

FALL 2011

THE SALT SHAKER

The Quarterly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor

A Peek Into One of Our Homes



I have been reading the infancy narratives--those sections of the gospels which tell us about the announcement, the conception, the birth, and the early years of our Lord Jesus Christ. In those passages we find a rich and encouraging verse. "Then [Jesus] went down to Nazareth with [his parents] and was obedient to them.... And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." (Luke 2:51-52) It makes me wonder about life in that covenant home. That home was not the first home where a child was treated like a god, it was simply the first home it was appropriate to do so! Of course, things would be significantly different than a typical home with which we would be familiar.

What would we find in the classic covenant home? First, let us think of the covenant home. Certainly it is a home which holds

to the covenant which God made with his people. "I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you." (Genesis 17:7)

What would distinguish such a home? They would not only pray regularly, but they would pray at odd times as the occasion arose. They would not only read God's Word when they gather as a family, but they would read it at other times, think about it, and apply it to their lives. They would consider the covenant that God made with them as encompassing all of life. They would consider the covenant to be with their entire family, as well as with each member individually. The covenant would be a life on life and a life to life arrangement. That way, husbands and wives would together rejoice in their status before God. And children would, from their earliest days, proclaim that: "He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him."

And, above all, they would worship and serve Jesus, the Mediator of the New Covenant

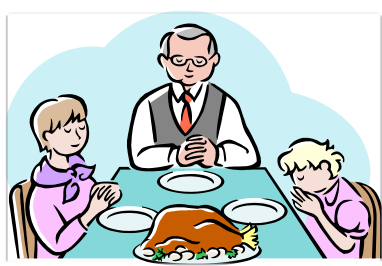
in his blood, the one who brings us to God. There is something here which is difficult to express but important to know. God does call us to certain duties at times. But more than that, he wants us. Our very lives. So it matters less whether you have proper behavior at the dinner table than whether you come to the table with warm hearts and joyful thanks. It is of less importance that you have family devotions (Though they are valuable!) than that you treasure the salvation which is proclaimed in Christ.

The world will see. They may see that our children disobey; but they will also see our children grieve their disobedience. We may be caught yelling at our kids; but we will be caught kneeling before our children weeping as we embrace them. Though we may be called saints, it will be clear that it is not our own designation, but that of our God who rules our house.

O that we have many covenant homes! Where love, joy and contentment shine. Where Christ is loved even when no one is watching.

Pastor David

Children's Ministry



Happy Thanksgiving!

FALL Memory Work Sunday, December 4

Verse recitation is done during the first 15 minutes of Sunday School. (Kindergarten and under recite as a group during the opening.)

3's	Genesis 1:1
4's & K	Genesis 1:1; Psalm 100:3a
Gr. 1-2	Romans 5:8; Romans 8:28
Gr. 3-4	Psalm 100
Gr. 5	Psalm 1:1-6



Mark Your Calendar

November 2011

NOV. 23-24 (Thanksgiving Week)
No Fellowship Night or Clubs
No Kingdom Kids

December 2011

DEC. 4: Sunday School Winter Quarter Begins
(Fall Memory Verses Recited during Sunday School Opening)

DEC. 7: Last Fellowship Night & Clubs

DEC. 8: Last Kingdom Kids

DEC 11: Christmas Program

DEC 25: No Sunday School

January 2012

JAN 1: No Sunday School

JAN 11: Fellowship Night & Clubs Resume

JAN 19: Kingdom Kids Resumes



Merry Christmas!



Youth News

Philippians 2:15-16a tells us, "...so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life."

Everything we do as a Youth Ministry is about equipping students to not only stand strong in the world in which they live, but to shine like stars, representing Christ to their friends by the way they live, think and act. This equipping of students takes on many forms. Some of it happens in large group teaching. Other times it happens during small group Bible studies. It also takes place as we live alongside of students playing together or serving others. It is all very exciting and at the same time all very challenging. As youth leaders, we very much appreciate your prayers for wisdom, creativity and even some days for patience too.

We offer Sunday school classes for our Middle and High School Students each Sunday morning at 9:30. The Middle School students are studying the topic of "Living according to God's Laws," and the High School students have just begun a study of the book of Philippians. Both classes offer excellent opportunities for spiritual

growth and development for our students.

