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the SALT Shaker

The Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor



On June 11, 2011, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 75th anniversary. We have reason to rejoice in God's faithfulness to the OPC in providing a church that is faithful to the word of God

and to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Seventy-five years is a mixed anniversary. To some of us in our 20's or 30's, it may be a long period. To some of us in our 40's or 50's it's a respectable age. For those of us in our 60's or 70's (eighties or nineties) it will seem a brief moment in time. The fact is the Christian Church is 2100 years old and 75 years is not a large span. Insofar as we are faithful, we have a right to claim a 2100 year history. But for precision in history, we will stay with the 75th year.

The Orthodox Presbyterian Church began during what was called the Fundamentalist Controversy. This was a period running from approximately 1910 until the mid 30's. There was a trend in churches to take lightly the doctrines of the Christian faith, contending that they were untrue or fabricated by the founders of our religion. Some of the doctrines rejected were the inerrancy of Scripture, the virgin birth of Christ, his bodily resurrection, the blood atonement and the genuineness of miracles.

The problem that arose was that missionaries of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) departed from the traditional doctrines of scripture that it had always taught. This became a particular danger in the foreign mission work of the PCUSA. Missionaries of the main line church began to say that it wasn't necessary to believe in the scripture to be saved. While many of them taught these traditional doctrines, many did not. Some Bible believing Presbyterians decided to send their money to an organization that would be faithful to these doctrines. So the Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions was established to send out Bible believing missionaries. The larger Presbyterian church insisted that no person who supported the independent mission board should be given communion. This put the members of the independent board in an awkward position. The leader of the board was Dr. J. Gresham Machen. Dr. Machen was ordered by the Presbytery and later by the General Assembly to resign from the independent board or to be removed from the church. Machen asked just one question, "What is right?" When Machen refused to obey the assembly he was removed as a minister and put out of the denomination. After all appeals failed, Machen and a number of his followers established the OPC. The first General Assembly of the new denomination was opened on June 11, 1936. Our General Assembly will meet from June 8 to June 14 at Sandy Cove Conference Center in Northeast Maryland.

Our denomination unites us with a common belief system found in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms. We also share together a Book of Church Order, the Book of Discipline and the Directory for Public Worship. These things which we have in common make it so that no matter how wide our differences are, you can see the common aspects of worship and of sound doctrine in every Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

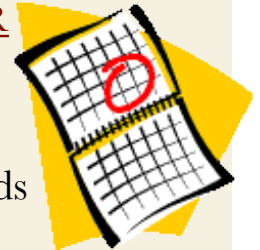
We see this common practice most clearly demonstrated in the mission work of our church. When we support our missionaries in their respective mission works, we see the OPC in action. The Session is the local authority in the Church. It is accountable to the presbytery which is made up of pastors and elders from local churches. Session sends representatives to the presbytery which meets two or more times a year. Once a year elders and ministers from the various presbyteries gather for the General Assembly. Through it we carry on Foreign Missions, Home Missions and Christian Education both home and abroad. This summer members of First Presbyterian Church will join members from other OP Churches to carry out short term missions in Ukraine and in the Czech Republic.

While we are not as old as some denominations our goal is to be faithful to believe and proclaim the word of Christ in the gospel. Pray for the General Assembly.

Pastor David

Children's Ministry

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- May 11 - Last Fellowship Night & Clubs
- May 12 - Last Kingdom Kids
- May 13 - GEMS Sleepover
- May 14 - CE Appreciation Cookout
- June 5 - 5th Grade "Moving Up" Breakfast
- June 12 - Spring Memory Work Recitation
- June 27 - July 1 - VBS: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace



SPRING QUARTER MEMORY WORK 2011

RECITATION SUNDAY - JUNE 12, 2011

- 3's - Acts 16:31a; Matthew 22:39b
- 4's & K - John 14:9b; Psalm 9:1
- Grades 1 & 2 - Ephesians 2:8-9; Ephesians 2:10
- Grades 3 & 4 - John 15:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Grade 5 - 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13

Children's Ministry (Continued)



MORE "KIDS," MORE LIKE CHRIST

VBS IS COMING!

JUNE 27 - JULY 1, 2011

Where KIDS learn about Gifts God Gives to Them:
Hope, Special Abilities, Wisdom, Forgiveness & Family

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATION COOKOUT
SATURDAY, MAY 14 @ NOON**

@ JOE AND KATHY CEFALU'S HOUSE

(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

Have you volunteered in Christian Education: Adult or Children's Sunday School; Kingdom Kids, Scooters, GEMS, ROCKs, or any other C.E. program? If so, this cookout is for you & your family.

WE HOPE YOU CAN COME!



