



Pastor's Moments...

Well, Summer is drawing to a close and Fall is fast approaching. September is in many ways the "beginning" of our church year. We gear up new programs and Sunday School each Fall. The budget process is in full swing and the nominating committee begins its search for leadership for our boards and committees. In other words, we get busy !

To set the tone for the year I want to spend the month talking about the topic of "Christian Character." Who we are is as important as what we say! We live in an age of cynicism. People are disillusioned with many traditional organizations including the church! They don't trust us anymore. Many of our leaders have been found wanting in the morality department. Who can blame people when they thought we were trustworthy and upright and we turn out to be not that kind of people? One might be tempted to point at the Catholic situation with so many stories of priests and abuse problems, but let's be honest, the Protestants have a fair number of moral failures among their leadership also.

We need to be honest with ourselves. We talk about holiness, honesty, trust and virtue, but now we need to put our lives where our talk is... a whole person approach. Does this mean we will become perfect — absolutely not! The Apostle John reminds us:

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us... If we claim we have not sinned, we make him (the Lord) out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives." 1 John 1:8,10

It's the last point I want to lift up. If we have sin and we do, then there is a work that the word of God want to do in us. It's precisely that word and that process that I want to address in September.

What I don't want to do is give you lists of do's and don'ts and then send you out to behave yourselves and "act" holy! It goes much deeper than that, It goes to the heart of becoming a "transformed" person and living

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*The October
'Windows' deadline is
Sunday,
September 19th.*

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the life God destined you for. I would remind you that Jesus' invitation in John 10:10... "I came that they have life and have it abundantly." In the context of Chapter 10 this verse fits into following, the Shepherd Jesus who is concerned about our well-being! In other words, it is really the process of discipleship.

A number of years ago our Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches/USA, Roy Medley, invited us to "radical discipleship." To become a people of character is radical discipleship. But even more than that it is a matter of life. Both for us, and for those who "watch" us to see what we are all about. In the end it is all about Jesus.

This comes on the heels of talking about worship in August. Coming away from worship with a heart to live the life of God in us really is our only good and proper response. The goal isn't just to "feel good" after worship, the goal is to be good !

I hope you will find this series both challenging and interesting. I want to present this in such a way as to make it invitational. By that I mean to perk up a desire to live a deeper life in Christ. Isn't that after all the goal of being Christian? I hope to make this just one more step in our growth as a congregation, "fully committed to Christ."

We need to be honest with ourselves. We talk about holiness, honesty, trust and virtue, but now we need to put our lives where our talk is...

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and are ready to be involved in all our fall activities. We will be offering a full range of educational experiences. Let me encourage those of you who have not been a part of a Sunday School class to give one your serious consideration. As the year goes on we will look at some evening and other times for short term studies or groups...

Stay tuned !

Always good to be in the service of Christ with you!

Pastor Bob

Thank you !

For Roosevelt "Back to School" Supplies

For weeks the school supplies have been stacking up in the church office. Where did the counters go? They are under all those pencils, crayons, back packs and assorted other supplies. So, what did YOU donate to Roosevelt School to get the children ready for their first day? This is not a complete inventory, but it will give you an idea of your generosity:

- 141 spiral notebooks
- 130 packages of crayons
- 44 packages of colored markers
- 46 packages of colored pencils
- 47 pair of scissors
- 93 packages of notebook paper
- 15 filled backpacks and 10 non-filled back Packs

And... **lots** of socks and underwear ! Thank you !!!

Pastor Mark's Meanderings ...

What Makes a Church Missional?

Missional is a term that we have been using for about 2 years here at Olympia First Baptist Church. But what exactly are the characteristics and/or makes a church "missional." What follows is a "Readers Digest" version of an article written by the Rev. Dr. Ron Carlson, who is a missional church strategist with American Baptist Home Mission Societies. I hope it gives you a more concrete understanding of what we are trying to become as a missional community of faith...

