

Tidings of Peace

August

Newsletter of Peace Memorial EPC

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,
I'd like to share an article with you this month that I found very insightful and timely. It is pithy, but may the Lord bless you in the reading.
Christ is risen!
Pastor Aaron

The Pursuit of Happiness
by Ken Myers

When Thomas Jefferson selected the phrase “the pursuit of happiness” to describe one of the unalienable rights of man, he was appropriating an idea with a very long history. Since the time of Aristotle and before, happiness was understood as a condition to which all people properly aspire. But for the Greeks, as for the biblical writers, happiness was an objective reality, not just a feeling or an emotional state. The phrase “whatever makes you happy,” so commonly uttered today, would have been nonsense to Hebrews, Greeks, and Christians alike, since it implies no fixed moral order in which happiness resides.

Happiness is roughly synonymous with the biblical idea of “blessedness.” In classical and medieval Christian ethics happiness referred to a state of human flourishing or well-being that aligned the life of a person with the truest good. Actions, thoughts, desires, and ambitions had to be ordered in light of the proper end of mankind for a person to be truly happy. Happiness was thus an ethical, not a psychological project. To pursue happiness was to pursue the whole reason for one’s being, but that meant recognizing that one’s desires and actions were in need of correction. It meant accounting for the fact that human beings did not instinctively pursue the truest good, that some very attractive

pleasures were not truly in keeping with the most essential contours of our nature. In Christian terms, the pursuit of happiness meant recognizing that God had created us to flourish in the context of obedience to Him so that our image-bearing nature might display His glory. Since our sin and consequent

In this Months Edition

From the Pastor	1-3
Human Trafficking Comm. Awareness event	3
Calendar	4
Rummage & Bake Sale	5
Deacon’s Doings	5
Mission & Outreach	6
Stewardship & Finance	7
Birthdays & Anniversaries	7
Upcoming Sermons/Church Information	8

waywardness alienated us from our deepest, truest identity, the pursuit of happiness was only possible by grace, since we cannot by our own strength resist the disordering effects of sin in our lives.

So happiness on this historic account is really a function of sanctification, of growth in holy obedience. That formulation would no doubt come as a shock to most of our contemporaries, perhaps even to many Christians, though it would have probably caused a nod of affirmation from most pagan philosophers. How has it come about that a nation often assumed to be Christian, a nation also obsessed with pursuing happiness, has acquired such an anti-Christian understanding of what it means to be happy?

From the Pastor... Continued

Part of the answer is tied up with the radical innovations in ethical thought that took shape during the eighteenth-century, the Enlightenment culture in which Jefferson was at home. It was a time in which philosophers were abandoning the idea of an essential human nature that defined human ends. It was, in a sense, an abandonment of the idea of sin, since these Enlightenment thinkers were quite willing to talk about (in Alasdair MacIntyre's words) "untutored-human-nature-as-it-is," and base their understanding of ethics and politics on a picture of an intrinsically innocent human nature. This was a time in which the freedom of the individual was becoming the ultimate good, for individuals and societies. The philosophies of the time when our nation was founded were committed to the idea of the individual as sovereign in his moral authority (see MacIntyre, *After Virtue*, p. 62).

In such a context, the venerable idea of the pursuit of happiness took on a whole new meaning. Happiness came to be understood as whatever any individual conceives it to be. Since it could no longer be objectively defined in terms of a fixed purpose for human nature, the pursuit of happiness soon came to mean the pursuit of pleasure, the relentless quest for fun, for an emotional state of carefree bliss. And this state need have no correlation to the ethical choices one has made, to the way one has ordered one's life. In fact, many Americans seem committed to pursuing this kind of happiness by means of making bad ethical choices: committing adultery, dishonoring their parents, killing their unborn children, abusing their own bodies. When happiness becomes merely a mood, the sustaining of which is the highest good, rules tend to get broken, like eggs in Lenin's omelet.

