

# Tidings of Peace



*Newsletter of Peace Memorial EPC*

## *From the Pastor...*

Dear Friends,  
October 31<sup>st</sup> was Reformation Sunday- memorializing the event that sparked the Reformation as Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1517. The theme of most of his theses had to do with the Catholic church's sale of indulgences and while that was initially the topic of concern for Luther, it quickly became clear that the real problem was deeper- namely, the MEANS OF JUSTIFICATION, or how we are made right with God. The Reformation sprang up as Christians across the world Protested the excesses of the Roman Catholic Church in their declaration that the means of justification was faith PLUS WORKS and sought to reform the church back to Biblical theology and the core doctrines of the Gospel of salvation by GRACE ALONE.

Reformed Theology, while finely tuned by John Calvin, not Luther, is the flavor of the Presbyterian Church and many other Christian denominations as well. At it's heart, Reformed Theology is Biblical Theology in that it emphasizes the Means of Justification- the way we are made right with God- is By the Grace of God alone (not human choice), through faith alone (not faith plus works) in Jesus Christ alone (His death and resurrection as perfectly sufficient payment for all sin of all time- not needing anything as supplement), for the glory of God alone (not God plus the church, king or any nation), all revealed in Scripture alone (not also by on-going proclamations of man).

In addition to these core affirmations, Reformed Theology further emphasizes God's sovereignty in human salvation. While we are saved through faith in Jesus, and that faith, for many of us, had a starting point we remember where we chose

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Jesus for ourselves, Reformed Theology declares that such a choice of faith was not a product of human free will, but of God's gift. In other words, we chose Jesus because God had done a work in our heart and mind -regenerating our spirit from the death of sin (in which we were hostile to God- "because the mind of the flesh is hostile to God: It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so." -Romans 8:7) into life in the spirit wherein the Gospel not only made sense but was the very wisdom of God. As a result of that regeneration of spirit, we RESPONDED to the Gospel with faith in Jesus. As the Scriptures make clear, all who have faith in Jesus to salvation have been chosen (or elected) by God for such faith. We Christians, are the "elect"

*From the Pastor... Continued*

Chosen from before the foundations of the world to be saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ from sin and condemnation into eternal life, resurrection and glory.

This point- God's Sovereignty over the process of salvation- splits a few of our Christian denominations from each other. I've been grieved to hear several Christian radio programs that have apparently begun a campaign to declare Reformed Theology (or more finely targeted- Calvinism) as heresy. The heart of their argument against our theology boils down to two key misunderstandings. They wrongly assume that since we declare that God is sovereign over an individual's saving faith, that it is then God's fault if people do not have faith in Jesus. They further wrongly conclude that if God is sovereign over the emergence of saving faith, then the church's call to evangelism is pointless. There are other expressions of criticism from these schools of thought- mostly having to do with a perception that Calvinism is overly complex and only the highly educated can fully grasp it, but the substance of their grievance is listed above. Let me respond briefly to both of these misconceptions:

The First Misconception- If salvation is only for those God has chosen, then He is responsible for unfaithfulness in non-believers, since He is the author of faith and not the free will of humanity. Nonsense. The Bible is very clear regarding the guilt of sin. While temptation to sin came from the Devil, the foundational representative of humanity, Adam and Eve sinned against God and so corrupted their nature and that of their offspring (all of humanity). Sin and its symptoms (suffering, death and coming condemnation) are solely the guilt of humanity. God, however is responsible for saving a remnant of humanity from this sad state. By His grace alone, he sent His Son to die as payment for the sins of the world. As both perfectly righteous, it is God's good right to glorify His name by bringing judgment against some who have not been redeemed. It is what we deserve. It is also His right to offer salvation from that end to those whom God has chosen. God can do this because He has offered payment for sin Himself. Those who benefit from that payment are chosen by God's grace, not any merit (including choice) of mankind. Indeed, as we have already seen from Romans 9, sinful man CANNOT choose faith in Jesus. We need God to save us from that state actively in order to be able to choose Jesus for ourselves.