SUNDAY SCHOOL JULY & AUGUST 2011

Pre-school - Grade 4 Teachers & Helpers Needed!

Please contact Jeff Spencer, Children's Ministry Director
jspencer@opc-ipswich.org

Please help us give our children's Sunday School teachers a well deserved break.



Youth News

May is a great month!



In May we have a huge cookout to support our students who will be going to Voice of Calvary Ministries for our summer Youth Mission Trip (July 8-18). The cookout will be on Sunday, May 15 immediately after the 11:00 services. Please come out and support our youth.

In addition, we will be having a dessert auction. If you have a favorite dessert that you'd like to make and donate to the auction we would be very grateful and thankful. You can just bring it in that morning.



In May we get to celebrate our graduates. Our annual End of the Year Youth Banquet will be on Wednesday, May 18 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Entire families are invited to join us as we honor our graduates, and recognize our eighth graders. And of course, there will be the often amazing, Senior Bedroom Video. Plan to bring a salad to share, and everything else for dinner will be provided.

Middle school and High School Youth Groups will continue to meet through May and through most of June. Middle School Youth Group meets on Wednesday nights from 5:45 till 8:00 and High School Youth Group meets on Sunday nights from 6:30 till 8:00. You will want to be with us for lots of great end of the year activities and surprises.

Sunday school is also happening each Sunday from 9:45 till 10:45. Come and join us for this great opportunity to be strengthened and encouraged in your faith.

Start making your summer plans now.

V.B.S. for Middle School will be happening June 27-July 1. V.B.S. is a whole week of great activities, snacks, and Bible lessons and a huge full day trip to Water Country. Anyone who will be in grades 6-8 in the fall is welcome to attend. Be watching for sign up information.

Soul Fest is August 3-7 at Gunstock Mtn. Soul Fest is 4 days crammed full with concerts from over 100 Christian bands including Switchfoot, Tenth Avenue North, Skillet, Jars of Clay, Chris Tomlin, Petra and many more. Sign up soon with Jon to reserve your ticket at the best price.

Deerwander Bible Conference is going to be August 13-20. Deerwander has separate programs for Middle School and High School Students. Each features excellent Bible instruction as well as lots of age appropriate games, competitions and opportunities to make some great friends.

Be watching for sign up information for these events and lots of other great activities as well. For more information about anything that Youth Group is doing, contact Jon Evans anytime at 978-807-8932 or iamthird@verizon.net.

Jon

Help Support Youth Missions!

This July 18 students and adult leaders will be returning to Voice of Calvary Ministries in Jackson, MS to serve and learn for a week. We will have the opportunity to learn about the power of the Gospel in the work of racial reconciliation in a very difficult inner city area. Students will be working to raise support for this trip. If you have some yard work, or jobs that they can do, please contact Jon Evans to arrange it.

OUR WEEKEND TO REMEMBER; SPOTLIGHT ON FAMILYLIFE'S MARRIAGE GETAWAY

Back in March a small group of courageous couples from First Presbyterian Church ventured out to Waltham to spend a weekend away to focus-on and enhance their marriage at the FamilyLife Weekend to Remember. What did they discover there? Encouragement, fresh inspiration, and practical tools & principals to build and strengthen their unions.



The conference, spanning from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, consisted of hour-long sessions on relevant and applicable topics such as: Unlocking the Mystery of Marriage, What Every Marriage Needs, We Fight Too, Why Marriages Fail, From How to WOW, How Marriages Thrive, etc. The sessions were lead by husband and wife teams with years of marital wisdom to impart; yet they were very honest and real about sharing stories of their own blunders and hard times along the way.

The getaway was very well organized and professionally put together. (And I am known to be quite particular when it comes to details.) They did a fine job of keeping the sessions interesting with a good balance of light-hearted comical moments, video clips for material emphasis, and of course plenty of rich and invaluable content to glean. For one session they split the spouses, with one talk just for husbands and the other for the wives, but they never called on anyone from the crowd to speak nor did they ask us to break into small groups. (Which some people might find

intimidating, especially with strangers.)

Three segments included time alone for the couples to complete a section in the workbook together to help apply and respond to the material presented. Even though they kept us very busy, making the most of the weekend, Saturday night was reserved as

Date Night; a chance for couples to spend quality time alone, to re-connect and take advantage of being away from daily pressures and routines.

Overall, FamilyLife did a great job of putting together a conference that met everyone where they were in their individual marriages; whether thriving or struggling, whether married over 50 years or newlyweds. They truly have a passion for helping couples achieve strong and healthy God-honoring marriages that will stand the test of time. It's well worth the investment of your time and money – because it's an investment in your marriage – which may be one of the wisest investments you ever make.

Cindy Williams

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