

**FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN . . . . .**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The above scripture always comes to my mind as I cross the beautiful glistening lake on “The Way” to Prayer Group or Worship Services in Paradise. I wonder if we, who believe and follow Jesus Christ, are truly “fishing” for those who do not know our Lord. If you want to catch fish, you go to the lakes, rivers, or oceans where they live. The NIV translation of the text is, “Come, follow me, and **I will send you out to fish for people.**”

Jesus was criticized by the Pharisees for eating and drinking with sinners and being “a friend of publicans (hated tax collectors) and sinners” (Luke 7:34 and Matthew 11:19). His disciples even asked him why he ate with publicans and sinners. His answer, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:31-32). Our Lord has called us to do the same.

It is my prayer that the church called Paradise, planted by the lake, be fishers of people. I also pray that we are worthy to hear the words Jesus, the holy one, the true one, spoke to the church in Philadelphia: *I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name* (Revelation 3:7-9).

Shalom to you,

Pastor Judy

**MEN'S GROUP**

Because of the Labor Day holiday, Men's Group will meet on Monday, September 9, at 6:30p.m. We will continue our study of Genesis, beginning with Genesis 30. Attendees should study two or three chapters as you never know how fast the discussion will move. Come and join us as we just sit there with the scripture and try to understand how it fits the life of a 21<sup>st</sup> century man.

**OUTREACH/MISSIONS**

In August, Missions collected 50 tubes of toothpaste and 74 toothbrushes for the Smithville Food Pantry. The September collection for the pantry is canned meats. The monetary collection for September is Hillcrest Ministries.

The Missions Committee truly appreciates everyone's continued support of these mission projects. If you have questions or suggestions regarding missions and outreach, please contact Linda East or a member of the committee.

**SEPTEMBER MESSAGES**

The September worship messages are as follows:

September 1 (Pastor Judy) - “**The Fruit of Lips**” from Hebrews 13:1-8; 15-16;

September 8 (Pastor Larry) - “**The Runaway Slave**” from Philemon 1-21;

September 15 (Pastor Larry) - “**100 Sheep and Counting**” from Luke 15:1-10;

September 22 (Pastor Judy) - “**Everyone?**” from 1 Timothy 2:1-7; and

September 29 (Laity) – Guest speakers from Hillcrest Ministries.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Here is the schedule for September:

September 1 – James Moore study  
September 8 – Fellowship Sunday (bring a dish and join in the fellowship)  
September 15 – James Moore study  
September 22 – James Moore study  
September 29 – finish the James Moore study and plan the next study.

## **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY**

Just a quick reminder that we will pick up trash on Sunday, September 8. As with previous occasions, we will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Family Center to prepare and will complete the task in time to participate in Fellowship Sunday. Please join us in this very worthy endeavor.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Church Council will meet at the church on Thursday, September 19, at 6:30p.m. All elected officials are urged to attend and we also welcome anyone to come and join us.

## **FISH FRY/SILENT AUCTION**

Plans are underway for this year's Fish Fry/Silent Auction, which is on Saturday, September 21, from 5:00 to 7:00p.m. at the church. How are those ticket sales going? Proceeds from the tickets sales can be turned into Mona VanWey, Shay East, or any member of the committee. Please see Shay if you need additional tickets to sell.

We are still in need of a number of volunteers to assist the day of the event with setting up the family center, serving food, assisting with the silent auction, and cleaning up. Please let Kim Walters know if you are available to help in the kitchen and let Shay or Rick Lincoln if you can help with the silent auction. Also, please advise Rebecca Wohlford if you are willing to donate baked goods for the dessert table or as auction items.

We have had some nice items donated for the silent auction, but are still in need of more items. The items should be new or in excellent condition. If you have items to donate, please bring them to the church as soon as possible or, if you need assistance with getting the items to the church, please see Shay or Rick.

The committee will next meet on Sunday, September 8, during the fellowship hour at 10:00a.m.

## **POTLUCK SUNDAYS**

Potluck Sundays are back! Please join us and bring a friend to lunch immediately following the worship service on Sunday, September 22. Everyone is welcome!

## **MONTHLY REPORT**

The Monthly Report as of August 31, 2013, is as follows:

Beginning Balance:	\$10,482.32
Offerings:	+\$5,620.00
Expenses:	-\$3,568.33
Ending Balance:	\$12,533.99

The above offerings include the free-will offering of \$257 from the ice cream social, which will be sent to Meals on Wheels, and \$1,100 in donations from local businesses for the fish fry and silent auction.