

# *Tidings of Peace*



*Newsletter of Peace Memorial EPC*

## *From the Pastor...*

**“The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” -Genesis 2:15-17**

Dear Friends,

Over the past couple of weeks, as I’ve preached through the Minor Prophets, the themes of “first things” and “first fruit” have emerged repeatedly. Making sure that the Lordship of Christ is central to our daily lives to forsaking of all others that may claim our primary attention was of great concern to the prophet Haggai. Ensuring that we glorify and praise the Lord with offerings from our first fruit instead of simply giving to the Lord our leftovers, was preached to us by Zechariah. It got us thinking and praying about the nature of our own spirit, mind and lifestyle.

As October rolls in, the apple trees behind the church building are in full fruit. The first fruit of those trees remind me of this theme of “first things.” So much of the discord and chaos in our culture can be traced to a fundamental absence of “first things” in their proper places. As I contemplated this fact from my study window, the apples reminded me of another “First fruit” from the Scriptures. In the opening paragraph of Genesis, among all of the produce of Eden, there was but one fruit forbidden. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil: It’s fruit was not for Adam or Eve. Its fruit served as a first- the first restriction, the first warning, the first law... and the first temptation, the first questioning of God’s Word, and the first disobedience.

The story of the Fall of Adam and Eve is often misunderstood. Certainly, the profound message of that story is lost on many. Possibly even most. And yet it speaks volumes to the current climate of chaos, confusion and hopelessness in our culture. (all because of a first fruit- of disobedience).

The one restriction that God placed upon Adam and Eve was to refrain from eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. While many people assume that the main problem of the story was just one of obedience- Adam and Eve fell because they didn’t do what God said. They broke His Law and had to live (and die) with the consequences. But the meaning of this story is much more profound than a simple matter of disobedience.

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## *From the Pastor... Continued*

The Word of God which spoke the warning not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil was a declaration for humanity to refrain from taking on the role of God. To identify between Good and Evil was a matter of not only losing one's innocence, but of stepping up to the plate of authority by which we might determine primary things- First Things, the objective nature of things. Eating of the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil was to elevate the self to ultimate authority where the creature would turn from submitting to God's authority and proclaim good and evil for themselves.

Once mankind determines that we are the ultimate determiner of good and evil (or even of those things exist at all), we are in free-fall. This free-fall from the foundation and paradise of fellowship with God's Word and Will into the nothingness of human perception is expressed in the curse declared upon Adam and Eve in the Genesis account.

They are stripped of their contentment and shame enters their minds.

They are cast from God's fellowship, and the daily sustenance of the fruit of the garden into a dark world, cold, alone and hungry.

And they are barred from the tree of life to suffer under the hopeless weight of death.

Dr. Ravi Zacharias quoted in his book, "Recapture the Wonder" the following expression of the effects of this fall away from reliance upon God:

"In the 1950s kids lost their innocence.

They were liberated from their parents by well-paying jobs, cars, and lyrics in music that gave rise to a new term ---the generation gap.

In the 1960s, kids lost their authority.

It was a decade of protest---church, state, and parents were all called into question and found wanting. Their authority was rejected, yet nothing ever replaced it.

In the 1970s, kids lost their love.

It was the decade of me-ism dominated by hyphenated words beginning with self.

Self-image, Self-esteem, Self-assertion....It made for a lonely world. Kids learned everything there was to know about sex and forgot everything there was to know about love, and no one had the nerve to tell them there was a difference.

In the 1980s, kids lost their hope.

Stripped of innocence, authority and love and plagued by the horror of a nuclear nightmare, large and growing numbers of this generation stopped believing in the future.

In the 1990s kids lost their power to reason.

Less and less were they taught the very basics of language, truth, and logic and they grew up with the irrationality of a postmodern world.

In the new millennium, kids woke up and found out that somewhere in the midst of all this change, they had lost their imagination. Lost in a world of cyberspace, kids have personalized objects, objectivized persons, and totally subjectivized reality.

Imprisoned now in a deep world of their own loneliness, violence and perversion entertained them till none could talk of killing innocents since none was innocent anymore."

Human nature hasn't changed since the Garden. Humanity continues to gorge upon the first fruit of sin- setting ourselves up as our own god, thinking we are able to not only discern between Good and Evil on our own, but to define what those terms mean. In the process, the free-fall continues as we celebrate and condemn the things we shouldn't. Since we do not submit to God's Word, we wrongly assume that we are the designers of our own world. And while the dream of that design looks good and sounds sweet, its execution is degrees of death. Everything we touch will turn sour.

## *From the Pastor... Continued*

So discovered Adam and Eve. Though the fruit was forbidden, it looked sweet and the serpent promised it would make one "like God." So they ate of it. They chose to refuse God's Word, and eat of the first fruit of destruction. And they got exactly what was promised. The concept of good and evil entered their minds- they became "like" god- only without His knowledge, wisdom, power, or presence. They also got alienation, suffering and death.

