

Eastminster Eagle

Volume 42, Issue 8

August 2025

Dear Members and Friends,

I recently read a book called *The Wrong Side of Paris* by 19th century French author Honoré de Balzac about a young man who was struggling to find his purpose in life. He decided he would give up his ambition of being rich and famous and live a simple life. He rented a cheap room in a boarding house in the heart of Paris and discovered that he had found a secret society of people who dedicated themselves to help other people start new lives.

They all went to worship together on Sundays, they ate together, they all read a chapter of 'Thomas 'a Kempis' *Imitation of Christ* every day. They were focused on following Christ and helping people in need. They pooled all their financial resources together so that they always had enough to help people whose financial crises kept them from moving forward in life. All they needed to do their mission was to find people in dire need who were willing to do their part.

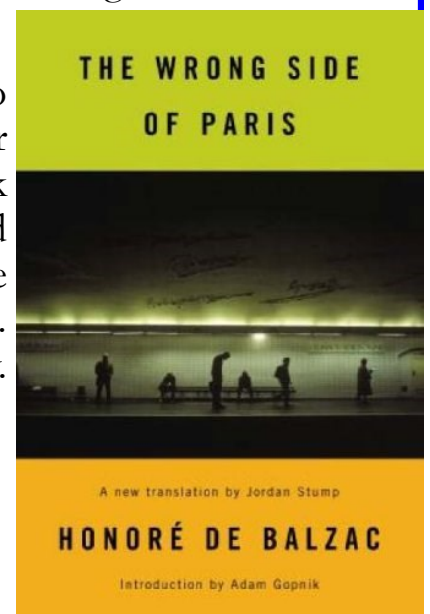
Though there was only 5 of them, they were quietly changing lives one by one. Once they discovered a person or family in need they would partner with them in meeting their challenges. The young man had found his purpose. He entrusted all that he had with the little society of Christ and began his new life.

It's a great model for a church. The problem is that we live such separate lives. We live apart from each other. We keep our money to ourselves. Our time is devoted to personal pursuits of happiness. I want to challenge you to take steps toward making the church and its mission of living in the Way of Christ—living for others—the center of your life. You will find your true purpose.

Maybe we won't be all living together every day, but we can go to worship together, eat together, read the Bible and other spiritual books together. We can pool our resources and work together to change lives. We can learn to imitate Christ and bring his grace and love into the lives of others who are desperate for a new life and just need a partner to help them. We have many more than five people in our little society. Imagine what we could do!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



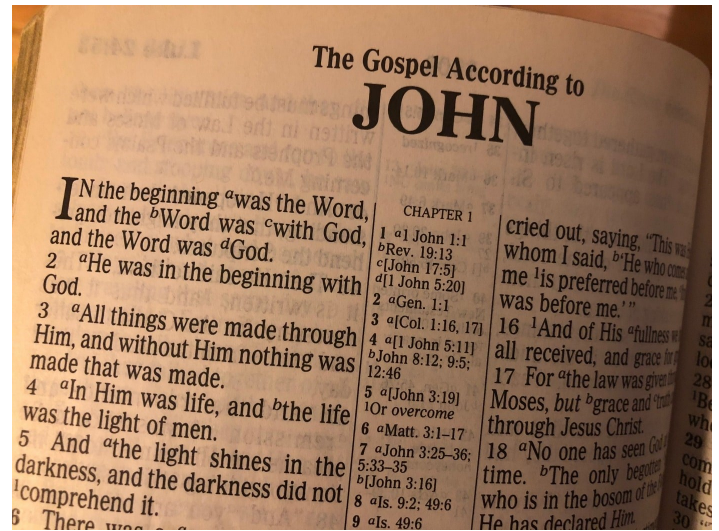


The Christian Education and Congregational Care Committees are inviting you to join us for Rally Day on September 7, 2025.

Naturally, we'll have a meal to begin our fall programming. Our potluck meal features a Mexican theme. Watch the bulletin for a sign-up list of items that we will need for the luncheon.

As a special treat, the Outreach Committee has secured a jazz pianist and vocalist for our luncheon program.

The Choir and Sunday School Teachers will be commission on Rally Day, Sunday, September 7 during the Worship Service.



The Wednesday Bible Study resumes on August 6. We'll be studying the Book of John.

Join us in the Conference Room at 10:30 a.m.