"Missional churches are *authentic communities* in that their relationships with people, within and outside the church are not superficial. These communities seek to create safe environments, characterized by acceptance, forgiveness, healing, and hope, where people can live lives of honesty (not perfection) and where practices are congruent with the verbal professions of faith. As a community of *faith*, the church is a living response to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Faith here is not primarily a statement or doctrinal position *about* God, but a response to God's invitation to follow Christ into God's mission in community with others.

Missional churches take seriously the call of Jesus to "Seek first the Kingdom of God and God's righteousness." Missional churches recognize that they exist in a missionary environment and are willing to risk themselves for the purpose of engagement in God's kingdom work on earth. They direct their activities outward toward the context in which the church is located and beyond to the broader world."

"Missional DNA Markers"

There are six characteristics of a Missional Church, as follows:

1. *The missional church treats its own context as a fluid, constantly changing mission-field:*

Missional churches recognize that, while 50 years ago, 8 out of 10 Americans got up on Sunday morning and went to Christian worship, fewer than 2 out of 10 people do so today... Missional churches understand that engagement in social concerns in their immediate communities is as significant as the social engagement traditionally supported in overseas missions. Such engagement includes building relationships and acting as advocates for those who are marginalized by the dominant culture.

2. *The missional church is both active in and supportive of mission:*

The intention of the missional church movement is to move churches beyond financial support and short-term mission projects into a lifestyle of direct mission engagement. While missional churches do not minimize the importance of cooperative missional efforts and financial support of missions, they grow to understand support of mission to include encouragement, training, and accountability of those participating in mission...

3. *The missional church recognizes its mission includes both the Great Commission (making new disciples) and The Great Commandment (loving God and loving others as oneself):*
...Evangelism is seen as inseparable from missional discipleship

Continued... Page 4

rather than a means to grow the local congregation. Therefore, missional churches actively invite people of other beliefs and of no religious belief into partnership with them in the work of mission in the community. The social mandate of Matthew 22 is lived out by missional churches through social service (giving a cup of water in Jesus' name) and social action (seeking to transform unjust systems and powers that deprive people of that water).

4. *The missional church recognizes all people as both the "subject" and "object" of God's mission:*

...Missional churches develop relationships with those they seek to serve. They also recognize the gifts and abilities of the recipients and, following Jesus' model of inviting people he served to be actively engaged in God's mission, welcome those they serve as agents of mission...

5. *The missional church is engaged in transformation of persons, churches, systems, and culture:*

Missional churches anticipate and assume constant and often discontinuous change and seek rapid responses to changes. They allow for the initiation of new endeavors and the discontinuation of those efforts that no longer fill their purpose...

6. *The missional church multiplies faith communities, disciples, and mission:*

Multiplication is part of the original intention of missional churches. Since they see themselves as existing in the cross-cultural setting of a mission field, they embrace the formation of new missional faith communities.

they embrace the formation of new missional faith communities. They avoid cloning themselves and attempt instead to initiate communities that differ from them in cultural expressions of worship and community service. Missional churches also form multiple mission teams as participants respond to their interests and God's call to service. Moreover, they seek to multiply their mission through recruitment and empowerment of those being served and by entering into partnerships with those outside the church who share common concerns.

It is unlikely that any singular congregation models all six characteristics. The intent of introducing churches to a missional understanding is to help them develop ministries of outreach that connect them with their host communities, where they address real needs through mission teams that experiment with ways of living this missional understanding..."

I'm sure that what you've read will seem different but familiar. How would you rate our church, Olympia First Baptist, concerning these six missional characteristics? Do these characteristics help your understanding of what it means to be missional or does it raise more questions? We are committed to be a living presence and witness to those around us as we live out the mission and ministry that God through Christ calls us to. We hope that this edition of the "meanderings," will give you food for thought about what it would mean, look like, etc, to be a fully committed missional church. May the thought and discussion begin.

Grace,

Pastor Mark

The All Church Picnic !

