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PASTORAL MUSINGS By Charles Telfer



“Comfort, comfort, my people”, says your God. These well-known words from Isaiah 40:1 summarize much of what we need. Dare we admit it? We need comfort. When God, in Isaiah, speaks of comfort, he refers to giving his people everything of which they stand in need. We think of salvation as forgiveness of sins, and that is a glorious thing! But Isaiah's understanding of salvation is even richer. Isaiah thinks of salvation as the overthrow of everything that is wrong with the world, the restoration of all the goodness that God infused into his creation in the beginning, and the bringing of all things to a climax of glory and splendor. As our text for preaching on Sept 5th says, “They shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (51:11). Christ has saved us (past and present), but we (like Isaiah himself) still must wait for the full and final salvation to be delivered to us on the last day. One of the central descriptions of the believer in Isaiah is as one who “waits” for God. We are the people who have our hope in him; our confident expectation for good in the future

rests squarely and securely on Yahweh himself. He is able to fulfill all his promises and to introduce us into his glorious presence in the new heavens and earth, where we will live contented and rejoicing forever.

In our Sunday morning services, we are exploring some of the riches of this theme in Isaiah of the comfort the Lord has promised his people. In the evening services, we too are exploring the theme of comfort (as we pursue a series of topical sermons inspired by the Heidelberg Catechism). We are considering “The Glories of Being a Christian.” We are thinking about the benefits we receive in connection to Christ, who is resurrected, ascended, seated at the right hand of the Father, and coming again for us. FYI, those who missed any of the series of sermons on Proverbs chapters 1-9 over the summer are welcome to request a copy from Matt Anema—the whole series is easily available on one disk in MP3 format (or in another format should you desire). Also, in our men's studies, which meet every other Wednesday at 7:15 pm at the Baker's Square on Rt. 83, we have been using 1 Timothy as a basis for our conversation and will soon be starting 2 Timothy. (continued on page 2)



(continued Pastoral Musings from pg. 1)

On a personal note, thanks to all who prayed for me as I went to Guatemala City in August, for 6 days of lecturing on the history of the interpretation of the Bible, at the Central American Theological Seminary. The fellowship was sweet, the listeners (students, faculty and pastors) were engaged, and the time was personally invigorating for me. It is always a privilege to see some of the multifaceted beauty of Christ's international bride. Meeting students and faculty from over 22 countries, all seeking to serve the Lord and his church, was a moving experience indeed. Let us pray that this coming year will be, for us here in Chicagoland, one of growth and flourishing together in the Lord.



WOPC Summer Family Events

By Jennifer Harris

On July 12th, huddled under one umbrella on a soggy day, three ladies scampered to the McCormick mansion at Cantigny for a tour. The tour was very intriguing. At Le Jardin, the three ladies-- Rhonda Telfer, Paula Fry, and Shana Anema-- had a sandwich luncheon while looking out to the property's spacious gardens. These ladies are looking forward to returning to Cantigny on a better day to tour the flower gardens. Cantigny is reasonably priced for any individual or family to tour.

On June 23rd, the Harris and Fry families gathered on a beautiful day at Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago. The costumed tour guides took much time to explain each building and machinery at this working pioneer farm. The children asked many questions about former ways of living without electricity and modern conveniences. The buildings are spaced rather closely and easy to access, without much walking. Live animals in fenced areas include: horses, chickens, sheep, and calves. The families enjoyed a shaded picnic area for lunch and shopping time in the gift shop. For those looking for free places to visit or bike, this farm makes a nice family outing.

60th Year Celebration

Westminster Church is celebrating its 60th year as a congregation in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Beginning as a mission work in the LaGrange/Westchester area, God has truly blessed this congregation during these past years.

Join us for the celebration on Sunday, October 17th. Rev. Ivan DeMaster, pastor of WOPC for 20 years, will preach during the worship service. During the Sunday school period, a review of Westminster's history will be discussed; a luncheon will follow.

(continued Summer Activities)

On July 16th, several families gathered at the Harris home for Family Game Night. The families included: Anema's, Harris', Horner's, Charles and Rhonda Telfer, and Betty and Sandy Mikes. First, hot pizza was served. Once everyone had eaten, the Games began. The adults agreed to play one game altogether: Identity Crisis. This game is played in rounds that test memory of famous people, using descriptive words associated with those famous people. The children played together with toys and games.