August Sermons and Scriptures

8-3 Hosea 11:1-11, Luke 12:13-21 The Riches of Relationship

8-10 Isaiah 1:1, 10-20, Luke 12:32-40 Investing in the Kingdom of God

8-17 Isaiah 5:1-7, Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Living Up to God's Expectations

8-24 Isaiah 58:9b-14, Luke 13:10-17 A God of Deliverance

8-31 Pulpit Guest Rev. Diane Pennington



Spotlight on BRYSTON PALACIOS

Have you ever been in the presence of someone you know is destined for wonderful and meaningful things? That was my joy in speaking with Bryston Palacios!

Bryston was born in Dallas on May 13, 2008, and in his family there five brothers and three sisters. His dad lives in Dallas, his mom lives in Arlington, while he lives in Mesquite with an older brother. This year, Bryston is a junior at North Mesquite High School where he is the varsity football team quarterback. He has had a football in his hands since he was very young, tossing the ball in the yard with his dad. His love of football grew stronger as he aged.

Late last year, Bryston, an avid reader, decided he needed to study the world's major religions to determine which one made sense and in which one he would believe and worship. The studied faiths included Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Christianity, as well as discovering more in depth the Catholic faith in which he was raised, attending with his dad and mom. He can tell you the merits of each, whether similarities to Christianity exist, and why he is a Christian. He is a very serious researcher!

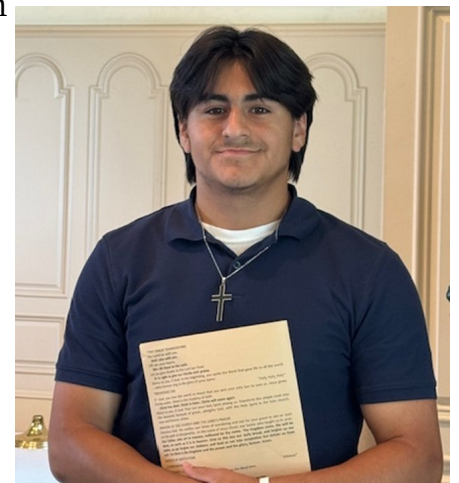
Bryston owns several Bibles and books on other faiths. In Bible translations, he has an

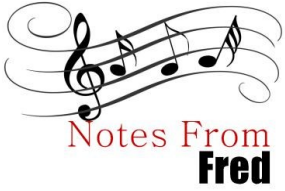
NIV, an ESV, a KJV, and a copy of the Quran (Koran). He is firm in his faith as a 17-year-old Christian. He can debate, discuss, question and quote scripture that his young mind absorbs!

When life gets stressful, Bryston heads to the park, spending time in nature meditating, reading, or listening to music to unwind. In trying to discover fun facts about him, or his interests, he just smiles and says reading, learning about Christianity, and playing football! If he has a "bucket list" for his future, it includes travel, especially to Jerusalem. His real desire is to share his faith with children and young people, teaching them about Jesus Christ and how they should live as His followers, not living and acting as the sinful world does.

Bryston requested New Testament Bibles to share with friends and people he speaks with about our Lord. Our church is helping with that request. We are very blessed to call Bryston our brother in Christ!

And so....you know when you are in the presence of someone very special and chosen by God!





“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.” Some

congregations may take these words, sung weekly, for granted. Like many parts of the liturgy, their roots extend deeply into our praise and prayer. *The Gloria Patri* and the *Doxology* are #580 and #581 in our *Glory to God* hymnal.

The text of the *Gloria Patri* falls under the broader category of doxology, which comes from the Greek word “doxologia,” meaning “words of glory.”

Doxology has its roots in Hebrew liturgy and the Psalms, specifically in the kaddish. The kaddish is a doxology recited after the verses of a song, signaling the conclusion of a section of the liturgy and serving various forms and purposes.

In the Jewish context, a doxology blesses the One God and God’s everlasting nature. For example, Psalm 41:13 states: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen and Amen” (KJV). This is a form of berakhah (blessing or benediction) that pervades Jewish liturgy and life. The Sh’ma is the most famous and prevalent statement in Reform Jewish liturgy that addresses these criteria:

“Sh’ma Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Eḥad (הַיְיָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד יְשׁוּבָה מִן עִשְׂרֵי אֱלֹהִים לַיהוָה אֶחָד)

“Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One.” (Deuteronomy 6:4)

Baruch shem k’vod malchuto l’olam vaed (בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד)

“Blessed is/be the name of the glory/honor of His kingdom forever and ever.”