In the twentieth century, aided by the rise of mass media and ubiquitous forms of entertainment, the pursuit of happiness-as-fun came to be felt as a kind of moral imperative. Writing in the mid-1950s, psychologist Martha Wolfenstein noted the emergence of what she called "fun morality," an ethic that displaced the old-fashioned goodness morality "which stressed interference with impulses. Not having fun is an occasion for self-examination: 'What is wrong with me?' ... Whereas gratification of forbidden impulses traditionally aroused guilt, failure to have fun now lowers one's self-esteem." Not only has happiness been detached from objective human ends and identified uncritically with personal pleasure, the pleasures assumed to be the source of happiness are increasingly the most trivial and fleeting. Submitting to the dictates of fun morality makes the passive consumption of entertainment a more plausible road to happiness than subtler, more demanding pleasures like learning to play the violin, acquiring a love of literature, or cultivating a beautiful garden.

As it happens, the dominant assumption that happiness is a custom-built project with potentially instant payoffs does not seem to have made most people that much happier. In a recent essay entitled "The Pursuit of Emptiness," John Perry Barlow observes: "Of my legion friends and acquaintances who have become citizens of Prozac Nation, I have never heard any of them claim that these drugs bring them any closer to actual happiness. Rather, they murmur with listless gratitude, anti-depressants have pulled them back from The Abyss. They are not pursuing happiness. They are fleeing suicide." Barlow reports on an experiment in looking for smiles on the faces of people in the "upscale organic supermarket" in San Francisco in which he regularly shops. In eleven months, seeing thousands of faces, "nearly all of them healthy, beautiful, and very expensively groomed," he counted seven smiles, three of which he judged insincere. Instead, in supermarkets and elsewhere, he sees a characteristic "expression of troubled self-absorption [which] has become a nearly universal mask." Trying to find happiness on our own terms, rather than on the terms our Creator has built into our nature, is an exhausting and disappointing undertaking.

Carl Elliott, author of the book *Better than Well*, perceptively documents how many Americans use various "enhancement technologies" in the effort to feel better about themselves (which may be the working definition of happiness for many of our contemporaries). Elliot senses that the American project of pursuing happiness has become so desperate that it now seems to require "not only that I pursue happiness, but that I pursue it aggressively, club it into unconsciousness, and drag it back bound and gagged to my basement." The lengths to which people go to nab happiness are astonishing: the drugs they take; the fantasies they sustain; the money they spend; the relationships they poison.

From the Pastor... Continued

There is something of a backlash against this militant happiness-seeking, this regime of relentless perkiness. Earlier this year, Eric Wilson's slim manifesto, *Against Happiness: In Praise of Melancholy*, was greeted by a chorus of sympathy. Wilson questioned the virtue of striving to be perpetually upbeat, reminding readers that it is sometimes quite emotionally healthy to respond to the tragedies of life with darker sentiments. Other recent books have questioned the tendency to treat sadness as a mental illness. These protests are fine as far as they go, but they are still working with the assumption that happiness is a subjective state.

The recovery of a richer vision for human happiness is a project for which Christians are uniquely situated. We believe, unlike most of our contemporaries, that we are made to delight in the knowledge and love of God, to find our fulfillment as creatures only as we walk in His ways. Knowing also that we live in a world disordered by sin, we recognize that true blessedness will often, until Christ returns, involve suffering, persecution, and sacrifice. Our happiness is not a right, but a gift from one who was a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. To the best of our knowledge, Jesus never asked the disciples: "Are we having fun yet?" But He did teach them that faithful servants would enter into the joy of their master. Happiness is the fruit of aligning our lives with God's purposes for us. "If you keep my commandments," Jesus promised, "you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:10-11). The pursuit of such single-minded faithfulness, not simple-minded fun, is the true road to human happiness.

