

GRAPEVINE

August 29, 2007

Parson to Person

The following is borrowed from an online preaching resource called *Preaching Now*: A recent article in *Kairos Journal* - entitled "Rise of the Internet Avatars" - describes the increasing problem of spouses being unfaithful to their marriage partners via their "virtual reality" lives online.

Like a million other men, Sam frequently lost himself to his computer. However, neither emails nor flight simulators occupied him. Sam spent hours on a website where fantasies are lived out through an avatar, a 3D, online personality which takes its name from a Hindu incarnation of a deity. Sam's avatar happened to be female and in an intimate relationship with another female avatar named Kat. In real life, Sam was married with kids - though he found virtual life more appealing.

Virtual worlds and the seedy digital sex that they promote are taking the Internet by storm. One such site boasts over seven million "residents" (a number growing daily), and at any one time upwards of thirty to forty thousand members are logged on as avatars, talking, dancing, building houses, and sightseeing. And yes, visitors to these sites are having sex - virtual sex.

Meanwhile, real-life marriages are ending while something less than real, but hardly innocuous, is taking place online. Max's wife, Sarah, created an avatar and soon spent upwards of eight hours a day online. Eventually, Sarah's virtual world spilled over into the real world and she used a webcam to meet the man behind her avatar's husband. Max and Sarah are now finalizing divorce proceedings.

The heavens may declare the glory of God but it looks like the Internet - at least this corner of it - declare the depravity of man. (Preaching Now 8/7/07)

Someone might argue: "But all of this is only on the Internet, only virtual, only in a person's mind." Remember the warning from the Proverbs in the Bible: "As a person thinks in his/her heart (and mind), so is he/she!"

We live in a world where things can produce good or bad results depending on how we use them.

Faithfully Yours,

Inside:

- Sunday School
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Sunday School Classes Begin September 9th

Sunday School classes start next Sunday, September 9 at **9:30 a.m.** There is something for everyone. If you have any questions, contact Phyllis Dowd at the church office (334-1235 ext. 5). We look forward to seeing you on the 9th!!

Children and Youth

<u>Class</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Teachers</u>
Childcare (ages 0-2)	Church Nursery	Amy Tomassini & Lois Kime
Preschool (ages 3 & 4)	Preschool Room (next to nursery)	Betty Brownley, Beth Freeman & Camellia Ambrose
Kindergarten & Grade 1	Lower Sunday School Wing	Lori McNair, Kim Gipe, Shawn Graff & Morgan Soliday
(**Primary Choir for children ages 3 - Grade 2 will meet on the green rug from 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. each week.)		Amy Hieber & Sonja Brown
Grades 2 & 3	Lower Sunday School Wing	Sue Aldinger, Nancy Cook, Beth Heeschen, Leslie Smarsh & Carolyn Smarsh
Grades 4 & 5	Lower Sunday School Wing	Marion Lambert, Alison Peterson, Lori Bridel & Phyllis Dowd
Grade 6 & 7 Mini-Courses	Paideia House (upstairs)	Melany LaRochelle, Nell Matthews
Grade 8 - 9 (The Gospel and Harry Potter)	Calvin House (upstairs)	Deb Litten, Dawn Rathgeber
Grades 10 - 12 (including Grade 10 Confirmation Class)	Calvin House (upstairs)	Ian Isherwood Lou Nyiri

ADULT CLASSES - SUNDAY SCHOOL

<u>Class</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Teachers</u>
<u>Pastor's Class</u> The Pastor's Class this fall will be a riveting, relevant and revelatory exploration into Paul's letters to the Galatians and the Philippians.	MacAskill Room (Heritage Room)	Dan Hans
<u>Bethel Bible</u> This comprehensive study of the Bible includes three 7-week studies of the New Testament (Sept - March) (You must have taken the Old Testament course to participate in this class)	Top Floor Room	Carol Heiser, Barb Sanders-Hartwig Bob Bigham, Mike Gladfelter,
<u>A Light Unto Our Path: A Guide to Raising Christian Kids</u> This class is for parents of children 2 years of age as we look at ways to be the parents God wants us to be, including strategies on nurturing your son or daughter in the Christian faith.	Eisenhower Lounge	Susan & Tom Kolmer
<u>Young Marrieds</u> This group for young married couples (who do not have children) continues to be held at the SPOT, a coffee house one block North of the church. The group is discussing <u>The Success Principles</u> by Jack Canfield over a cup of coffee and a breakfast treat!	The SPOT - Coffee House (Baltimore & Middle Sts.)	
<u>Men's Bible Class</u>	Crane Library	Ron Hankey
<u>Women's Bible Class</u> These 2 classes will explore the theme "God Created A People" using the book of Genesis.	Rev. Hans' Office	Group Leadership
<u>Haitian Bible Study</u> This class is open to all of our Haitian friends as well as church members who are interested in perspectives on Bible stories from a different culture.	Paideia House (downstairs)	Peacemaking Team

Upcoming Events

ATTENTION SHIP & MidSHIP!!!

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

Would you like to ring or sing in the Youth Choirs? (Grades 6-12)

The Youth Bell Choir rehearses at 4:00 on Sundays; Youth Vocal Choir at 5:00.

If you have any questions, call Becky at 359-7623 or email bbwareham@embarqmail.com.

Hope to see you there!

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. in Eisenhower Lounge and Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. (as Dan's Pastor's Class) in MacAskill (Heritage) Room. 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.

GPC College Student Addresses: Our Evangelism Team periodically sends a little note or care package throughout the year to our young people away at college. Parents of college students, please complete the tear off below and return it to the collection plate or the church office by September 2nd.