IN Romans 9, Paul makes this point very clear: (In fact, Romans as a whole outlines Reformed Theology very well and was the book that transformed Martin Luther's understanding of salvation- motivating him to write his 95 theses)

“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

You will say to me then, ‘Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?’ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, ‘Why have you made me like this?’ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?” -Romans 9:16-23

The Second Misconception- Calvinism (Reformed Theology) eviscerates the great commission. If God elects people for salvation by His grace alone, then there is no need for evangelism. Again, nonsense. Acts 13:48 puts a very fine point on this concern:

After Paul and Barnabas preach the Gospel we see this from Acts 13:48, 49

“And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.”

These two verses beautifully answer the concern about the truth of election compromising the great commission (to preach salvation and make disciples for Jesus). The Gospel is preached and

*From the Pastor... Continued*

“as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.” The truth of Election in no way cancels out the mandate of the Church to preach the gospel. Our preaching (and our praying for the salvation of loved ones) are instruments through which God carries out the salvation of His chosen ones.

I found it highly ironic a few weeks ago as I was listening to an ad on Christian radio- pressing the importance of buying their CD outlining the false teachings of Calvinism as an they shared the following excerpt: “Calvinism is a complex system of false teaching whereby God only saves people He chooses. No. the truth of salvation is- The Gospel is preached and as it is heard, the Holy Spirit does something in the heart of the hearer and they respond in faith. That is salvation.”

... That’s also a very good definition of the Reformed/Calvinist doctrine of Election. We just have a word for the “something” that the Holy Spirit does- we call it Regeneration, the process by which the Holy Spirit “does something in the heart of the hearer” (regenerates/ awakens the spirit from death in sin to the truth of the Gospel thereby not only allowing us to choose Jesus but making such a choice the epitome of wisdom).

In the end, I will happily agree with Dr. R.C. Sproul, one of the greatest Evangelical and Reformed (Calvinist) theologians of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries when he stated, “Reformed/Calvinist theology is Biblical Theology.”

May the Lord bless you and Keep you as revealed IN SCRIPTURE ALONE (Sola Scriptura)  
That BY THE GRACE OF GOD ALONE (Sola Gratia)  
THROUGH FAITH ALONE (Sola Fide)  
IN CHRIST ALONE (Solo Christo)  
You are justified TO THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE (Soli Deo Gloria)

-Pastor Aaron



Sharon Haddock AKA “The Greeting Card Lady” would like to ensure everyone has her email so you can let her know of any illnesses, accidents, deaths, weddings, and/or new arrivals.

Sharon Haddock: [iamsharon2@gmail.com](mailto:iamsharon2@gmail.com)

# NOVEMBER

## Birthdays

14<sup>TH</sup> KRISTA BEATY

19<sup>TH</sup> PATTI HARVEY

14<sup>TH</sup> HAROLD HEATON

20<sup>TH</sup> LEONARD BARKEE

15<sup>TH</sup> LINDA DART

24<sup>TH</sup> JOAN RIKER

## Anniversaries

11<sup>TH</sup> SCOTT & BETTY DICKSON



Stearns Elementary

## COAT Drive 2021/22

Peace Church has adopted Stearns Elementary School again this year.

Since the State of Oregon is providing actual school supplies this year

**WE WILL CONCENTRATE ON  
PROVIDING COATS/JACKETS  
for the children this year.**

*Donations can be dropped off in the box on the table at the entrance to the Sanctuary or in the box in the Fellowship Hall.*

***Thank You for your continued support to this wonderful outreach to the community!!***

## CIRCLE STUDY RESUMED

When we last met, Hagar had fled, met God, and returned to her mistress and the father of her son. But the family dynamics are just heating up! We'll pick up on our study of Michael Kuhn's *Finding Hagar: God's Pursuit of a Runaway* on Wednesday, All women are invited to join in this study. Even if you have not attended before, do come to learn and share.

