readable book even for those who might fear themselves to be religiously illiterate. After presenting a brief glimpse of our nation's historical cultural-religious foundations, it suggests how and why we have sadly moved away from, and in some cases, gladly moved beyond those parameters. First Amendment implications and Supreme Court rulings are addressed from a common sense perspective.

Inside:

- Small Groups Forming
- Rally Day 9/9
- Contemporary Worship Resumes
- Krislund Capital Campaign Update

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Weekly Bible Study

This fall Rev. Dan Hans will be offering a weekly Bible study on the New Testament letters to the Galatians and Philipians. The study will be offered at the church two separate times each week: Tuesdays from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. (as Dan's Pastor's Class). Anyone is welcome to attend. The study begins on Tuesday, September 4 and Sunday, September 9. The weekly studies will conclude before Thanksgiving. The Tuesday and Sunday studies will be identical.

Here are two excerpts from the book:

Admitting that it can be difficult to determine precisely when teaching tips over into preaching, [Supreme Court Justice Robert] Jackson insisted nonetheless on keeping the study of religion in public schools. "The fact is," he concluded, "that, for good or everything in our culture worth transmitting, every- to life, is saturated with religious influ- ences. (p. 128)

Few schools of education instruct future teachers about the distinction Justice Goldberg made between "teaching about religion" (objectively) and "the teaching of religion" (confessionally) so school teachers simply avoid the subject altogether. Rather that teaching "about religion," these instructors teach, as historian Martin Marty once put it, "around religion."

Silence [about religion] can lie as well as words, of course, and in this case the lie is that religion doesn't matter: it has no social, political, or historical force so students can get along just fine anything about it. This approach flies in the face of decades of Supreme Court rulings. It also lends credibility to the complaint, common in conservative Christian circles, that public schools, far from being religiously neutral, are actively promoting a "culture of disbelief."

The Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled that the First Amendment requires of state governments not just neutrality around religions but also neutrality between religion and irreligion. The current strategy of obeying the law by avoiding religion may well be violating the Constitution, by indoctrinating students into a secular view of the world. (p. 129-30)

I see this book as essential reading for any Christian who teaches in the public schools. Teachers will find the book fascinating and helpful. Professor Prothero also addresses the idea of religion in politics today which is nothing new for our nation and is not the sole possession or problem of any particular political party.

Faithfully Yours,

(Two copies of this book will be available on the church Bookmobile in the near future)

Sunday Flowers

Openings exist on the Flower Chart posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall to give flowers in honor or memory of loved ones on Sundays this fall. Please consider signing up.

As of July 31 we are 58% into 2007

Expenditures to date are 59%

Receipts to date are 57% of anticipated budget.

Do You Know Someone Who Needs a Bear Hug?

The Burden Bear Ladies invite you to give the bears to any adult or child you think would enjoy having a cuddly buddy to help one through a painful experience. It was brought to our attention that a bear could be the right size to hold to chest or tummy when moving is painful. Also, these bears can represent a gift from our church to anyone who needs a lift when troubles seem overwhelming. Please call Joan Pore, 337-1718 or Faye Johns, 334-1023 to get a burden bear bundle.

Drop Offs at the Church

If you drop off any items at the church, please attach a note indicating the use of the items, such as:

- For Rummage Sale
- For South Dakota Mission
- For Funeral Reception
- Etc.

(If a container is to be returned to you please make sure to put your name on it)

Condolences:

Our thoughts and prayers are with:

Chuck Caldwell on the recent death of his wife Jackie.

The family of Kie Sterrett on her recent death.

The family of John O'Brien on his recent death.

Rev. Steve & Sue Allen (former GPC Assoc. Pastor) on the death of Steve's dad, Rev. Mark Allen.

Steve & Sue Allen
3246 Cochise Dr.
Atlanta, GA 30339

Camp Krislund

Capital Campaign Update

\$29,000 already sent and used to build new climbing wall.

\$18,000 received or pledged as of 8/7/07

\$12,000 needed in pledges/contributions

Thank You:

Ann Cook and Norma Campbell would like to express their thanks to the members of Gettysburg Presbyterian Church for the many cards, prayers and best wishes after Norma's recent heart surgery. The visits from Lou & Candace were very thoughtful and much appreciated.

Thank you all so much.

To my church family,

I have no words to express how much your cards, prayers, flowers, visits, and phone calls; your love, and support at Jackie's viewing, funeral and reception have meant to me. Jackie was my life and joy and to go on without her seems an impossible task. I don't know how I'm going to do it. I know that this is for the remainder of my life. I'm not coping with the %outside world+and %normal+right now. I want to scream for it all to stop because nothing will ever be the same for me. I appreciate all of your offers for lunch, movies, etc. and I'm hoping those offers will be there in the months and years ahead when my emotions aren't on such a huge roller coaster and I can accept your generous offers. For now, my heart is broken and there is nothing anyone can say or do to make it better.

Kay Knox

Upcoming Events

Announcing a New Evening Circle for Young Women

Plans are underway for a new evening circle for women in their 20s, 30s and 40s. This new circle will use the curriculum from *Horizon's* and meet once a month from Sept-May from 7:30 - 9 p.m. Dates and location are yet to be determined. Babysitting may be arranged if there is a need. Please contact Laura Davis at 642-1557 or ldavis@netstorm.net for more information.



