

OUR MANY BLESSINGS

- Many thanks to Steve Smith and Frank Koln for the restroom and kitchen renovations in fellowship hall!
- The opportunity to share God's love with new friends who have been visiting our worship services.
- New attendees in our Sunday School classes.

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We Are All God's Beggars

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What is most striking about the rich man and Lazarus is not their differences but their similarities (Luke 16:19–31). Both men die because both men are sinners, and the wages of sin is death. Both men are beggars, for all men are beggars. But, here is where the most striking difference between them takes shape. Lazarus knows it and lives it. The rich man, however, does not.

Lazarus was a beggar in thought, word, and deed. But, he was God's beggar. He relied upon God for all that he had and all that he was. He looked to God for all things, in good times and in bad. He went to God in all trouble, sought Him for all help, and trusted in His Word and promises to provide for all that he needed for this life and the next. This is, after all, what his name means: God is my help.

The rich man, too, was a beggar. But he didn't realize it. His status, his wealth, his clothing and his food all came from God's gracious hand. But the rich man didn't recognize it. He thought he had earned it, and that he deserved it. And thus, his trust is not in God, who by His Word and promise gives it, but rather in himself, in what he has done, and in what he has.

And so it is that when death comes to Lazarus and the rich man—as it does for all of us because we have all sinned, and death is no respecter of persons—Lazarus is carried by the holy angels to Abraham's side; while the rich man is in torment in hell. The rich man forgot God. He despised being a beggar, and thus, despised Lazarus. He despised God and His Word, and refused to have mercy on those whom God placed at his doorstep.

Now, the tables were turned. What the rich man didn't realize or recognize on earth, he now lived out in torment in hell. He knew what it was to beg. But he still didn't see himself as a beggar of God. He still didn't look to His Father in heaven for all good and help in every time of need. He instead appealed to His status as a descendant of Abraham, calling out Father Abraham and not "Abba, Father" (Gal 4:6; Rom 8:15).

We are all beggars. We brought nothing into this world and we will take nothing out of it (1 Tim 6:7). Everything we have and everything we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us, for He gives everything to us by grace. Thus, we are to love one another and be

(cont'd on page 2)



Pastor's Pen

From Tony Evan's Book of Illustrations, Evans, pg 232

"For many of us, prayer is like a AAA card. It's there if you need it, but you really don't plan to use it very much – unless you're in an emergency."

God would like it if we came to Him just because. No reason...just because we feel like talking with Him. No requests, no confessions, just plain old ordinary conversation. "Hi God, how are you today? I'm great! Thanks for asking." God wants to hear from us even when we are not desperate.

Blessings, Jo

*"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
II Corinthians 9:7*

We Are All God's Beggars *(cont'd)*

generous to one another in thought, word, and deed. For you cannot love God and hate your brother. And hating your brother means not to forgive as you've been forgiven, to give as you've been given to, to love as you've been loved.

We are all beggars. This is true. But we, like Lazarus, are God's beggars. He not only gives us what we need for this body and life—food and clothes, house and home, husband, wife, and children—but He also blesses us with His Word and Spirit, so that we will enter into paradise in the life to come. He claims us as His own by water and the Word in Holy Baptism. In this washing, rich in grace, He gives to us what His Son, Jesus Christ, won for us on His cross: forgiveness of sins. And where there is the forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. He puts His own name on us, thereby giving to us the right of children, the right to call Him Father and the right to His in-

heritance as His beloved sons. He gives us a seat at His table, in His house, in His kingdom, which has no end.

Yes, indeed, we are beggars. This is true. But we are beggars of the God who loves us, the God who created us from His love, the God who redeemed us by His love in the sending of His Son to die so that we would live and have life to the full. This is His promise. It's what Moses and the prophets longed to see and of what they spoke. They see it now, not in a mirror dimly, but face to face, just as you shall on the last day.

And as God's beggars, we have mercy on those who would be beggars of us, who rely upon our giving, even as we rely upon the gracious giving of God. We give to our family, our society, our church. He gives; we receive. Thanks be to God. We give; they receive. Thanks be to God. We count it all a joy to give as He has given to us.

Session Highlights

June 9, 2015

Your session held a called meeting in June to discuss budget issues. Because giving has been lower than expected this year, we have not been able to cover all budgeted expenses and have been running a deficit during most months. The purpose of this meeting was to review the budget and cut as much as possible. The result was a reduction in the total budget from \$52,183.20 to \$44,265.20. A total of \$7,918.00 was cut from the budget. At the current level of giving, we will still be short of covering budgeted expenses this year by about \$4,000.00.

August 20, 2015

Your session held a regularly scheduled session meeting in August. Some of the items discussed were:

Treasurer’s Report—For the month of June we had a deficit of \$1,303.43. For the month of July we were ahead \$18.47.

Clerk’s Report—A suggestion was made and approved to publish session highlights in the Presby Press as soon as possible after a meeting, rather than waiting until they are approved at the next meeting. This decision was made in order to keep the congregation more fully informed about church business.

Property—The temporary A/C unit in the large Sunday School room will be removed, as we can’t afford the expense. We will look into purchasing and installing a window unit to cool that room.

Christian Education—Beginning in October, Open Hearts will meet weekly on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Stewardship—Letters will go out to the congregation soon.

Outreach—Tammy has begun registering vendors for this year’s Holiday Faire and is seeking a volunteer from the congregation to be in charge of

food and drink sales.

Nominating Committee—We are seeking willing members of the congregation to fill vacancies on our session. We ask that everyone prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve.

Budget—We will begin preparing the 2016 budget in September.