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMUNITY AWARENESS EVENT

As Christians, we know all too well that we live in a broken world. We know what caused it, and we know only the power of God can make things whole and new. Few stains make this more evident than human trafficking. The sale of human flesh marks how perverted we have made God's gifts of relationship. It epitomizes disregard for the value of a human life. It is an evil instituted by man alone, yet an evil man alone cannot defeat.

The Mission Committee of Peace Memorial has accepted the call to combat this evil. Our church is partnering with the Klamath County Human Trafficking Task Force to host a community awareness event, "Human Trafficking 101," on Wednesday, September 15th, at 7:00 pm. Members of the Human Trafficking Task Force will address such topics as myths and misconceptions about human trafficking, learning to identify human trafficking, and what to do if you suspect human trafficking. There will be time for asking questions during the presentation as a conversational format is encouraged. Following the presentation, we'll provide coffee and cookies down in the Fellowship Hall so people can "decompress" and ask further questions.

We sure could use your help with this event. We are inviting the community to attend, so we need people to greet and seat attendees. We need people to provide cookies, and serve refreshments. We need prayer, and prayer, and prayer. If you are willing to help, please contact the office, Geri, or any member of the Mission Committee.

Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised (Luke 4:18). May God's blessings be upon our efforts to do as Christ would do.

August 2021

July 2021							September 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	
				1	2					1	2	3	
5	6	7	8	9			6	7	8	9	10		
12	13	14	15	16			13	14	15	16	17		
19	20	21	22	23			20	21	22	23	24		
26	27	28	29	30			27	28	29	30			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Celebration Sunday ● 10:30AM - 12:00PM Communion	2	■ 12:00PM - 2:00PM Brownbaggers ■ 5:00PM - 7:00PM Spiritual Shortstops	■ 12:00PM - 2:00PM Brownbaggers ■ 6:00PM - 9:00PM Ponderosa AA	■ 9:00AM - 10:00AM TOPS	Office Closed ■ 12:00PM - 2:00PM Brownbaggers	
● 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship	9	■ 12:00PM - 2:00PM Brownbaggers ■ 5:00PM - 7:00PM Spiritual Shortstops	■ 12:00PM - 2:00PM Brownbaggers ■ 6:00PM - 9:00PM Ponderosa AA ● 6:00PM - 8:00PM Session	● 9:00AM - 3:00PM Rummage/Bake Sale - Setup ■ 9:00AM - 10:00AM TOPS	Office Closed ● 9:00AM - 2:00PM Rummage/Bake Sale ■ 12:00PM - 2:00PM Brownbaggers	● 9:00AM - 2:00PM Rummage/Bake Sale
● 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship ● 11:30AM - 12:30PM Deacons	● 4:00PM - 5:30PM Stewardship/Finance	■ 12:00PM - 2:00PM Brownbaggers ● 1:00PM - 2:00PM Worship Comm ■ 5:00PM - 7:00PM Spiritual Shortstops	■ 12:00PM - 2:00PM Brownbaggers ■ 6:00PM - 9:00PM Ponderosa AA	■ 9:00AM - 10:00AM TOPS ● 1:00PM - 2:00PM Missions & Outreach	Office Closed ■ 12:00PM - 2:00PM Brownbaggers	
● 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship	● 4:00PM - 5:00PM Building & Grounds	■ 12:00PM - 2:00PM Brownbaggers ■ 5:00PM - 7:00PM Spiritual Shortstops	■ 12:00PM - 2:00PM Brownbaggers ● 12:30PM - 2:00PM PMWMG Study (Fireside Room) ■ 6:00PM - 9:00PM Ponderosa AA	■ 9:00AM - 10:00AM TOPS	Office Closed ● 11:00AM - 1:00PM Memorial Service - Stoneburg ■ 12:00PM - 2:00PM Brownbaggers	
● 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship	30	■ 12:00PM - 2:00PM Brownbaggers ■ 5:00PM - 7:00PM Spiritual Shortstops	■ 12:00PM - 2:00PM Brownbaggers ■ 6:00PM - 9:00PM Ponderosa AA	■ 9:00AM - 10:00AM TOPS	Office Closed ■ 12:00PM - 2:00PM Brownbaggers	

RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE Aug 13 & 14

As you may have noticed, items for our annual RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE have filled the back hallway and spilled over into the Fireside Room. And there's more coming! We can always use your donations so if you have re-saleable items, you may bring them to the church and put them in the back of Fireside Room. If it isn't convenient to bring your items on Sunday or during church office hours, just give Geri Coker a call and we'll arrange for your drop-off. We do ask that the items you plan to donate are in decent shape- no stained clothing, no appliances missing cords, no cracked glassware, no "teflon" cookware without its "teflon." Our goal is to raise money for church projects, not make dump runs.

We'll be meeting at 11:00 am on THURSDAY, AUGUST 12 to begin setting out items and pricing them. We have hired the services of a rummage sale expert, so Jocelyn will be there to help with the pricing. We could use all the help we can get, so come join us. Even if you think you can't do much, we need people to write out sheets of 25-cent stickers and such. If you are planning to bring baked goods, you may bring them Thursday, or Friday or Saturday. Please price your baked goods yourself as you know best what went into your baking. On the days of the sale, we also need helpers to man various points- cashiers, clothing room, baked goods rotators, and floor walkers. Since we run from 9 am (which every one knows means 8:30) until 2 pm both days, there's plenty of time to fill. Even if you can only give an hour on one day, we'd love to have you come. Sandwich fixings will be provided.

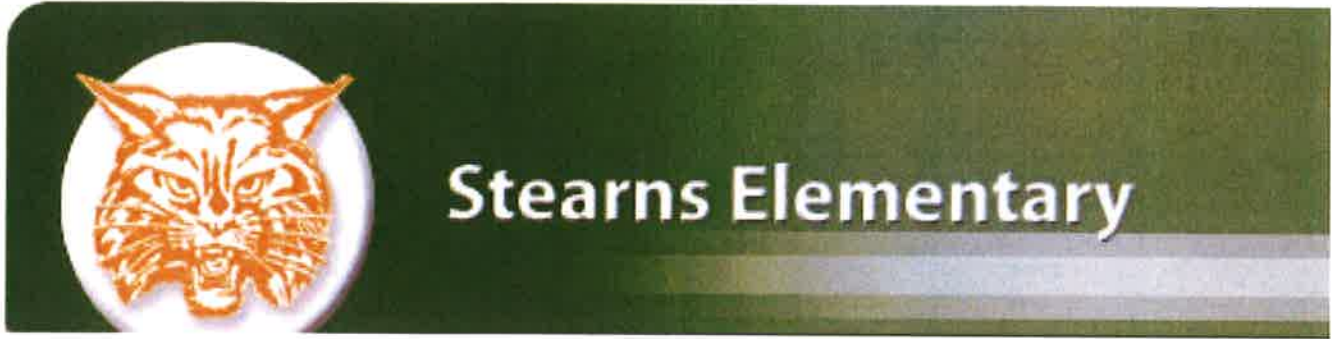
DEACONS DOINGS

The Deacons will be providing a "Dog Days of August" hot dog lunch after church on Aug. 29th. Nothing fancy- just hot dogs, chips and ice cream bars- a as time to kick back as we wrap up summer before heading into the return to full church programs.

A few reminders regarding coffee hour: Each week, people volunteer to serve light refreshments for us to enjoy during the fellowship time that follows church services. For some of those weeks, a specific group (Deacons, Women's Group, Session) takes responsibility. The 4th Sunday, members of the congregation are asked to sign up to provide snacks, serve the refreshments and clean up afterwards. There is a signup sheet on the coffee counter so if you'd like to experience the fun of coffee hour (yes, it is- don't let any one tell you different), put your name down while in line. Typical fare is cookies, cheese and crackers, and fruit, but you bring what you like. It's a great way to be able to make your favorite recipe without worrying how 2 people are going to eat all those lemon bars.