The “Baruch” is a berakhah added in the rabbinic tradition. It is very similar to Psalm 72:19: “Blessed be His glorious name forever.” I had the privilege, as a member of the choir, to sing these at Temple Emanuel, the Synagogue on Douglas, and the Kol Amin congregation in Flower Mount.

Early Christians adapted the Jewish form of prayer to include references to the Triune God and the eternal nature of the Trinity, often expressed as

“world without end.” Scholars suggest that the initial trinitarian formula is derived from the Great Commission in the Gospel of Matthew: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Any trinitarian affirmation at the end of a prayer is known as a “doxology.”

The Lesser Doxology has been chanted in Latin for centuries at the conclusion of psalms and canticles, particularly during daily monastic prayers. The Greater Doxology is the fourth-century hymn *Gloria in excelsis Deo*, which begins with an incipit taken from the angel’s canticle found in Luke 2:14. This canticle, although non-biblical, was introduced during the fourth-century Christological controversies as a response to Arianism—a doctrine associated with Arius (c. 256–336) that claimed Jesus was subordinate to God the Father. The Gloria has since become a standard part of the ordinary (fixed) sections of the Roman Catholic Mass, except during Advent and Lent when it is omitted.

Protestants often restrict the doxology to a single stanza from the morning and evening hymns written by Anglican Bishop Thomas Ken (1637–1711) for a boarding school for boys. While the four lines of this well-known stanza are Trinitarian in nature, Ken does not specifically mention the eternal aspect of the Trinity. Instead, he emphasizes the cosmic scope of our praise to God, which encompasses both earth and heaven.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

We sing the *Gloria Patri* to the Greater tune #581, and sometimes we use the

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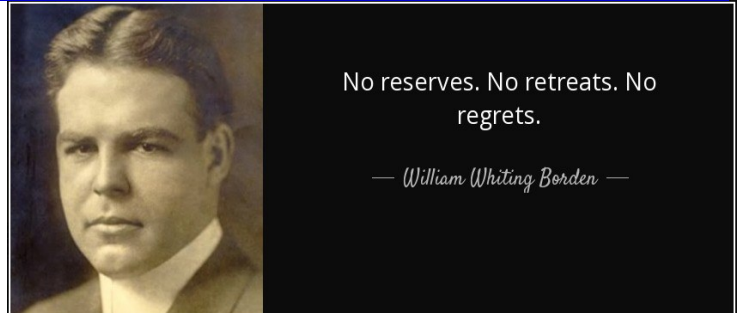
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Meneke tune, which was included in the 1940s *Presbyterian Hymnal* but is not present in *Glory to God*. We often sing the more recent version #582. There is also another version known as the Old Scottish Version.

Similar to the Jewish tradition of incorporating their own version of the *Doxology* and *Gloria Patri* in various sections, Christian hymn writers often use phrases from both in their hymns. For example, you can find them in well-known hymns such as *All Creatures of Our God and King* (#15, GTG) and *Now Thank We All Our God* (#643, GTG). More contemporary writers have also included these phrases in hymns like *Baptized with Water* (#482, GTG) and *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love* (#300, GTG). There is a more contemporary version in Dutch. Check this one out on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWV3aAPjMzo

There is much more to say about the various versions of the Gloria and the Doxology, as well as their uses in liturgy and in many sacred anthems and choral pieces. However, the main purpose of researching the Gloria and Doxology is to remind you of their long-standing place in our liturgy, dating back to the early 1st century. These texts serve as praises to God and remind us each week of one of the cornerstone beliefs of Christianity: the doctrine of the Trinity. I hope that, as with all our hymns and music, you will take some time to meditate on the words of these pieces.

May all we do and sing be to the praise and glory of God.



No reserve, retreat or regrets

William Borden (1887-1913) was a Yale grad and the heir to his family's fortune. But he left behind a life of riches and comfort to become a Christian missionary. Before arriving in China, where he had hoped to share the gospel with the Kansu people, Borden died of spinal meningitis at just 25 years old. According to legend, the words "No Reserve," "No Retreat" and "No Regrets" were later found in Borden's Bible.

Unlike the men who told Jesus they had to handle some family business before following him (see Luke 9:57-62), Borden didn't waver or stall. Some people might say Borden "didn't make a good trade," writes Kyle Idleman in his book *Not a Fan*. Borden "gave up his family, his fortune and a future career to follow Jesus," Idleman writes, "and he died before he reached the mission field. But this man ... knew he had made the right decision."