August Music Schedule

8/19	Kristin North Rachel Doehring Nick Telenson
8/26	Classic Trombones Heather Miller & Dana Witt

Faith and Fitness Walking Small Group

Thursday Mornings @ 8:30 am

September 13th-October 18th

Meet in Fellowship Hall for a brief devotion, prayer and a 2-mile walk on the battlefield.

All are welcome! Bring a friend!

Contact Candace Nyiri if you are interested at 337-2939.

Bethel Class: New Testament

Just a reminder that if you have not yet registered for the Bethel Sunday School Class this fall, it's time! This class is open to anyone who has taken the Old Testament Bethel Class. So whether you took the Old Testament portion last year or anytime over the past several years, you are eligible for this class. Call me at 334-1235, ext. 5 and sign up ASAP! · Phyllis

2 New Discipleship Small Groups Now Forming!

A **Discipleship Group** is an opportunity to build friendships and explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting through fellowship, discussion, prayer, sharing and service.

TUESDAY EVENINGS (Meets weekly for 13 weeks) Begins Sept. 18th at 7:00

At the home of Becky and Chooch Wells
995 Red Rock Road
717-337-2487

Resource: *Spiritual Growth: A Layperson Looks at Life on the Ladder* by Becky Wells

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS (Meets every other week) Begins Sept 12th at 7:00pm

At the home of Joanne and Dan Reisinger
22 Lakeview Dr.
717-337-0552

Resource: *Spiritual Growth: A Layperson Looks at Life on the Ladder* by Becky Wells

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church Discipleship Small Group Sign Up

(Please place in the offering plate or deliver to the church office)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

I am interested in participating in the following Discipleship Group:

_____ Tuesday Evening Group (meets weekly)

_____ Wednesday Evening Group (meets every other week)

ATTENTION 9-12th Graders!

It's time for FellowSHIP!!!

Join us Sunday, September 9th at 5:30
in Fellowship Hall for our annual
ICE CREAM SOCIAL and PARENT INFO NIGHT!
(Bring your Parents!)

Volunteers Needed! Be a Part of the GPC Tech Team!

The Contemporary Worship Service is growing and so are the technical and media needs of many activities here at GPC. We need your help. We are training individuals to help with running the computer, video projector and soundboards during worship services. Individuals are especially needed to help with set up and tear down of the audiovisual equipment between services. If you are able to commit to at least 1 Sunday a month, please let us know! Contact Bill Fitzpatrick (334-4960) or Candace Nyiri (337-2939).

Nursery Staff

Back-Up Needed

Nichol Fake is our staff member for the 11:00 a.m. nursery each Sunday. However, because of Nichol's regular job, she is sometimes called at the last minute to work on Sunday mornings. We are looking for 2-3 people to serve as back-ups for Nichol on these Sundays. If you are willing to do this, please call Phyllis at 334-1235, ext. 5.
ô Thanks

Rally for a Cure Golf Tournament

Saturday, September 22, 2007
Mountain View Golf Course
Fairfield, PA

In support of the Susan G. Komen Foundation
American Cancer Society

Hosted by: Kimberly Gipe (GPC member)

For more information please call
Kimberly Gipe @ 794-1135

Nursery Aides Needed

Each Sunday we need an adult volunteer in the 11:00 a.m. church nursery to help the staff member and teen volunteers. Sign-up will be held in Fellowship Hall beginning this Sunday, August 19.

Remember the promise you made at all those baptisms? The one about helping to raise God's children? Now is your chance to make good on that promise! You pick the date and enjoy the opportunity to get to know our littlest members!

Rally Day Celebration

Blazin' The Trail will be our theme this year for Rally Day on Sunday, September 9th. Plan to stop by Fellowship Hall before or after you worship and check out the displays of the many ministries and missions of this church. In addition to the important information will be food, fellowship and fun. Rally Day is a great chance to learn more about *your* church family, meet new people and enjoy our kick-off to the new year of activities and service in Jesus' name. Also, if you wish to have a display at the Rally Day Fair to get the word out about a GPC group you are involved with, return the information form below to Rev. Nyiri in the church office.

GPC September 9, 2007

Rally Day & Ministry Team Fair

(Return this form to Rev. Lou Nyiri in the church office via mail,
offering plate or email gpclou@earthlink.net NO LATER than September 2, 2007.)

_____ We need ¼ of an 8-foot table (2x4)

_____ We need ½ of an 8-foot table (4x4)

_____ We need 1 whole 8-foot table (4x8) at the September 9, 2007 Rally Day & Ministry Team Fair from 9:00 to 1:00 pm for the following:

Group Name: _____ Group Contact: _____

Group Contact Phone: _____ (Best time to call: 3-5pm / 5-7pm / 7-9pm)

Group Contact Email: _____

Will you need to have an electrical outlet for your display? Yes / no

Please provide us with 3 interesting/creative facts about your ministry that would interest those visiting your table. (Example: In 2006 we provided _____ meals to people in need.)

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

REMINDER:


The Contemporary Worship Team is taking a break during the month of August. The Contemporary Worship service will resume on Sunday, September 9th at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary.

Join us for the 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. worship services during August.

Presbyterian Women

The 2007-2008 Horizons Bible Study, "Above and Beyond-Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth" by Carol M. Bechtel will be available for purchase for \$6 at the Presbyterian Women's table on Rally Sunday, September 9th, 2007.

If paying by check, please make it payable to %Presbyterian Women+.

 **Next Newsletter Deadline:
Noon, Thursday, August 23, 2007**

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