

FAITH MATTERS

September 2023



Pastor Scott's Musings



Summer is rapidly ending. School is back in session, and now we start talking in terms of being back on a regular schedule. In addition, we begin to work through our overfilled schedules: work, school, practices, games, choir practice, hand-bell practice, committee meetings...the list goes on and on.

With all the away time of the summer and all the busyness of the “regular season,” how much time do we really have to focus on our own spiritual growth? It is tough to put aside time to focus on our spiritual growth and discipleship.

Disciples were not just simply learners in Jesus’ day, they were people who followed the master wherever he went. A disciple was a learner, a pupil, but more than just book knowledge. They learned the master’s way of life, his mannerisms, his way of speech, in short, everything about him. And they memorized everything!

When it comes to being Jesus’ disciple, He said, “*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.*” There are many different ways in which we may take up the cross of Christ, but that cannot be done through the neglect of our spiritual gifts or the spiritual disciplines.

CONT. on Page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

- Pastor's Letter - 1 & 2
- Faith & Family -2
- Preaching Schedule - 3
- Inspirational Music - 4
- Announcements - 5-8
- Worship Volunteers - 8
- Calendar - 9

Over the next couple months, we will examine how spiritual disciplines develop us into the disciples we are meant to be, how they strengthen us and move us toward spiritual maturity. We are each on our own separate journeys toward being more Christ-like and are at different locations in our maturity, but each discipline will bring us closer to the goal set before us.

We will begin our work with this definition of discipleship:

“Discipleship is a lifelong journey into the abundant life for which we were created. It is a process of continual development through which we grow in maturity (become Christ-centered and fully surrendered).”[1]

What will your journey look like? Will you discover something new about Christ? Will you unlock one of the many mysteries of God He has been waiting for you to seek? Are you ready for the transformation that may take place? I believe the Lord has great things in store for you if you are ready to give Him your all.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Scott

[1] Philip Maynard, *Membership to Discipleship: Growing Mature Disciples Who Make Disciples* (Satellite Beach, FL: Excellence in Ministry Coaching, 2015), 159.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

ACTS 2:42-43

REMEMBER THE MEANING OF *DISCIPLE*: PUPIL, LEARNER! WE CAN'T KEEP SKIPPING CLASS – OUR TIME WITH GOD IN THE SCRIPTURE AND IN PRAYER – AND EXPECT TO KNOW WHEN HE'S SCHEDULED A FIELD TRIP!

Beth Moore in *Jesus Christ: 90 Days With The One And Only*

September 3, 2023 (Communion)

Sermon Title: Empowered Discipleship: Meditation
Scripture: Joshua 1:7-9
Focal Verse: "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night..." v. 8.
Synopsis: Believe it or not, I do not only read for research. I love to read for fun! Books that I enjoy, I will read many times because I know that in my reading for enjoyment I will miss something that I will catch on another pass through. The danger is that we can also do that in our Bible reading. We can get caught up in just reading for the sake of reading or to get through its entirety in a year's time. We are called to meditate on God's Word. That means taking the time to sift through each page finding what God is specifically saying to us.

Special Notes: Labor Day Weekend

September 10, 2023

Sermon Title: Empowered Discipleship: Prayer
Scripture: Philippians 4:4-9
Focal Verse: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." v. 6.
Synopsis: One must exercise if one wants to have muscles strengthened. The same goes for your spiritual muscles. Prayer is the muscle with which we struggle the most yet it is the one that can be the most powerful and life-altering. God is ready and waiting to hear from you today.

Special Notes: Kick-off Sunday

September 17, 2023

Sermon Title: Empowered Discipleship: Obedience
Scripture: 1 Peter 1:13-23
Focal Verse: "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct. vv. 14-15.
Synopsis: As we meditate on God's Word and draw closer to Him in prayer, it is natural that the next spiritual muscle to develop would be that of obedience. It is not natural for us to be obedient. We must condition this muscle to make it stronger.

September 24, 2023

Sermon Title: Empowered Discipleship: Stewardship
Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30
Focal Verse: "For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away." v. 29.
Synopsis: What we have and all we gain is not our own. It is given to us for a time in service to the One who owns it all. What will we do with what we are given? Will we invest in the Kingdom of God or bury it deep?