Women of Faith Gathering

Get ready for, and put the date of Sunday, September 19th, on your calendars because it is time once again for our annual **All-Church Picnic** at Tumwater Historical Park.



This church tradition has been going on forever and now the time is close upon us to gather and bring our offerings of chicken, salads, deserts and Madge's world-class baked beans together in one place for a day of good food, good conversation, flying chickens and some fish football.

If your last name begins with the letters

A-N, bring chicken to share and a salad.

If your last name begins with the letters

O-Z, then bring chicken and a dessert of some kind.

The church will provide drinks, rolls, along with Madge's baked beans. We encourage you to bring your own tableservice of plates and silver/ plastic-ware, but we will have paper plates for those who forget. Pastor Mark will provide the fish and chickens !

See you after church on Sunday, September 19th at Tumwater Historical Park for the Tradition— The All Church Picnic. You all come!



Imagine getting together with your closest girlfriends for a weekend. Think of the laughter you'd share, the tears you'd shed, the FUN you'd have. Now, multiply that by about 10,000 or so and you're starting to get the idea of what a Women of Faith Gathering can be !

Imagine what it would be like if the God who created us was willing and able to provide exactly what we need. Would He do that? Because He loves us? Because He loves YOU? Imagine that. Imagine that for two days you are focused on God and His love for you. You can join us for two days filled with laughter, music, and stories that will make you chuckle even as you wipe away a knowing tear.

Over the course of the gathering you'll have an opportunity to:

- * Renew your spirit with messages of hope and humor from the Women of Faith speaker team.
- * Recharge your spiritual batteries with drama that tickles your funny bone and touches your heart at the same time.
- * Rejoice with music from top Christian Artists.
- * Reconnect with God and each other as the WOF worship team leads an arena full of Women to praise God.



The Women of Faith Gathering will be at Key Arena in Seattle on October 29th and 30th. A sign up sheet is on the table in the fellowship area. For more information contact Cheryl Sievers or Cathy English.

Camp Bethel Opportunities

Even though summer is beginning to fade away, does not mean that the ministry at Camp Bethel does as well. The following is a synopsis of the weekend retreat options one can choose from. Remember that there are brochures about each of the camps listed here on the long table in the coffee/fellowship area outside the sanctuary...

Senior Adult Camp—

September 13th-17th:

This will be the 7th year for this particular camp, which is for folks 55 and older. Lodging is available in the Retreat Center, John Friend Lodge, cabins, and RV spaces. Lodging is first come, first serve. For cost and more information, please see the brochures on the long table outside the sanctuary.

Men's Retreat & Fishing Weekend—

October 15th-17th:

"Life-changing conversations and deeper relationships are often the result when men break away from the distractions of everyday life and embark on an adventure with other men! In addition, we offer opportunities for praise and worship of our Lord and other activities." Cost for the weekend is \$85.

Young Adult Retreat—

October 22nd-24th:

Brought to you this year by FAITH! That's right, we're going all in. However, this is a choose your own adventure kind of weekend. So clear your calendars for this great weekend of fun, fellowship, worship, relationship building around the theme of FAITH! Cost for the weekend is \$65.

Do Something New this Fall !

Want to be involved in church life? There are many ways to help:

- * Be an usher or greeter on Sunday morning
- * Sing in the choir
- * Help with Children's Church or Sunday School
- * Serve coffee or bring "treats" for the coffee time

OR

- * Spent some time (on a regular basis) working on the church grounds—trimming or weeding

OR

- * Have an idea ? Share it with the Pastors and they can direct you to the right person!

From the Mission Board

I want to thank everyone once more for coming and participating in the BBQ. Even though it was a gray day, it was a great day. Thanks to Bonnie and Cal for all that they did.

We know that everyone has been more than generous with their school supplies and just want to remind them that the need for underwear and socks will be greater than ever for Roosevelt School. I still have a hard time wrapping my mind around the fact that there are children that do not have these necessities. A container will remain in the fellowship area all year for your donations.