## BUCKET BRIGADE on HOLIDAY HIATUS

The Bucket Brigade-that merry band of broom wielders who march through the church to combat clutter and cobwebs- will be on leave for the holiday season. We won't be meeting in November or December as we'll all be busy with Thanksgiving and Christmas activities. Come January we'll be back on the march, but for now we'll take time to give thanks and praise.



The Brigade worked with the Buildings and Grounds Committee on their recent Fall Work Day. While some members of the Brigade were helping with outdoor tasks, Noreen and Jocelyn worked to restore order to the CE Office. Just as the back hallway had once been a land for the abandoned, the CE office had become the new "Don't know what to do with it, so let's stick it in here" room. Now that hours have been spent shedding blood, sweat and tears to restore her office, Noreen asks, ever so gently, "No more!"

## **IT'S BAZAAR TIME!**

The Peace Memorial Women's Missionary Group will host its annual FALL BAZAAR on SATURDAY, NOV 13th, from 9:00 am to 2 pm. Home-made baked goods, canned goods and candies will be covering the tables of the Fellowship Hall. Our "Christmas Village" will offer new and gently used gifts in our Fireside Room, as well as spilling out into the hall. If you have items to donate, be it jellies or jewelry, candies or crocheted items, please bring them FRIDAY, after 10:00 am and help set up. For your items, please have a price in mind. And come again on SATURDAY to help the Women's Group raise funds for local projects.

We are one of the few churches who do a traditional bazaar as most have gone the route of renting tables to outside vendors. The community knows this, which is why people at the two recent rummage sales were asking, "Are you going to have...?" And yes, yes we are.

## Sunday Bible Class

9:00-10:00 AM  
Fireside Room

### *JUDGES*

## The Inheritance of Israel



Pastor Aaron Beaty and Deacon Geri Coker continue through the story of the nation of Israel as she comes into her inheritance, the promised land. Now that the tribes of Israel have occupied the land, they face a new challenge- learning to live as the people of God with the Lord as their king, without a human ruler. The book of Judges records Israel's struggles to trust the Lord during times of unique challenge when the surrounding culture is hostile to the ways of God. God delivers even when His people stray. The book of Judges provides a profound lesson to the Church today as we see many parallels between the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the time when everyone did what was right in their own eyes.



## Theology On Tap (TnT)

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays

6-7:30PM

Church Fireside Room

Join Pastor Aaron as we continue the video series,  
"The Truth Project" with Dr. Dell Tackett.

Here are a few words about this powerful study from Focus on the Family:

"In a 2003 study, the Barna Research Group revealed a stunning statistic that continues to reverberate throughout the evangelical world – *only nine percent of professing Christians have a biblical worldview.* *The Barna Update, "A Biblical Worldview Has a Radical Effect on a Person's Life,"* December 1, 2003.

Because of this, today's believers live very similarly to non-believers. A personal sense of significance is rarely experienced, we spend our money and time on things that fail to satisfy, and we begin to wonder what life's ultimate purpose really is. We are, in short, losing our bearings as a people and a nation.

To counter this downward slide within the body of Christ, Focus on the Family has launched one of the most ambitious and powerful projects in the history of our ministry – *Focus on the Family's The Truth Project®.*

*The Truth Project* is a DVD-based small group curriculum comprised of 12 video lessons taught by Dr. Del Tackett, instructor of Christian Worldview at the Focus Leadership Institute and a former Senior Vice President of our ministry. This study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. Each lesson discusses in great detail the relevance and importance of living the Christian worldview in daily life.

We believe this curriculum can be a catalyst for exponential change within the body of Christ, as thousands of people are "transformed by the renewing of [their] mind" (Romans 12:2). As He has throughout history, God continues to call ordinary people to make an eternal difference in our world."

Bring your own dinner and join us together as we re-construct a Biblical world-view by diving into the TRUTH.