Special Notes: Consecration Sunday

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

MATTHEW 16:24



BIRTHDAYS

9/07 - David Spruill

9/12 - Letha Kelly

9/13 - Kathryn Koppes

9/15 - Connor Daetwyler

9/16 - Riley Pegram

9/19 - Darlene McDonald

9/20 - Savannah Perry

9/23 - Merritt Pegram

9/26 - Sofia Welling

9/29 - Kathy McDaniel

9/29 - Carol Smith



ANNIVERSARIES

9/10 - Stacey & Merritt Pegram

9/15 - Charlene & John Williams

9/16 - Natalie & Michael Perry

The Motions

BY MATTHEW WEST

This might hurt, it's not safe
But I know that I've gotta make a
change
I don't care if I break,
At least I'll be feeling something
'Cause just okay is not enough
Help me fight through the
nothingness of life

I don't wanna go through the motions
I don't wanna go one more day
Without Your all consuming passion
inside of me
I don't wanna spend my whole life
asking,
What if I had given everything,
Instead of going through the motions?

No regrets, not this time
I'm gonna let my heart defeat my
mind
Let Your love make me whole
I think I'm finally feeling something
'Cause just okay is not enough
Help me fight through the
nothingness of this life

Cause I don't wanna go through the
motions
I don't wanna go one more day
Without Your all consuming passion
inside of me
I don't wanna spend my whole life
asking
What if I had given everything,
Instead of going through the motions?

Take me all the way (take me all the
way)
Take me all the way ('cause I don't
wanna go through the motions)
Take me all the way (I know I'm finally
feeling something real)
Take me all the way

I don't wanna go through the motions
I don't wanna go one more day
Without Your all consuming passion
inside of me
I don't wanna spend my whole life
asking,
What if I had given everything,
Instead of going through the motions?

I don't wanna go through the motions
I don't wanna go one more day
Without Your all consuming passion
inside of me
I don't wanna spend my whole life
asking,
What if I had given everything,
Instead of going through the motions?

Take me all the way (take me all the
way)
Take me all the way (I don't wanna go,
I don't wanna go)
Take me all the way (through the
motions)
Take me all the way

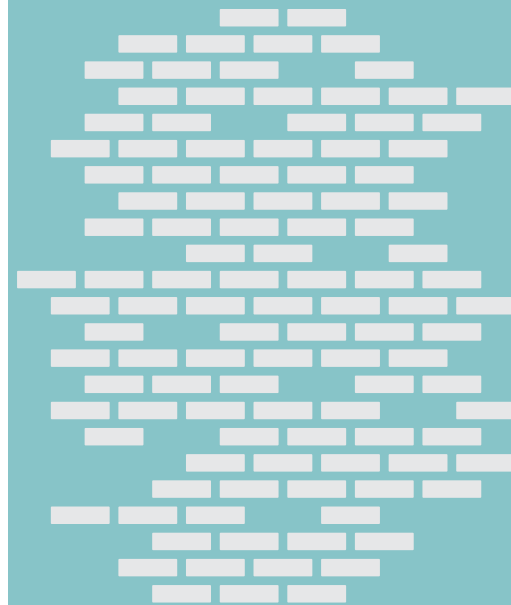
I don't wanna go through the motions

[Click Here To Listen](#)



*I don't want to spend
my whole life asking*

WHAT IF I HAD GIVEN
EVERYTHING?



*You yourselves like
living stones are being
built up as a spiritual
house, to be a holy
priesthood, to offer
spiritual sacrifices
acceptable to God
through Jesus Christ.*

*For it stands in
Scripture:*

*“Behold, I am laying in
Zion a stone,*

*a cornerstone chosen
and precious,*

*and whoever believes in
him will not be put to
shame.”*

*So the honor is for you
who believe, but for those
who do not believe,*

*“The stone that the
builders rejected*

*has become the
cornerstone.”*

1 PETER 2:5-7

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Coming Soon

It has been some time since we've produced a "church (pictorial) directory". Our committee has decided to try a different, dare we say a more modern way of creating a directory. We will use an online tool/website to create and share one. For those so inclined, an app for your device will be available, and we intend to print copies "on demand". As we update the online directory, the app will get updates automatically, but of course printed copies will "age".

Members will have the choice of uploading their own picture or we'll schedule a volunteer photographer for those who wish. At this point we're not planning to do professional portraits.

Bob Dilly

For a preview see <https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/>



FROG (Fully Relying on God) Youth Group

It's almost time for our youth group to start up for the 23-24 season and we would like to invite any youth in 6th through 12th grades to join us. We are looking to meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 5:30-7:00 PM.

Watch the weekly announcements and your snail mail for a start-up date (tentatively planned for September 17), a schedule of meetings, and more information. Hope you will be able to join us!

FROG Youth Group Hayride

at Mingo Park - Saturday, September 30,
beginning at 5:00 P.M.

Adults are invited to join the group around the fire pit for hot dogs and s'mores. We are limited to a specific number on the hayride itself so watch for details and a sign-up sheet in the near future.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done.