On Sunday nights Middle School Bible Study meets at church from 6:30 till 7:30, and on Wednesday nights High School Bible Study meets from 6:30 till 8:00. These are great opportunities for students to dig into God's Word!



Middle School Youth Group happens on Wednesday nights from 5:45 till 8:00 throughout the year. Each Wednesday we start with pizza dinner and then have lots of crazy games, skits, music, videos and most importantly time to study God's Word together. Wednesday nights are a great time for students to bring their friends to begin to explore what it means to follow Jesus. We will take the night of Nov. 23 off because of Thanksgiving. Be watching for info about our special Middle School Christmas party and laser tag night!

High School Youth Group meets on Sunday nights from 6:30 till 8:00. It is a great time to be together with friends. There is always food, music, our Bible

lesson and time for small group discussion. And, most weeks we go to Nicks after we are done!

High School students save the date of Saturday, December 10 for our legendary Christmas Progressive Dinner and Yankee Gift Swap.

Looking ahead:

- High School Youth Group will start for 2012 on Sunday, January 8
- Middle School Youth Group will start for 2012 on Wednesday, January 11
- High School Winter Camp is going to be January 27-29
- Middle School Winter Camp is going to be March 2-4



For more info about anything that Youth Group is doing please visit us at www.fpcnorthshore.com or on Facebook at Middle School Youth Group FPC Northshore or High School Youth Group FPC Northshore, or contact Jon Evans, Youth Director at 978-807-8932 or iamthird@verizon.net

Jon

2011 Christmas Events



Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 11th
5:30 p.m.

Please join us on the third Sunday of Advent for a special Christmas program of Scripture readings and music featuring the Adult Choir and children of all ages.

Women's Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 3rd

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Take a deliciously early reprieve from the stress of holiday preparations! Please join us for a mid-morning hour and a half of down-time to focus on what really

matters about Christmas. This is a *bring-a-friend event*, so why not treat a neighbor or co-worker to a taste of genuine Christian fellowship, great homemade food, a satisfying craft, quality Christmas music and our very own delightfully engaging and accessible speaker, Esther Baird. Invitations coming soon.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.



Morning Worship Service Schedule

Sunday, December 25th
& Sunday, January 1st

Please note that on Sunday, December 25th and Sunday, January 1st services will be held at 10 a.m. only. All Sunday School classes have been cancelled for those Sundays and will return on Sunday, January 8th.



Kupenda Mission Trip - Summer '11



Kenya, a land of many contrasts; a country with many needs. In June, 17 volunteers set out on a long journey to help out at the Gede Special School on the coast of Kenya working with *Kupenda for the Children*. For those of you who aren't aware of *Kupenda for the Children*, *Kupenda* seeks to help disabled children in Kenya started by Cindy Bauer who attends our church. Allison, Addi and Noah Shearer, Melody Rees, Cindy Bauer and I were members who went from our church. The rest of the team was from various churches in the area and another group of 5 came with us from Baltimore, MD. The team consisted of a good mix of ages, and experiences. Two of us and Cindy had previously been to Kenya. Cindy's dad came with us. It was his first time traveling to Kenya. The Kenyans showed him great honor every where we went and he was able to see the ministry in action that Cindy began. He has a special heart for children.



Safari-We experienced the wonderful landscape and animals

of Africa venturing on an overnight safari as soon as we arrived. This gave us a chance to get to know each other and bring unity to the team before we "plunged" into our work.



Kenyan Funeral-The first day in Gede we attended a funeral for the first *Kupenda* sponsored child rescued by Cindy when she first started the ministry 11 years ago. This was a very sad time for the Gede School community, for Cindy and most of all for the family of the boy that died. Many neighbors and friends of the family came together at the home of the child and there was a lot of loud continuous wailing. The child was buried right on the home plot. Cindy and a number of others gave the eulogy. The Word of God was preached. A number of the Gede students were present. It's something as a team we'll never forget.



Disability Awareness Day-Next we attended a Disability Awareness Day for the parents and community. This was a large event with probably 1,000 people attending. Handicapped students from the surrounding area schools performed...so talented. Many speeches were given. It ended with a "fashion show" put on by some of the students from the Gede School which was something not to be missed!