By committing completely to Christ, Borden inspired other mission workers and pastors, including Idleman. "Say no to self and yes to Jesus every time," Borden wrote in his journal. More than a century after his death, that no-regrets message lives on.

Goodbye and Hello!

Eastminster has been extremely blessed to have Chandra Anderson as its Administrative Assistant for the past 15 years. Chandra is retiring at the end of August. The good news is that she isn't going anywhere! You will still see her smiling face on Sundays and in the choir loft. Please be sure to thank Chandra for her faithful service in whatever way you feel led.

We are also pleased to announce that we have hired a new Administrative Assistant. Cathy Shingle will join the Eastminster team on August 18th. She is a lifelong Presbyterian having grown up at our nearby sister church St. Mark Presbyterian Church. For the past 7 years she has served as the Administrative Assistant at First Presbyterian Church of Garland. In addition to beginning at Eastminster she will also serve at St. Mark. She will work on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at



Eastminster and Tuesdays and Thursday at St. Mark.

Let us give thanks for Chandra and Cathy! God is good!



Summer dining for July was at B. J.'s in Mesquite. We missed Frank and Chandra and Toni Bacon, but were pleased to welcome Victoria and Bill for the evening.

As always, we had a wonderful time with good friends and good food, and everyone enjoyed a pizookie for dessert.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our last summer dining on August 12th at Haystack Burgers in Lakewood. We will meet at 6:00p.m. Come and join us for a night of fun and laughter.



A path of persistence

Some Christian converts in an overseas village were diligent about daily prayer. In the thicket outside town, they each had a place where they prayed in solitude. Over time, these believers wore pathways through the brush to their special prayer areas. If someone neglected his or her prayer life, it was evident because fresh grass started growing on that footpath. Out of concern, fellow Christians offered this loving reminder: “Friend, there’s grass growing on your path.”

How worn is your own path to prayer? Are you persistent when answers don’t seem to come? Do you trust that God will answer your prayers, according to his good and gracious will?

When you grow weary, remember this promise in Galatians 6:9 (NIV). “At the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Why Christian community is key

Jesus’ followers aren’t meant to pursue faith by themselves. In fact, that’s impossible! A family and the body signify plural members. It is among brothers and sisters in Christ that we:

- ◆ experience our Savior’s presence, living and incarnate;
- ◆ unite in worship, confess our sins, hear the gospel and receive Communion;
- ◆ accept church discipline through the gentle guidance of others;
- ◆ learn — through other people’s examples and experiences — what it means to live a life of discipleship;
- ◆ and lovingly serve together as Jesus’ hands and feet.

Captivity transformed

In Jesus’ first sermon in Nazareth, he read from Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ... to bring good news to the poor ... to proclaim release to the captives” (Luke 4:18, NRSV). Then he declared this Scripture fulfilled — in him. Ever since, in countless ways, Jesus has transformed captivity and dead ends into freedom and new beginnings.

A modern instance is a lovely new apartment complex built out of Lorton (Virginia) Reformatory, a prison that operated from 1910 to 2001. The beautifully renovated apartments — fittingly named Liberty Crest — opened in 2017. This project demonstrates wise stewardship by channeling new life into an old space, and care for people in need by reserving more than 25% of the units for low-income renters. Whether this project’s developers are disciples of Jesus or not, the divine power of resurrection has been at work through them.

We’re all held captive by something: illness, debt, oppression, violence, our own sin or another sort of dead end. But Jesus brings liberty where only prison was known. He transforms death into life, despair into hope, endings into bright new beginnings. May we who follow him do the same.