The other reminder for whoever does coffee hour, it is important to do two things: take the garbage out, and someone take the towels and dishcloths home to launder. These are important for several reasons. We have unwelcomed visitors throughout the year. Sometimes they're mice. Sometimes they're ants. Both are attracted to our trash cans. Even the microscopic crumbs left on a towel can provide a feast for those little black ants. And uneaten food- be it a smear of frosting or a strawberry top- becomes wholly unpleasant when left to "cook" all week, especially during these hot months. Don't worry about "wasting" can liners because this can's only half full or that can only has a few paper plates in it.

Mission & Outreach Committee



The Mission & Outreach committee would like to thank the congregation for all the donations made throughout the year for Stearns School.

If the TV ads are correct it is apparently time to be thinking about supplies for the upcoming school year!

We have a box at the back of the sanctuary for Stearns School donations.



Stewardship & Finance Committee

Financial Report

June 2021

At a glance

Operating Inc.:	\$11,224.90
Operating Exp.:	\$11,745.31
Monthly Net:	(\$520.41)
Ckg Acct Bal 6/30	\$50,861.54
MMkt Bal 6/30	\$55,518.37

June 2021

Here is our monthly update on finance:

June Operating Income:....\$11,224.90

Expenses:.....\$11,745.31

Monthly Net:..... **(\$520.41)**

YTD Net:.....\$14,203.75

Checking 6/30/21:.....\$50,861.54

Money Market 6/30/21:..... \$55,518.37

Hi Friends,

Thank you all for your continued support during this very hot summer! Expenses in June beyond regular operations: Yearly SAIF payment, building insurance, Per member asking's for Presbytery and General Assembly, janitor Supplies, local missions support, world missions donation, worship supplies, and quarterly organ fund disbursement.

Many Blessings!

Kathy Todd

Birthdays

4TH MELISSA MOULTON

6TH JIM ZELLER

8TH JANET VERCRUYSSSE

9TH BILL DART

14TH KATHY TODD

24TH STEPHEN GOODE

25TH KEVIN GORHAM

27TH MADYSON GREEN

29TH BEV THROOP

Anniversaries

12TH HAROLD & SALLY HEATON

12TH BOB & ANN WINCENTSEN

18TH STEPHEN & SHARRON GOODE

29TH BILL & LINDA DART

AUGUST



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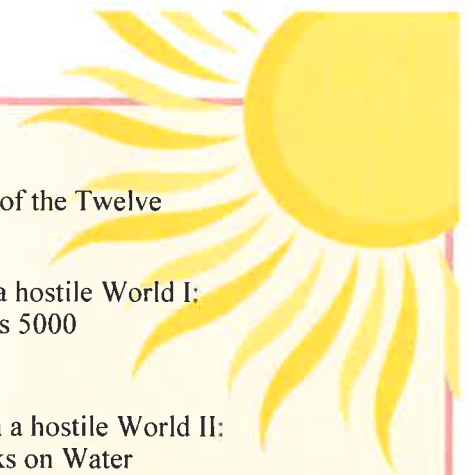
Pastor: pastoraaronepc@yahoo.com

We're on the web!

www.peaceEPC.com

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



8/1 - The Mission of the Twelve
Mark 6:7-29

8/8 - Provision in a hostile World I:
Jesus Feeds 5000
Mark 6:30-44

8/15 - Provision in a hostile World II:
Jesus Walks on Water
Mark 6:45-52

8/22 - Provision in a hostile World III:
Jesus Heals the Sick
Mark 6:53-56

8/29 - Tradition and Uncleanness
Mark 7:1-23

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
Bob Wincentzen-	

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



Your DEACONS

Geri Coker- Chair

Bev Moulton

Susan Orton

Jocelyn Shellito

Vicki Zeller

Bertra Bratton

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



Your

TRUSTEES

Harold Heaton

Stephen Goode

Sharron Goode

Sharon Haddock