Kenyan Wedding-We also experienced a Kenyan wedding. One of the deaf teachers at the school got married and we all were invited. Since the church is next to the Gede Special School, many of the children were able to attend. The service was performed in sign-language and translated into English and Swahili. The wedding was traditional and one of the best parts was the attendants dancing down the aisle and making a canopy for the couple to come through. The music and atmosphere was lively and after pictures at the beach, they had a cake reception.



**G e d e
S p e c i a l
S c h o o l**-So now you are probably thinking “What did you actually do

at the school?” We had 2 nurses with us who did child assessments each day and re-organized the health office. Child records were put into place. Most of the other team members assisted teachers in the classrooms. I helped out in the *Kupenda* office, entering child data and also organizing child records. Most afternoons we had a craft and game time for the kids. The Gede kids love soccer!! They play barefooted and are really good!!



**H o m e
V i s i t s**-There was a number of opportunities for team members to visit children in their



homes who might be eligible for placement in the school at some point. This is always a very emotional time, often seeing

children who are neglected and unattended. The boy pictured here was burnt when someone poured gasoline on his father and set him on fire because his father was accused of witchcraft. His father and brother were killed and now his family lives in fear of this happening again as the ones who did this have not been caught. Cindy was able to visit “Joyce” again. If you remember this was the child who Cindy found out has the same disability as her (no left hand). When Cindy first met the family she was able to reassure them that Joyce could be a well functioning person in society.

Joyce is growing and growing (now afraid of strangers). The family was amazed to see Cindy drive☺



Workshops-Besides support of the Gede students we were able to have a pastor’s in-service as well as a parent support gathering. This was a tremendous opportunity to lend help, give suggestions and give support to those involved with *Kupenda*.

More Fun-We had a movie night with the kids. They loved the light sticks we gave them and probably one of the highlights of the trip was taking the kids to the beach. A number of the kids had never seen the

ocean even though it is only a few miles away from the school.



Here’s Addi and Noah with Lucy and Cindy’s dad holding a child.

My Extended Visit-After most of the team left, I stayed on for another 10 days, helping out in the office and visiting



the Gede kids each day. I also taught for 3 Sundays at Thomas’ church who is the office manager of *Kupenda*. It was located in a small village about 45 minutes north of where we were staying.



It was a blessing to know that we shared a community as brothers and sisters in Christ even

though we didn't speak the same language nor share many of the same customs. I was truly blessed by my time there, especially interacting with the children.



Sponsored Children-I had the privilege of being with a number of the children you sponsor! My two sponsored children are doing wonderful! It was a blessing to see Said (on left) whom I saw two years ago in his home, sitting in filth, malnourished and uncared for... now very happy! I was even able to meet the relatives of my two children...a rarity as only a few parents showed up for the parent meeting. We couldn't talk to each other but a certain "love language" was definitely there!



What Next?-All those who went to Kenya definitely came home changed inside. How we take for granted all that we have. I'm reminded everyday to take a look at how I use my resources and if I "want" or "need" something. Kenya and all of East Africa is experiencing a severe drought and the children will be most affected. *"Nearly half the children surveyed in drought-hit northern Kenya had eaten no food for a whole day – with those separated from their parents faring even worse, according to a World Vision report. Children are begging by the roadside as they fight for survival putting them at risk of violence and sexual abuse, students are failing to attend class as they work on construction sites or walk with livestock to find pasture, other children are being married off early to raise money for food, and disabled or orphaned children are those who are worst affected yet least noticed in this crisis."* Be in prayer for Kenya, the children and especially for the ministry of *Kupenda*. For myself, I will continue to work on child sponsorship, speak to others about my experiences and if God permits, return again to Kenya. I'm reminded from 1 Peter 4:11 If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. Amen



Lynne Granz

How Can You Help this Christmas Season?

In lieu of a traditional Christmas gift for friends and family this year, consider giving a gift that will make a difference in someone's life! Purchase a gift to help children with disabilities in Kenya. Please go to the following link to find out how you can help!

<http://adventuresforthecure.com/campaigns/kupendaChristmas2011.html>



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