Evangelism Team

College Student's Name _____

Student's Address _____

September Music Schedule

9/2		Jubilate Singers
9/9	8:15	Early Choir
	11:00	Adult Choir
9/16	8:15	Early Choir
	11:00	Adult Choir
9/23	8:15	Early Choir
	11:00	Adult Choir
9/30	8:15	Scott Hartwig
	11:00	Youth Choir
		Youth Bell Choir

YOUTH CLUB

All children entering grades 3 - 5 recently received Youth Club registration forms in the mail. **These forms need to be returned to the church office by Wednesday, September 5th.** If you know of any other child who is interested in this afternoon program, please call Phyllis (334-1235 ext. 5) for a registration form.

Dinners Needed for Seeds to Success

Our church family has been informed that the local Seeds to Success program which helps Adams County Correctional Complex inmates rehabilitate through learning life-skills on work release has an emergency need for meals in September. The meals provide dinner on Mondays @ 5:00 p.m. for 15 women and the Tuesday-Thursday meals @ 6:00 p.m. for 15 men. The requirement is to provide a main dish only (casserole, mac-n-cheese, lasagna, stromboli, etc.) for their dinner. You may drop the meal off any time during the day you cook by calling the director on her cell phone to make arrangements for delivery. You do not need to stay for the meal. Directions for meal drop off will be sent once you've signed up. To sign up or for more information please fill out and return the form below or call Rev. Lou Nyiri in the church office (334-1235).

*****Seeds to Success Dinner Help*****

Yes, I could do a main dish on any of the following dates (circle as many as apply):

- September 3 (5:00 PM meal) September 4
- September 6 September 17 (5:00 PM meal)
- September 18 September 20
- September 24 (5:00PM meal) September 25
- September 27

Name: _____
Phone #: _____
Email: _____

Kids Club for Children in Kindergarten - Grade 2

Kids Club is a time of fun, friendship, Bible stories, scripture activities, crafts, and games under the leadership of Pam Rowland. We will offer two identical programs for our Fall series of Kids Club. One will be held Monday evenings from Oct. 1st - 29th and the other will take place on Thursday evenings from Oct. 4th - Nov. 1st. Both programs are for children in Kindergarten - Grade 2 and will be held from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the MacAskill Room (Heritage Room)

Registration forms will be mailed out next week but we wanted you to get these dates on your calendar as soon as possible. There is no fee and the program is open to any child in Kindergarten - Grade 2 who is interested, but we do need to know who is coming. Hope your child can join us for this church activity for younger members.

Blessings, Phyllis

**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.

**Communion Preparation Class
on September 20**

Our annual Communion Preparation Class for children in Grades 4 and above will be held on Thursday, Sept. 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the MacAskill room (Heritage). This class led by Rev. Hans and Phyllis Dowd will prepare these children/youth to receive communion in worship. Please call Phyllis at 334-1235, ext. 5 to enroll your child.

3 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 p.m. at the home of Becky and Chooch Wells
995 Red Rock Road, Gettysburg ô 717-337 -2487
Resource: Spiritual Growth: A Layperson Looks at Life on the Ladder by Becky Wells

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS (Meets weekly for 10 weeks) Begins Sept 19th at 7:15 a.m. in the MacAskill (Heritage) Room at GPC for coffee, fruit and muffins. Leader: Lou Nyiri
Resource: Spiritual Growth: A Layperson Looks at Life on the Ladder by Becky Wells

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS (Meets every other week) Begins Sept 12th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Joanne and Dan Reisinger
22 Lakeview Dr., Gettysburg ô 717-337-0552

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 Morning Group (meets weekly)

_____ Wednesday Evening Group (meets every other week)

GPC Young @ Heart

You are invited to join the Y.A.H. group on **Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 12:00 p.m.** for a covered dish luncheon. Bring your favorite dish and place setting.

If you can't make the luncheon, please join us to hear Mr. Lincoln at 1:00 p.m.

RSVP no later than September 11, 2007
to Pam & Dick Wisor at 359-8896 or pwisor@hotmail.com

Speaker at Gettysburg College
 Bob Edgar, former President of the National Council of Churches, will speak in Mara Auditorium in Masters Hall at Gettysburg College on Wednesday, September 5 at 7:00 p.m. on the topic "Holding Powers Responsible in an Unstable World".

PW CIRCLES

Elizabeth Circle

Monday, Sept. 17 @ 1:00 p.m.

Hostess: Faye Johns
635 Fairview Ave.
Gettysburg
334-1023

Study Leader: Jean Holder
(Faye has the study books for Elizabeth Circle)

Mary Martha Circle

Monday, Sept. 17 @ 7:30 p.m.

Hostess: Sheryl Suplee
140 Red Oak Lane
Gettysburg
337-3267

Please carpool as parking is limited

Esther Circle

Thursday, Sept. 20 @ 9:30 a.m.

Members will meet in Eisenhower Lounge
Study Leader: Myrt Watson



ALL CIRCLES - Lesson 1 in the Horizons Bible Study
 ðAbove and Beyondð Hearing God's Call in Jonah & Ruthð by Carol M. Bechtel

-- ALERT -- Rally Day Celebration -- ALERT --

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.)

CALENDAR PAGE


CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

September

9:30 am in the Sanctuary

- 9/09 What Matters Most: The One Thing!
- 9/16 What Matters Most: Finding Joy
- 9/23 What Matters Most: Finding Community
- 9/30 Service of Communion

*Christ is among us in fresh ways when we gather together.
Join us for worship and gather around God's Word!*



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

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208 Baltimore Street
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