The topic of the First Things brings us into a circle – of suffering leading to death- or suffering leading to redemption. As you see the fruit on the trees this fall, remember that we are left with a contrast of First Fruits which challenge our reliance. Will we rely on self, or will we rely on Christ? One will give us life eternal, the other will take it from us, even while we still live.

May Christ, the first-fruit of the Resurrection to eternal life, build you up in hope, joy and peace, even while the world suffers the ravages of free-fall, and ever approaches the End of that fall in the great and terrible day of the Lord.

Amen,  
Pastor Aaron



### WE'RE FORMING A BUCKET BRIGADE

Twice a year the Buildings & Grounds Committee organizes a Church Workday.

We gather to tackle the Herculean task of cleaning the church and doing yard work. We do have a janitorial service to handle weekly cleaning of vacuuming and dusting (in some parts of the church), but they don't do the cleaning-cleaning that needs to be done. Many of you come to help, and we do get quite a bit done. But we leave the church with worn out bodies and a list of things that never got done. Since we weren't able to have a work day this past spring, the work has multiplied. There's simply too much to do in one, every six months.

We came up with this scathingly brilliant idea- rather than trying to do it all twice a year, let's get together once a month and do a limited area. The idea is to zero in on one room or area only, do everything that needs to be done in there, then have a cup of coffee with light refreshment and congratulate ourselves on a job well done.

And please, don't feel that if you show up to help, you'll be locked into helping all the time. But if you enjoy the satisfaction of a clean house of worship, grab your bucket (or other favorite cleaning utensils) and join us!

## **Thoughts from an Elder: by Joe Riker**

On the Beach. Read John 21:1-14

Listen to a story about Simon-Peter and a few of the disciples after the death and Resurrection of Jesus. Simon was depressed. He had suffered a moral defeat in his denial of Jesus just before the trial. Simon-Peter was trying to put back together the pieces of his personal life.

It had been a tough morning, to be sure. Following Jesus' death, several disciples returned to their regularly scheduled programming. They got up early, took their fishing nets, and ... nothing. Not a bite. Until some guy stood on the shore and called out a weird suggestion to throw their nets in from the other side of the boat.

I wonder if any of them grumbled briefly, "What difference does it make which side of the boat we throw the nets from? Who is this guy?" But by then, they were desperate enough to try anything.

Suddenly, when their nets were heavy, the same question took on a different meaning, because they knew the answer. John shouted, "It is the Lord!" and Peter could not get to Jesus fast enough. Other than suggesting that they add some of the fresh catch to His spread, Jesus' sole response was "Come and eat breakfast."

Now, wait just a minute. When read in context, the scripture notes that this is Jesus' third post-resurrection appearance, a miracle unto itself. After all these men saw him perish on the cross.. And not only that, He's preparing a meal on the beach-- not as a ghost or apparition, but as a physical man able to lift things and build a fire, etc. Then, after their own efforts had been useless, He provides an abundance of fish with one simple instruction. And after these marvels, He simply says, "Come and eat breakfast"?

Yes

We create so much unnecessary hoopla in our own regularly scheduled lives. We plan, we implement, and we work hard...and get frustrated when nothing comes of it. Desperate and empty, we finally look to Jesus as a last resort—because we don't recognize who He is. And sometimes, really, all He is asking is that we come join Him and take part in what He's prepared and created. The rest will come.

So declutter your minds of plans, schedules, and "to do" lists. Instead, look out upon the waves, wiggle your toes in the sand, absorb the sights, smells, and sounds, and enjoy the moment for what it is—not what it means, not what lies ahead, not how you arrived here. There will be another time for that,

How long has it been since you stopped everything just to be with Jesus and enjoy Him? What frustrations, obligations, and responsibilities do you need to set aside to just sit with Jesus and experience His presence? Jesus says, "come to me." Come to me bleary-eyed, tired, and hungry, and I will give you the nourishment you need.

For now, just be present with Jesus, Have you had breakfast with Jesus lately? Come and eat breakfast!

## DEACONS DOINGS

Isn't it great to be gathering again for fellowship after worshipping? Now that we have resumed this special time, there have been a few questions about it.

First has been about who has responsibility for providing coffee hour service and snacks. We'll be following the regular schedule which is:

1st Sunday: Deacons

2nd Sunday: PMWVG

3rd Sunday: Session

4th Sunday: Congregation

5th Sunday: Deacon congregational event, usually a lunch or special designation

There will be occasions when a Sunday is handled differently, such as the PMWVG post-bazaar soup lunch or the Stewardship Committee's Harvest Dinner. And there may be times when a person would like to have a special day to honor an anniversary or birthday or other personal milestone. In that event, just contact the group responsible in advance to let them know what you'd like to do.

Second has been about what can or cannot be provided by way of "light refreshment." Again, we'll be following the regular schedule. If you want to provide a pre-packed item, such as the cheese, crackers, cookies and chips we've seen of late, that's up to you. If you want to bring home-made lemon bars (yes, please!!!), that's great. We'll try, just as we always have, to serve "safe" foods, and let each person decide what is the comfort zone for consuming. Whether it's "Grandma's Cookies" in a package or grandma's cookies on a plate is up to the individual to bring and to eat.