On July 30th, the Little Red Schoolhouse was visited by the Fry family, the Anemas, Pat Martens, and Sandy Mikes. The nature museum is housed in a larger building now. The children observed native animals and amphibians in cages and tanks. The morning was complete after a nature hike around the pond.

We thank Rhonda, Jennifer, and Pat for organizing these events for fellowship.



Visit to Kline Creek Farm

Reflections

By Maureen McHugh

Last month, we lost a young sister in the faith, Lauren Doherty, from our fellow Bethel OPC congregation in Wheaton.

Lauren was young, a few weeks away from turning 13, which was all the more heart-wrenching when we learned that she had chosen to take her own life. Those of us who knew Lauren were familiar with her cheerfulness and helpfulness, her warm, bright, and engaging personality, and her strong faith in the Lord at such a young age.

We cannot claim to know or understand what goes on in the mind of a young person when contemplating such a decision of finality. What we can and do know is that the deception and lies of Satan are very real and it should be a very sobering lesson to us all that tragedies like this can happen in any one of our families. What we also know is that God is eternally sovereign and that He uses even unthinkable circumstances like these for His own purposes and, yes, His own glory.

As unimaginable and difficult as it has been for the Doherty family, I have already witnessed God being glorified in the aftermath of this life-changing event. God has been glorified in the support given to the Dohertys through the body of Christ. God has also been glorified through the testimony of Lauren's parents, Ray and Karen, who have trusted and continue to trust in God's sovereign will and are comforted through God's Word upholding them on a daily basis. As members in the body of Christ, may we continue to uphold them in our prayers in the days and months ahead.

Ladies Bible Study

For this year's Bible study, the ladies will be participating in Focus on the Family's "The Truth Project".

The Truth Project addresses the worldwide struggle or battle, if you will, that "is raging for the hearts and minds of people, putting the truth claims of God against the lies of the world, the flesh, and the devil".

In essence, The Truth Project provides a Bible-based Christian Worldview and includes areas of study or "tours" such as Philosophy and Ethics, Anthropology, Science, History, Sociology, and many others. We will study about who God is, His creation and divine societal order, and His purposes for us in all spheres of life.

This study will provide an opportunity to not only solidify our faith through the truth claims of Scripture, but also truly transform our hearts and minds by getting to know God more deeply. The study will equip us to resist conforming to this world, as well as, equip us to have an impact on those with whom we come in contact.

Soli Deo Gloria!
Maureen McHugh

Children's Sunday School

Preschool: God Leads His People - God's thrilling rescue of Israel from Egypt and how the Old Testament points to the Savior

Younger Elementary: Obeying God - stories about the prophets and kings

Older Elementary: Matthew to John - the life, work and teachings of Christ in the Gospels

Jr. High: God's Grace in You - God's covenant plan and how we fit into it

Audio Sermons

Do you wish you could hear Pastor Alan Strange's sermon on Esau's birthright one more time? Would you like to listen to Pastor Telfer's series on wisdom again? The sermons are recorded each week. If you would like a recording of a specific sermon or series of sermons, we can make a copy on a CD or e-mail a copy to you. To request a copy, speak to Matt or Shana Anema or e-mail us at manema4@yahoo.com.

Treasurer's Update - Through July 31, 2010

We are experiencing extraordinary blessings this year in our general fund. General Fund receipts this year are \$42,336.06 compared to last year's \$38,970.64. An amazing 8.6% increase for the first 7 months of the year! Praise the Lord for his provision for Westminster. This increase in general fund receipts has allowed me to reduce the amount of money needed from our investment accounts by 5,000 dollars this year. With interest rates down over the last couple years, our investment fund has not had the same returns as in years past, so being able to reduce our withdrawals is indeed a wonderful situation to be in. In an economy that remains soft, to show this kind of increase is remarkable. My thanks to every member of the congregation, our friends from the Nuevo Pueblo ministry, and our regular visitors for making my work a lot easier so far this year. The spirit of giving has certainly been evident at Westminster this year!