## Stewardship & Finance Committee

September 2021

Here is our monthly update on finance:

Operating Income:.....	\$8,999.00
Operating Expenses:.....	\$9,650.20
Monthly Net:.....	(\$651.20)
YTD Net:.....	\$17,017.28
Checking 9/30/21:.....	\$55,061.80
Money Market 9/30/21:	\$57,874.79

Hi Friends,

Expenses in September beyond regular operations were computer software and office equipment for Pastor Aaron's laptop, music supplies, and local missions support for Stearns School, all budgeted items.

We are seeing a bit of a downward trend in income the past couple of months. We will have some larger expenses in October due to insurance, taxes, additional Presbytery expense, and some world missions commitments.

As many of you heard in the announcements during worship, November will be our Stewardship and Pledge Drive. We will provide you with our "Dream Budget" so you can see where your monetary support is used. If you have any questions in regards to the budget estimates, or pledging, please let us know and we will try to answer any and all inquiries. The elders and committees are listed on the last page of the newsletter.

The members of the Finance Committee are:

**Geri Coker, Betty Shaw, Harold Heaton, Sharron Goode, and Kathy Todd.**

Many Blessings to all of you and thank you for your support of Peace Memorial EPC.

Kathy Todd, Treasurer

### DEACONS DOINGS

The season of ADVENT begins on Sunday, Nov 28th this year. The Worship Committee has set Sunday, Nov 21st, as the date for the "**Greening of the Church,**" when we decorate God's house for the Christmas season. The deacons will be providing a soup and sandwich lunch that Sunday so you'll be fed and energized to help put up the tree, put out the candles and all the rest as we prepare to welcome the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Thank you to all who have been signing up to serve during our Fellowship Hour after church. There is a sign-up sheet right before you get your goodies if you want to help out.



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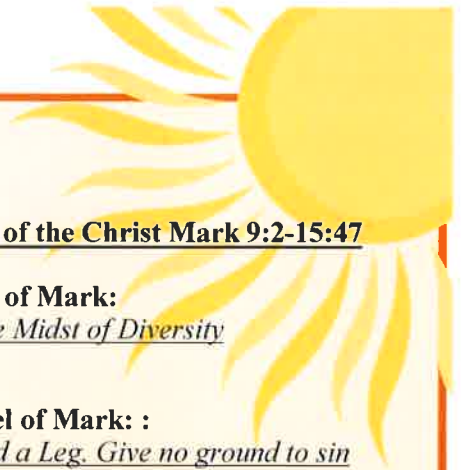
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We're on the web!

[www.peaceEPC.com](http://www.peaceEPC.com)

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*"In all your ways acknowledge  
Him, and He will make your  
paths straight"  
-Prov. 3:6*



**III: The Suffering of the Christ Mark 9:2-15:47**

11/7 - **The Gospel of Mark:**  
*Unity in the Midst of Diversity*  
Mark 9:38-41

11/14 - **The Gospel of Mark :**  
*An Arm and a Leg. Give no ground to sin*  
Mark 9:42-50

11/21 - **The Gospel of Mark: :**  
*Jesus Affirms Marriage*  
Mark 10:1-12

11/28 - **The Gospel of Mark: :**  
*Jesus Welcomes the Children (Advent I)*  
Mark 10:13-16

**Your SESSION**

Elders

- Pastor Aaron Beaty- Session Moderator
- Noreen Rhoades- Clerk of Session
- Kathy Todd- Finance & Stewardship
- Bob Wincentsen- Christian Education
- Linda Dart- Mission and Outreach
- Jim Zeller- Building and Grounds
- Betty Shaw- Worship

**Your DEACONS**

Geri Coker- Chair

Susan Orton

Jocelyn Shellito

Vicki Zeller

Bertra Bratton

**Your**

**TRUSTEES**

Harold Heaton

Stephen Goode

Sharron Goode

Sharon Haddock

*The Deacons meet the third Sunday of each  
month following worship.*

*\*Session meets the 2nd Tuesday of each  
month from 1-3PM.*

*\*Please note new Day/Time*