Just remember why we value this time of fellowship. It's not to feed the congregation because we're starving after an hour of worship. It's to do what we love to do- enjoy being together.

## FALL BAZAAR IS FAST APPROACHING

The Peace Memorial Women's Missionary Group is planning to hold our annual FALL BAZAAR on Saturday, November 14th, from 9:30 to 2:30. Yes, we'll have our kitchen stocked with baked and canned goods. Yes, we'll have our Gifts-New and Used with home-crafted items and treasures suitable for re-gifting. Yes, we'll have our Soup Lunch that speaks for itself. As we get closer to the date, there will be more information on how you can help out, but for now, start lining up what you might contribute. Been canning? Consider sharing what you've done, be it jams, salsa, pickles, applesauce, you name it. Have family members who run- "Look out! She's got yarn!" (not that I've experienced that personally, mind you. Okay, I have.)? Consider adding those dishcloths, afghans, table runners, and such to a good cause. This is the Women's Group's major fundraiser. Proceeds are used to help various groups and organizations that assist our community as well as the church. Thanking you all in advance!

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>ST</sup> AARON BEATY

8<sup>TH</sup> SCOTT DICKSON

17<sup>TH</sup> MARJORIE DIVINE

17<sup>TH</sup> SARAH SMITH

19<sup>TH</sup> COURTNEY HARVEY

24<sup>TH</sup> JOE RIKER

25<sup>TH</sup> LAWANA BARKEE

25<sup>TH</sup> JEANNINE WIRTH

27<sup>TH</sup> LANDON BEATY

28<sup>TH</sup> RUTHMARIE HAMEL

31<sup>ST</sup> BETTY SHAW

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

6<sup>TH</sup> MATT & TINA GREEN

18<sup>TH</sup> JAMES & NOREEN BREEN

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00-10:00 AM Sanctuary

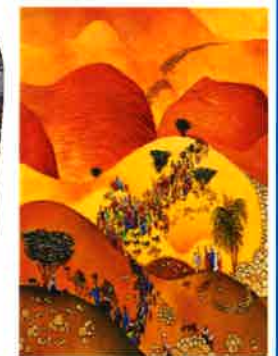
We have resumed our Sunday Bible classes before the worship services on Sunday.

Of special note: We will be holding our Sunday classes IN THE SANCTUARY as that will allow us to spread out a lot more and grant us the benefit of our sound system so everyone can all hear.

See you then!

### FROM JACOB TO THE WILDERNESS

A study of Genesis, Exodus and Numbers



## Stewardship & Finance Committee

### Financial Report

July 2020

At a glance

Operating Inc.:	\$10,948.48
Operating Exp.:	\$9,597.04
Monthly Net:	\$320.94
<b>Ckg Acct Bal 8/31</b>	<b>\$32,082.90</b>
<b>MMkt Bal 8/31</b>	<b>\$45,048.27</b>

August 2020

Here is our monthly update on finance:

August Operating Income: \$10,948.48

Expenses: \$9,597.04 Net: **\$1,387.44**

**YTD Net: \$873.82**

Greetings All!

Expenses in August beyond regular operations: Presbytery PMA (per member asking) \$225.75 General Assembly PMA \$247.25 World Missions-qtrly; Port Orchard Church plant \$300.00, Mike Kuhn Project \$125.00.

**Money Market:** Money Market balance 8/31/20: \$45,048.27 We had a lot of activity with restricted funds in August and completed several projects: new toilets for the preschool, purchase of the baby grand piano, and the resurfacing of the parking lot. We were blessed with the income from the rummage sale for the building fund which will be used for landscaping needs.

Many thanks to all for your support! We are preparing our budget for 2021 and will be gearing up for the stewardship drive soon. Welcome to the Fall season and some cooler temperatures. Blessings All!

Kathy Todd



Give



Serve



Attend



Grow

**Stewardship**  
a way of life



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We're on the web!

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

"like" us on Facebook

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



Romans

10/4 - Romans II  
"Universal Sinfulness"  
Romans II 2:12-3:20

10/11 - Romans III  
"In Christ by Faith"  
Romans III 3:21-31

10/18 - Romans IV  
"The Example of Abraham"  
Romans IV 4

10/25 - Romans V  
"The Guarantee of Blessing"  
Romans V 5:1-11

## Your SESSION

### Elders

- Pastor Aaron Beaty- Session Moderator
- Noreen Rhoades- Clerk of Session
- Kathy Todd- Finance & Stewardship
- Don Perryman- Christian Education
- Linda Dart- Mission and Outreach
- Jim Zeller- Building and Grounds
- Sally Heaton- Worship

## Your DEACONS

Geri Coker- Chair

- Bev Moulton
- Susan Orton
- Jocelyn Shellito
- Vicki Zeller

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

## Your

## TRUSTEES

- Harold Heaton
- Stephen Goode
- Sharron Goode
- Sharon Haddock

*Session meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month  
from 6-8PM.*