Tom Martens

Recipe Corner

Butternut Squash Soup, 2004 Food Network

(Steve and Patty say this is a good one)

Ingredients

3T olive oil

1 onion, thinly sliced

4 cloves garlic, smashed

2 fresh sage leaves

2 t salt

Ground black pepper

2 medium canned tomatoes

1 medium butternut squash (about 2 lbs),
peeled, halved, seeded, diced

4c chicken broth or water

2t balsamic vinegar

2T grated Parmesan cheese

Directions

Heat the olive oil in a soup pot over medium heat. Add the onion, garlic, sage, 1 t of the salt and season with pepper to taste. Cook, covered, stirring occasionally, until soft and fragrant, about 15 minutes. Raise heat to med-high, add the tomatoes, and cook, stirring until the tomatoes break up and the onions brown slightly, about 7 minutes. Add the squash and

the remaining salt, and continue to cook, stirring occasionally, until the squash is tender, about 12 minutes. Add the broth, bring to a simmer, and cook, uncovered, until the vegetables tender, about 20 minutes. Set aside to cool slightly.

Working in batches, puree the soup in a blender, or with an immersion blender. Return the soup to the pot and reheat over medium heat. Stir in the vinegar. Serve the soup in warm bowls with a touch of parm cheese if desired.

Calling all Women to Women's Presbyterial of the Midwest

Saturday, September 25, 2010

9am-3pm

Bethel Orthodox Presbyterian Church

609 Center Ave, Oostburg, Wisconsin

Guest speakers:

Jim Bosgraf, Regional Home Missionary of the Midwest; John Ro, Pastor of Gospel Life Presbyterian in Chicago, IL; John Hilbelink, Pastor of Providence in Rockford, IL

This will be a day of education and prayer. If you are looking to spend a day doing something constructive for the church, you are encouraged to come and participate. We will be praying for each church in the Presbytery. Light breakfast, lunch and a nursery will be provided free of charge. An offering will be received to support a mission work. Motels are available in Sheboygan and Belgium.

Want more information? Contact Joan Theune, 262-786-8145.

Ladies Morning Bible Study and Extra Church Events

Ladies Morning Bible Study

Most Fridays 9 – 11 am

September 10 and 17 – Lesson 1

October 1 and 8 – Lesson 2

October 15 and 22 – Lesson 3

November 5 and 12 – Lesson 4

December 3 and 17 – Lesson 5

January 14 and 21 – Lesson 6

February 4 and 18 – Lesson 7

March 4 and 11 – Lesson 8

March 18 and April 1 – Lesson 9

April 8 and 15 – Lesson 10

April 22 and May 6 – Lesson 11

May 13 and 20 – Lesson 12

Additional Activities

September 24 – Apple Orchard Trip ???

October 29 – Adult Game Night @ 6:00pm @
Hvizdos Home

November 19 – Ladies Movie Night @ 7:00pm
@ Telfer Home

December 5 – Church wide Christmas Party @
4:00pm @ Fry Home

December 10 – Ladies Christmas Party @
7:00pm @ Mikes Home

January 28 – Ladies & Girls over 12 A Few of my
favorite things get to Know you Party @ 7:00pm
at Harris Home

February 12 – Adult Valentines Party @ 6:00pm
@ McHugh Home

March 26 – Church wide Talent Night @ 5:30pm
@ WOPC (Anema)

April 29 – Ministry Project @ 7:00pm @
Martens Home

Please Join the Fall Seminar on Presbytery Eve

Preaching with Experiential and Practical
Application

Dr. Joel R. Beeke

Thursday, September 16, 7:00 PM

Bethel Presbyterian Church
1401 S Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

LIVE RADIO BROADCAST & CONFERENCE Sept 24 & 25, 2010

at Chicago Christian High School
12001 S. Oak Park Avenue
Palos Heights, IL
\$30 Registration*

Friday Evening (registration from 5:30 - 7:30)
7:30 - 9:00 PM

Live recording of White Horse Inn with usual cast of characters
featuring a discussion on "The Sufficiency of Scripture" from
7:35 - 8:30PM. Time of Q&A from 8:30 - 9:00PM.

Saturday Doors open 7:30AM,
Presentations begin 8:30AM - 1PM

Conference with 4 sessions lead by Rev. Dr. Rod Rosenblatt,
Rev. Ken Jones, Rev. Kim Riddlebarger, and Rev. Dr. Michael
Horton