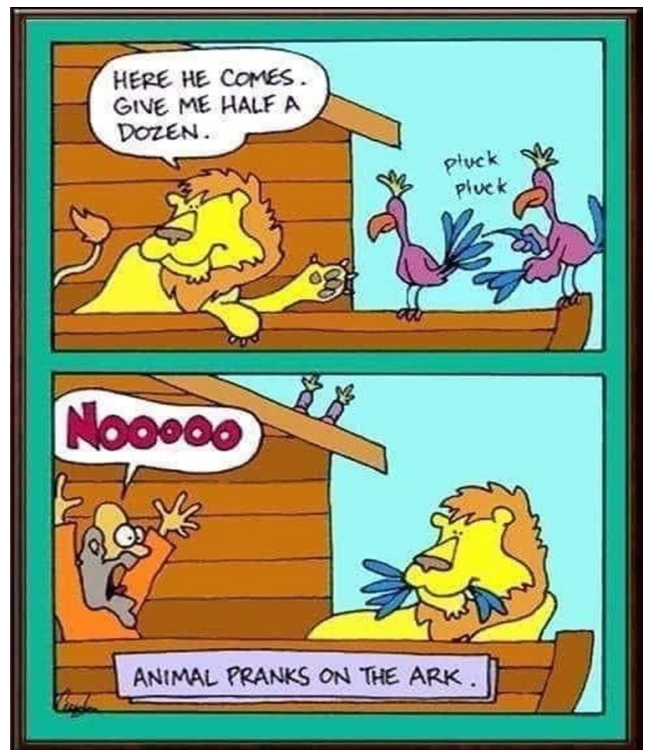


For years, King David showed special kindness to the son of King Saul's son Jonathan, because David and Jonathan had been dear friends. Which of the following statements is not accurate?

- A. The name of King Saul's grandson was Mephibosheth.
- B. He was lame in both feet.
- C. His feet had been injured when he was 5.
- D. He was injured while playing with his brothers.

Answer: D (See 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-7; 21:7.)

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?" One child answered, "Mary." The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?" A little kid said, "Verge." Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?" The kid said, "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge 'n' Mary."



Scripture Readings for August

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Acts 17:1-15 | 11 Acts 20:17-38 | 22 Acts 24:24-25:12 |
| 2 Acts 17:16-34 | 12 Acts 21:1-14 | 23 Acts 25:13-27 |
| 3 Rom. 14:7-12 | 13 Acts 21:15-26 | 24 Gal. 3:23-4:7 |
| 4 Acts 18:1-11 | 14 Acts 21:27-36 | 25 Acts 26:1-23 |
| 5 Acts 18:12-28 | 15 Acts 21:37-22:16 | 26 Acts 26:24-27:8 |
| 6 Acts 19:1-10 | 16 Acts 22:17-29 | 27 Acts 27:9-26 |
| 7 Mark 9:2-13 | 17 Gal. 3:6-14 | 28 Acts 27:27-44 |
| 8 Matt. 25:31-46 | 18 Acts 22:30-23:11 | 29 Acts 28:1-16 |
| 9 Acts 20:1-16 | 19 Acts 23:12-24 | 30 Acts 28:17-31 |
| 10 Rom. 15:1-13 | 20 Acts 23:25-35 | 31 1 Tim. 4:7b-16 |
| | 21 Acts 24:1-23 | |

Puzzle!

The biblical calendar had many feasts and festivals. They were connected with the changing of the seasons or special events.

Use the code to find the name of the special days the Israelites observed.

CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

SEASON

HOLIDAY

1. End of Summer

New Year

I L H S S Z H S Z M Z S

2. Fall

Day of Atonement

B L N P R K K F I

3. Fall

Festival of Booths

H F P P L G S

4. Winter

Festival of Rededication

S Z M F P P Z S

5. Winter

Festival of Lots

K F I R N

6. Spring

Festival of Unleavened Bread

K Z H H L E V I

7. Spring

Feast of Weeks/Pentecost

H S Z E F L G

“Allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise, and love.”
—St. Teresa of Avila

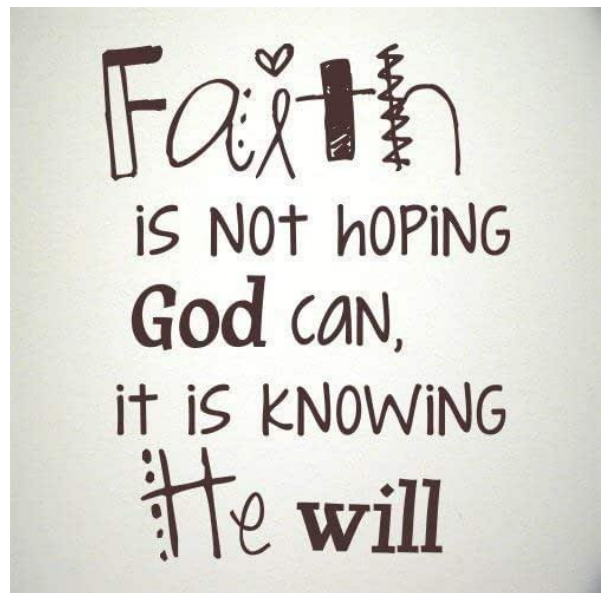
“Time spent in prayer is never wasted.” —François Fénelon

