

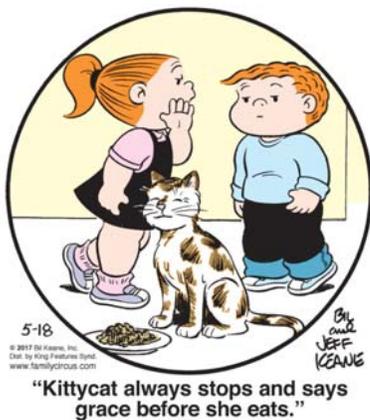
ClaytonPres Press

Clayton Presbyterian Church
Fred DiMaio, Pastor

August – September 2018

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"Kittycat always stops and says grace before she eats."

The Pastor's Pen

As we continue to slog through the rainy summer, thoughts may turn to the upcoming Fall. For myself, I wonder where all those falling leaves will have to go in October and November! But we have been blessed by avoiding the blistering heat of our neighboring states. Not to mention the destructive forest fires out West.

Unfortunately we have been hit with sadness and loss — the loss of a valued church member and friend. Bill Smart would have been humbled and possibly at a loss for words at the memorial service last week. Thank you to all who attended, helped with food, set-up, parking, visited the family and generally did all that was asked at the time. God surely smiled upon those efforts.

As the apostle Paul had to continually urge and respond to the churches he started, so do we need that urging and support during times of despair. This church, its members and friends, have the ability to press on under duress. Please keep Susan in your prayers, as well as others of our community of faith.

The members of the Safety Committee have presented a safety policy to the Session for its review. After much discussion, the policy was approved with minor changes.

The main thrust of this policy is to have a cohesive plan to deal with potential safety issues. This includes, but is not limited to: fire emergency, health issues, attacks from outside entities, etc. The policy speaks to church members who will volunteer to deal with these issues. Anyone who is designated as such will have either training, certification, or professional experience. Also, any volunteer will be required to submit to church records any and all firearms certification /permitting, that is appropriate. The Pastor and Safety Committee chair will determine who shall be approved as a volunteer. It is with fervent hope that this policy will never have to be activated.

Blessings,
Fred

HIS WAY!

When my son was about eight he asked a troubling question, “Mom? Why do I have to put on a sweater when you are the one that is cold?” I gave my usual, stock-parent answer...“Because!” Now you and I know that answer was simply a cop-out but my son, at eight, didn’t know that yet.

As adults we want to know the real answers for solutions to our problems. How can we fix it? What must I do now to prevent future problems? Where did I go wrong? Age old puzzlements. But any strong Bible student should be able to offer a little clarity to life’s problems that would be easy to perceive or understand.

The very first requirement you must accept is found in Isaiah 55:8, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my way, saith the Lord.” In other words, we as humans must step out of our earthly ways, our self-centered attitudes and our personal opinions. All these personality traits are shallow and waste time. Instead of lingering on the seeming emptiness and panic of solving a problem or issue we must first and always remain calm and focus on the one sure Rock, remembering He came to show us how to work out His way in our human circumstances.

It is during impossible situations where we feel helpless and alone if we try to find solutions on our own. We should step back and remember the example our Lord spoke of in John 5:30, “I can of mine own self do nothing as I hear, I judge and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” Our Lord knew our part is to pray and wait for His time, His way to direct us. “My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness” (II Corinthians 12:9).

What does it mean ‘to wait’? We are a ‘want it fixed now’ type of people. Our lives are rushed and pressured and we don’t always wait upon the Lord for a solution. His plan, His thoughts and His ways will bring us through depths of despair, we just have to train our minds to go to the Lord first and ask for His help. He is waiting for your request.

I have a written note that is so old I have forgotten where it came from but I want to share it with you. ‘Life is tough and if the devil knocks you down to your knees, stay down there on bended knee and call upon the Lord...then the devil will not be able to knock you off those bended knees!’ The devil cannot get through to your thinking if you guard your mind and stay praying through all your problems. And if you get cold may I suggest a good warm sweater.

Suzanne Muir

Birthdays

August

1 – Janice Elliott
16 – Mary Chalton
23 – Rhett Bickley
26 – Sharon Spivey
30 – John Jenkins

September

11 – Lindi Newman
15 – Jennifer Randall
15 – Bill Elliott
17 – Fred DiMaio
21 – Suzanne Holcomb
22 – Gene Roberts
23 – Bettye DiMaio
24 – Linda Farr
25 – Kerstin Dreher
27 – Bob Mott

Anniversaries

August

3 – Wendel and Norma
Jean Craker
3 – James and
Elizabeth Chestnut
7 – Jim Reynolds and
Renee` Ramsay
17 – Frank and
Judith Holden
23 – Bill and Linda Farr

September

13 – Bill and Janice Elliott

ABC's of Love and Life

Always put God first in EVERYTHING.
Be a blessing to all and you will have many friends.
Count and praise God for every blessing daily.
Discipline yourself. Decide to make your life count.
Edify and encourage others consistently.
Follow Jesus and other great leaders to become one.
Give liberally and joyfully of your time, talents and means.
Have an attitude of gratitude.
Invert any negatives thrown your way. Turn them into positives.
Journey through life one step and one day at a time.
Keep a gratitude journal.
Love and forgive everyone including your enemies.
Maximize your strengths and minimize your weaknesses.
Never, never, never give up!
Open the door wide when opportunity knocks.
Practice patience. Promote peace.
Quite your heart before God and let his SONshine in.
Read God's Word and apply his principles and promises.
Share the Good News at every opportunity.
Take time to say thank you and give a blessing.
Utilize your strengths and his power.
Visualize your dreams and stretch to reach for them.
Watch, listen and pray without ceasing.
Xamine your heart and keep it pure.
Yield to the Holy Spirit and yearn for Jesus.
Zoom in on God's purpose and plan for your life.

"You did not choose me! I chose YOU! Not only have I chosen you but I have planted you in a love field for you to grow up and bear fruit...fruit that is lasting." – John 15:16

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A PRIEST BUYS a lawn mower at a yard sale. Back home, he pulls on the starter rope a few times with no results. He storms back to the yard sale and tells the previous owner, "I can't get the mower to start!"

"That's because you have to curse to get it started," says the man.

"I'm a man of the cloth. I don't even remember how to curse."

"You keep pulling on that rope, and it'll come back to you."

—Reader's Digest, July 2018

Treasury Report

Jan. 1 – July 31, 2017

Receipts \$72,572

Expenses \$42,036

Fund Balance \$117,801

Received gift from the estate of Carolyn Stainback of \$20,000

Clayton Presbyterian Church

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Clayton Presbyterian Church August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Elder of the month – Judy Williams			1	2 No Choir NA group 7 PM	3 Open for Personal Prayer	4
5 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM	6	7 NA group 7 PM	8	9 Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM	10 Open for Personal Prayer	11
12 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM	13 Session – 10 AM	14 NA group 7 PM	15	16 Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM	17 Open for Personal Prayer	18 Presbytery Meeting in Winder
19 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM	20	21 NA group 7 PM	22	23 Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM	24 Open for Personal Prayer	25
26 Bible Study – 9:30 Worship – 11 AM Fellowship Dinner at Black Rock	27	28 NA group 7 PM	29	30 Choir 5 PM NA group 7 PM	31 Open for Personal Prayer	