As we are all thinking about summer ending and fall coming soon, I invite you to consider becoming part of our Mission board. We are looking for volunteers to join us.



In The Family ...

Taylor Simpson has been hired by the Steilacoom School District as a 5th grade teacher. Congrats, **Taylor ... Paul Whitehouse** was hospitalized for several days, but is now able to be at home...

Nancy Mallo's daughter, **Natalie Pearce**, covets your prayers as she goes through testing for treatment of breast cancer... Sympathy to the family of **Marian Springer Calloway** who passed away in August. She had been living with her daughter in Eastern Washington for several years...

Congratulations to **Cherity Jenkins and Rob Parrish** on their recent marriage. **Cherity** is the daughter of **Pastor Mark and Kathleen Rambo...** Sympathy to **Don Hill and family** in the passing of his wife, **Marian** on August 28th. The memorial service will be in our sanctuary on Thursday, Sept. 9th, at 11:00 am... **Wayne McLain** has been in and out of the hospital this month with ongoing medical issues. He is now at home... **Andrea Chavez** is able to be back in worship following surgery and complications... Thank you to **all who worked at Camp Bethel** this summer to make the camp experience meaningful for those who attended... Prayers for **Patty Gee** as she deals with health problems... **Teresa Anderson's** son-in-law, **Tony**, is recovering from kidney cancer surgery and doing well... Congratulations to **Roy and JoAnne Schmidt** on their 50th wedding anniversary... Thank you to the **Mission Board** for a great BBQ on August 7th for our neighbors! Even with the rain, a good time was had by all ...

Thank you ...

Thank you to everyone who sent us cards and congratulated us on the occasion of our 50th wedding anniversary. We plan to celebrate this occasion by touring Israel and will share our experiences and pictures in the Thursday Morning Bible Study when we return.

God bless you all.

Roy and JoAnne Schmidt

September Birthdays

SEPTEMBER

Roy Spaulding	8
Robin Baker	11
Betty Ballard	11
Adele Silke	12
Sara Frederickson Nash	16
Andrea Chavez	16
Jamie Chavez	18
Roger von Gohren	19
Will Stuvenga	25
Joe Alexanian	27
Amber Chavez	30
Pat Ferra	30



Ladies' Night Out

Calling all women of the First Baptist Church family! Women's Ministries invites you to its annual Ladies' Night Out on Friday, October 1, 2010 for a night of fellowship, great food, fun times, playing games and possibly making new friends! It will be held in the Fireside Room and begins at 6:30 p.m. Pizza will be provided, but everyone is asked to bring either a salad or a dessert to share.



Reservations will be taken for this great night. There will be sign-up sheets on the long table in the coffee area after church on Sunday, September 19th and Sunday, September 26th.

Sign up and plan to come to Ladies' Night Out for a great time with other women from First Baptist Church.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF OLYMPIA**

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Church Staff

Bob Sievers, Senior Pastor
Mark Rambo, Associate Pastor
Caroline Lehman, Visitation Pastor
Jean Heidal, Church Secretary
Dan Alexanian, Minister of Music
Will Stuiivenga, Organist
Jeanne & Jerry Montgomery,
Caretakers

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Olympia, WA

Permit No. 198

Return Service Requested

*Act Humbly
Love Completely
Live Differently*

Coming In Worship

September 5th - Labor Day Weekend

Communion

Sermon— "A Worshipful Life" Pastor Bob

Read: I Thessalonians 4:1-12

September 12th

Sermon— "Character Counts!" Pastor Bob

Read: Colossians 3:1-17

September 19th All Church Picnic

Sermon—"A Reflecting Life" Pastor Bob

Read: II Corinthians 3:17-4:6

September 26th

Sermon—"An Engaged Life" Pastor Bob

Read: I John 1—2:6

Choir Rehearsals Begin !

30 people can't be wrong!
Come see what all the
excitement is about...

Thursday, September 9 –
7:00 pm

Adult choir
practice starts
again!

See you there.