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”
—William Arthur Ward

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
—Nelson Mandela

“Your Life as a Christian should make non-believers question their disbelief in God.”
—Dietrich Boenhoffer

“When we work, we work. When we pray, God Works.”
—Hudson Taylor



Answers: 1. Rosh Hashanah, 2. Yom Kippur, 3. Sukkoth, 4. Hanukkah, 5. Purim, 6. Passover, 7. Shavuot

Fixer-uppers

Summer is peak time for home renovations and remodeling projects. Those can be super stressful, starting with the selection of a contractor.

In a blog about her own family's construction plans, Laura Elliott explains the challenge: "It's not just any builder I want. I want one who has impeccable workmanship, is completely trustworthy and delivers our long-awaited [projects] early and under-budget." After sifting through bids and reviews, she discovered that most builders "look like they do pretty similar work for a pretty similar price."



For spiritual renovations, however, the choice is clear. "God is the builder of everything," says Hebrews 3:4 (NIV). Elliott writes, "Jesus is not only the builder of His Father's house, but He is the buyer, and the heir as well." And what he's building, she adds, is "a better Bride," his church.

Faith upgrades are an ongoing, lifelong process. "The renewal of our natures is a work of great importance," said 18th-century minister George Whitefield. "It is not to be done in a day. We have not only a new house to build up, but an old one to pull down." It's a good thing God oversees this project!

—Stephanie Martin

Lifelong learners

"If you don't have wisdom that goes with knowledge, you are only a walking encyclopedia," wrote Jack Wellman, a Kansas pastor. "A book of knowledge is useless without the wisdom to know how to apply that knowledge. ... Information without transformation leads only to frustration."

Consider the many benefits of wisdom — and how you can use what you've acquired to serve God, your church and your community. To better fulfill your calling, what wisdom might you yet need to acquire?

As another school year begins, here's a prayer for students of all ages: All-wise, all-knowing God, make us willing learners and seekers of your wisdom, not for the gain of knowledge for its own sake, but that we might handle every situation we face with the wisdom of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

—adapted from *The Wired Word*





Shirlene Watkins	8/1
Margret Pearce	8/6
Toni Bacon	8/18
Janet Muller	8/25
Jim Lee	8/28



Denise & Tony Bennett	8/4
Kathy & Tim Kreger	8/13
Denise & Oscar Veloz	8/24



- Chandra Anderson
- Melody Davis
- Philis Knox
- Dick Knox
- Kathy Kreger
- Michele Pappas
- Bruce Turner
- Patience Uche
- Darlene West



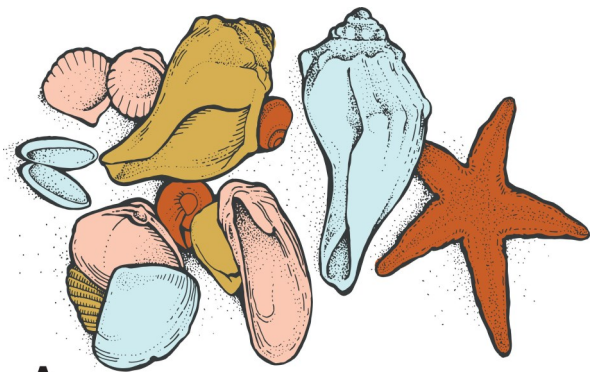
Pastor	Rev. Dr. Paul Burns
Director of Music	Fred P. Watkins
Organist	Melody S. Davis
Administrative Assistant	Chandra Anderson
Hostess/Housekeeper	Minerva Hernandez
Child Care Provider	Betty Crabtree
Audio/Visual Technician	Sean Turner





Special Dates

- ◆ Sandcastle Day, August 2
- ◆ Friendship Day, August 3
- ◆ Sisters Day, August 3
- ◆ National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day, August 4
- ◆ National Purple Heart Day, August 7
- ◆ Happiness Happens Day, August 8
- ◆ International Cat Day, August 8
- ◆ Book Lover's Day, August 9
- ◆ Middle Child's Day, August 9
- ◆ National Vinyl Record Day, August 12
- ◆ Left Hander's Day, August 13
- ◆ National Waffle Day, August 24
- ◆ National Dog Day, August 26



August