Next Meeting—Thursday, September 10, 2015.

If you would like to see a full copy of the session minutes from these two meetings, please contact our Clerk of Session, Jean Mourey.

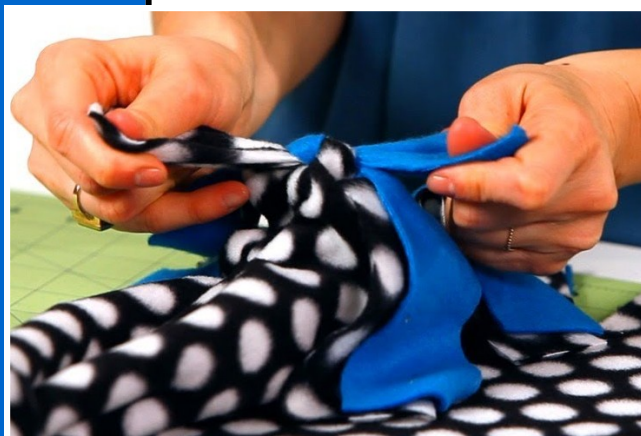
FPC Milton Monthly Report as of 8/24/2015		
Average Sunday School Attendance		8
Average Worship Attendance		26
	Weekly	Monthly
Budget Requirement ...	\$851.25	\$3,688.77
General Offering:		
8/2/2015	\$1,755.00	
8/9/2015	\$760.00	
8/16/2015	\$500.00	
8/23/2015	\$250.00	
Ahead/Deficit (+/-)	- \$35.00	(per week)
YTD Ahead/Deficit (+/-)	- \$4,156.33	

The Children of Israel

A young boy listened closely as the preacher read the Bible. “May I ask a question?” he asked. “Sure. Go ahead. Ask your question,” replied the preacher. “Well, the Bible says that the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, the children of Israel built the temple, the children of Israel did this, and the children of Israel did that. Didn’t the grown-ups ever do anything?”

*“The LORD is near
to all who call on
him, to all who call
on him in truth.”
Psalm 145:18*

Tying
knots is all
it takes to
make a
difference
in a child’s
life.



Mission Spotlight

Can you use a pair of scissors and tie a knot? If so, you have all the skills necessary to join our Knotty Prayers group! You don’t have to knit or crochet to create lovingly handcrafted items that can provide comfort to those in need. Several members of our group are making tied fleece blankets to donate to *For The Children*. Our goal is to

create at least 20 blankets so that when the children arrive they will each have the opportunity to choose one for their very own. If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Tammy Mendiola to get started.

No Need to Pledge?

The story is told of a wise pastor who went to get a haircut. The barber, who also happened to be a parishioner, took the opportunity to tell the pastor all the reasons why the barber was not going to complete his stewardship pledge card.

“I don’t think we should have to promise to give money to God. We should give what our heart tells us at the time. I like to be able to just put in the collection whatever I have that week.”

The pastor listened carefully and after his haircut he handed the barber \$1 for the \$10 haircut, saying, “I like to give what my heart tells me—just whatever I have in my pocket at the time.”

“Father,” the barber protested, “I can’t pay my rent, take care of my expenses, and run my business successfully if everyone would do that.”

“Neither can God,” the pastor replied.

Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Sept 6

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17
Mark 7:24-37
Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146

Sept 13

Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 116:1-9

Sept 20

Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37
Jeremiah 11:18-20
Psalm 54

Sept 27

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
Psalm 19:7-14

SEPT 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

*“To every thing there
is a season; and a
time to every purpose
under heaven.”
Ecclesiastes 3:1*



Schedule of Events

- Sept 1—10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- Sept 6—Fellowship Luncheon
- Sept 7—Labor Day
- Sept 9—6:30 p.m. Open Hearts
- Sept 10—6:00 p.m. Session Meeting
- Sept 11&12—8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Rum-
mage Sale
- Sept 13—Communion
- Sept 20—Mission Moment
- Sept 23—6:30 p.m. Open Hearts
- Sept 26—10:00 a.m. Knotty Prayers

September Birthdays

- Sept 3—Colleen Asmus
- Sept 4—Tyler Bohannon
- Sept 12—Joey Saba
- Sept 13—Ellis Stuart
- Sept 15—Rachel Konchinsky-Pate
- Sept 18—Jerry Hodgson
- Sept 18—Laura Beth Stuart
- Sept 21—Chris Hayslip
- Sept 23—Colleen Hayslip
- Sept 26—Sharon Stebbins

Books of the Bible Puzzle

- Unscramble the name of each book of the Bible and write it correctly in the blank.
- Then write the letter from each numbered position in the corresponding blank at the bottom of the page.
- You'll spell a phrase that's used to describe the word of God.
- To get you started, the first one is completed for you.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1. UTRH | <u>RUTH</u> (3) | 10. HMOLIPEN | _____ (2) |
| 2. TWAMHET | _____ (5) | 11. LINEDA | _____ (5) |
| 3. BOPERRSV | _____ (5) | 12. SEESING | _____ (5) |
| 4. SUBNEMR | _____ (7) | 13. SHEEPISAN | _____ (2) |
| 5. WRESHBE | _____ (6) | 14. CLAIMHA | _____ (7) |
| 6. USAJHO | _____ (2) | 15. HARMEEJI | _____ (3) |
| 7. MORASN | _____ (1) | 16. AGHAIG | _____ (6) |
| 8. GEJDSU | _____ (3) | 17. SNAGILATA | _____ (5) |
| 9. STREEH | _____ (3) | | |

The Bible is also known as the

T _____ of _____
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17