

“THE GATHERING” POST

Summer 2006

From the desk of Pastor McClain



I'm Going Fishin'

A message for teens-parents and everyone

Some of us say, “I’m going fishing,” others say “I’m going camping,” I’m going to the shore,” or “I’m going to the mountains.” All of us like a change of pace during the summer months. It is necessary to get away from the daily routine. That is one reason the Lord God said, “you shall work 6 days, and on the 7th day you shall rest.”

David Egner tells of some missionaries who had a sign posted to keep them from getting so busy in their work that they did not have time for their friends or their families. The sign read:

**IF YOU'RE TOO BUSY
FOR FISHIN'
YOU'RE TOO BUSY!**

What a powerful reminder! We must not neglect our work and summer obligations; however we must relax and enjoy our friends and families.

“I’m going fishing.” These words were spoken by Peter. He needed a change of pace from being a student of Jesus. He had a troubled heart. The world for him had fallen in, so the sensible thing seemed to be to go fishing. This change of pace worked for Peter. He found new confidence in himself. He strengthened his ties with Jesus.

As we begin our summertime activities, they should bring the same results. We need to get refreshed physically and mentally. Of even greater importance is the need for spiritual refreshment.

Even though we are “going fishin’” the work of The Church on the Mall goes on; the need is there for your prayers and your support. When you are home, Christ calls you to be part of worship, mission projects, and special activities. As you vacation, take time to worship Him.

Jesus says: “Come to me all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.” May you find that rest which comes from including Jesus Christ in all your summer activities.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Evangelism/Nuture Ministry	2
Treasurer's Report	2
Birthdays/Anniversaries	3
“Scars”	3

Evangelism/Nuture Committee

On May 15th several members and friends completed the 15 week course of Kerygma Bible Study on the Old Testament. Dr. James Di Raddo taught the entire 15 week course and his excitement for God’s Word and His love for teaching was contagious. I can honestly say, that all of our lives have been greatly enriched spiritually.

On the last Monday, in January (Jan. 29th) 2007, we will begin the 15 week of study in the New Testament and we continue in the Kerygma Bible study series. We are excited that Pastor Jim has agreed to continue with his teach-

ings. If you are interested in being a part of the New Testament classes, completing the Old Testament is not a pre-requisite. Talk to either Joan Rhodes or Lydia about participating so that we can purchase a study book for you..

In the beginning of May, Pastor Dick McClain began a study of the Beatitudes on Wednesdays at lunchtime from 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm. Bring your lunch and join us in the sanctuary at COTM. Invite your friends to join us.

Beginning in September on the last Monday of September (Sept. 25th), we

will begin a six to eight week study of Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts. This class will begin at 7:00 pm. All are invited to join us as together we discover our spiritual gifts. This class will be facilitated by Lydia Abel and Donna Holstein.

If you are interested in becoming part of a small group Bible study, please let Lydia or Joan Rhodes know.

If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31b, 32

Treasurer's Report

Our Spring Fling Fund Drive netted 2314.
 Memorial fund received up to May 31st was 1520.
 Capital campaign pledge received Jan - May 48133.
 (This included members' pledge of 18966 and Presbytery's pledge of 29167.)

Allegiance Bank -
 Loan outstanding as of May 31st was 73544.
 Interest paid up to May 31st was 3511.

Ricoh Copier payment outstanding - 10093.09.
 (Payoff in 2005 received from KDI was used to repay loan to Allegiance.)

Income & Expense -

	Monthly Budget	January	February	March	April	May	Jan-May
Local Mission	9672.92	8414.06	12460.18	7816.44	9247.57	5447.48	43385.73
Rent	8333.33	9955.00	6321.00	8878.00	7461.00	7690.00	40305.00
Tot Inc	18006.25	18369.06	18781.18	16694.44	16708.57	13137.48	83690.73
Local Mission	12427.10	8287.75	7231.86	10552.97	13924.00	11125.46	51122.04
Rent	5579.17	6753.57	4042.86	6329.94	5496.31	5166.67	27789.35
Total Exp	18006.27	15041.32	11274.72	16882.91	19420.31	16292.13	78911.39
Net		3327.74	7506.46	-188.47	-2711.74	-3154.65	4779.34