ACTS 2:42-43

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

The Discipleship team wants to thank everyone who helped support our Rocky Railway VBS program on July 9-13. There were 23 youth and adults that volunteered for one or more nights as we shared the love of Jesus with 28 kids. We raised \$306.02 for Operation Kid to Kid Alpacas for Ecuador. We are already starting to plan VBS 2024, "Twists and Turns" so start saving any large (at least 12 inches) cube-shaped boxes and any large cardboard sheets (at least 4 feet). You can put them in the Noah's Ark Sunday School room.



Are you wild about Jesus?

Kickoff Sunday is September 10. Kids of all ages should meet in the fellowship hall at 9:15am for WILD - a time for us to explore the Bible in lots of hands-on ways. Also at 9:15am, adults meet in the Manse for Bible study time.

Join us in Worship for a Blessing of the Backpacks, Bible presentations, and the commissioning of our Discipleship Leaders!

Something New is Coming!

In January, we will transition from morning Sunday School into evening Messy Church. There are three online training sessions in October. If you are interested in being trained, contact Pam Koppes at pamelakoppes@gmail.com by Sept 9. Explore more at messychurchusa.org.



And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done.

ACTS 2:42-43

WEEDERS WANTED!

Did you ever stop to think about what you might be able to do with little or no effort to help out the church? Well, we have just the thing for you!

Grace Mitchell takes care of the gardening at the church, including the sign in the front yard and the sign up on the corner of Vance Station Road and East Maiden Street, and she does a fantastic job, but it is getting more and more challenging for her to take care of everything. That's where some of you can help out.

We have divided the gardening spaces into 14 areas and we need volunteers to choose an area and then you and/or your family will be asked to do the weeding on a regular schedule (you choose when you want to weed – we just ask that you do it a minimum of once a month, but more often if the weeds are growing quickly).

You would be responsible for the weeding starting September 1 of this year and going through the end of October. This would be a trial plan, but if it works out well then people will be asked to volunteer again next year.

This is a great way to do some church volunteer work and also help out our “flower lady” a bit. (Just to be clear, Grace will still be in charge of the gardens and the planting – she just won't have to do all the work that is involved by herself.)

To sign up for a garden plot, see Grace ASAP.
(We don't want you to be disappointed because all the weeding spots are gone!)



Don't forget to mark your calendar !
The next senior luncheon will be held on
Wednesday, October 4, at noon in the
Fellowship Hall.

More information will follow at a later date.



And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done.

ACTS 2:42-43

Attention Dartball players.



Our new season will be kicking off on September 5th. If you are interested in playing this season please contact Fred Allen



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Presbyterian Women's Picnic

When: September 5, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Where: Colleen Dille's home

Please bring a covered dish to share.

All women are welcome



September - Tammy Varner



September 3 - Brian Daetwyler
September 10 - Sarah Drake
September 17 - Karen Hanes
September 24 - Darlene McDonald



September 3 - Pam Koppes
September 10 - Pam Koppes
September 17 - Tammy Varner
September 24 - Harriet Dilly

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done.

ACTS 2:42-43

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*



SEPTEMBER

2023



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT



3
10:30 AM - Worship

4
 Office Closed for Labor Day


5
6:00 PM - PW Picnic

6
4:30 PM - Choir Practice
5:30 PM - Bylaws Task Force

7
5:00 PM - Worship Committee
David Spruill 🎈

8
7:00 PM - N.A.

9
9:00 AM -
4:00PM - Member Event

10
KICK OFF SUNDAY
9:15 AM - Sunday School
10:30 AM - Worship
Stacey & Merritt Pegram 💍

11

12
10:00AM - Garden Club Board
4:00 PM - Presbytery Mtg. at Thomas
7:00 PM - Dartball
Letha Kelly 🎈

13
4:30 PM - Choir Practice
7:00 PM - N.A.
Kathryn Koppes 🎈

14
5:45PM - Trustees
6:30 PM - Session

15
7:00 PM - N.A.
Connor Daetwyler 🎈
Charlene & John Williams 💍

16
Riley Pegram 🎈
Natalie & Michael Perry 💍

17
8:30AM - Bell Choir
9:15 AM - Sunday School
10:30 AM - Worship
5:30 PM - Frog Youth

18
7:00 PM - Communications

19
7:00 PM - Dartball
Darlene McDonald 🎈

20
4:30 PM - Choir Practice
7:00 PM - N.A.
Savannah Perry 🎈

21

22
7:00 PM - N.A.

23
Merritt Pegram 🎈

24
9:15 AM - Sunday School
10:30 AM - Worship
11:30 AM - C.E.

25
6:00 PM - Mission

26
10:00AM - Garden Club Board
7:00 PM - Dartball
Sofia Welling 🎈

27
4:30 PM - Choir Practice
7:00 PM - N.A.

28

29
7:00 PM - N.A.
Kathy McDaniel 🎈
Carol Smith 🎈

30
5:00 PM - Frog Hay Ride