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



BIRTHDAYS:

JULY:

Elaine Potts
 Anna Marie Eisenberger
 John Hallman
 Phyllis Jones
 Karen Kopen
 Rev. Allen Kinloch
 Kenneth Sams
 John Spiece
 Lisa Ann Wheeler
 Matthew Carbo
 Dean Eisenberger
 Pete Scattergood
 Melvin Sams

August:

Carol Strauser
 Mary Madden
 Joe Salamone
 Nicholas Salamone

Paul Cruz
 Rob Das
 Rachel Lepre
 Doris Bolton
 Romani George
 Laurie Capone
 Rashawn Harvey
 Natalie Smith
 Fred Thetgyi
 Steven Das
 Gabrielle Eshelman
 Gina Picard
 Daynah Carbo
 Deanna Wagner
 Judith Bruno
 Margaret Smith
 Patricia McKinney
 Helen Zimmerman
 Doreen McKinney

September:

Cheryl Edwards

Salvatore Frangioso
 Victoria McVeigh
 Andrew Carbo
 Kathryn McGill
 Elaine Weiler
 Catherine Milley
 Joseph Carbo, Sr.
 Melissa Carbo
 Mike Lavelle
 Madyleine Grebe
 Garry Holstein
 Brian Stiteler
 Ruth Ebner
 Lea Lavelle
 Rod Fancher
 Retta Johnson
 Douglas Sams
 Susan Patt

Amy Grebe
 Michael Lenzi
 Norma Mortimer
 Lydia Abel
 Edward Wheeler

ANNIVERSARIES:

JULY

David & Meg Corson
 Phyllis & Paul Jones

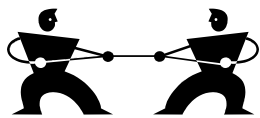
AUGUST:

Lydia & Ted Koenig

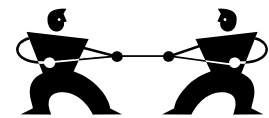
September:

Natalie & Dick Smith
 Kristin & Don Milley

CONGRATULATIONS AND
 BEST WISHES TO ALL!



Scars



Some years ago, on a hot summer day in south Florida, a little boy decided to go for a swim in the old swimming hole behind his house. In a hurry to dive into the cool water, he ran out the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks, and shirt as he went. He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore.

His father working in the yard saw the two as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, he ran toward the water, yelling to his son as loudly as he could. Hearing his voice, the little boy became alarmed and made a U-turn to swim to his father. It was too late. Just as he reached his father, the alligator reached him. From the dock, the father grabbed his little boy by the arms just as the alligator snatched his legs. That began an incredible tug-of-war between the two. The alligator was much stronger than the father, but the

father was much too passionate to let go. A farmer happened to drive by, heard his screams, raced from his truck, took aim and shot the alligator.

Remarkably, after weeks and weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived. His legs were extremely scarred by the vicious attack of the animal. And, on his arms, were deep scratches where his father's fingernails dug into his flesh in his effort to hang on to the son he loved.

The newspaper reporter who interviewed the boy after the trauma, asked if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his pant legs. And then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter, "But look at my arms. I have great scars on my arms, too. I have them because my Dad wouldn't let go."

You and I can identify with that little boy. We have scars, too. No, not from an alligator, but the scars of a painful past. Some of those scars are unsightly and have caused us deep re-

gret. But, some wounds, my friend, are because God has refused to let go. In the midst of your struggle, He's been there holding on to you.

The Scripture teaches that God loves you. You are a child of God. He wants to protect you and provide for you in every way. But sometimes we foolishly wade into dangerous situations, not knowing what lies ahead. The swimming hole of life is filled with peril - and we forget that the enemy is waiting to attack. That's when the tug-of-war begins - and if you have the scars of His love on your arms, be very, very grateful. He did not and will not ever let you go.

Please pass this on to those you love. God has blessed you, so that you can be a blessing to others. You just never know where a person is in his/her life and what they are going through. Never judge another person's scars, because you don't know how they got them.



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