

Captive to the Word, Free in the Holy Spirit



# Millbrook Messenger

May 2010

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## **"A NATIONAL DAY OF NON PRAYER"**

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May 6th has been designated as our National Day of Prayer. For many people it will simply slip by as they do business as usual. I have been thinking about that and decided I am willing to offer my birthday, July 1st, as our annual non day of prayer. Let us make a commitment to one day a year not pray for our nation. I am confident it will make a difference!

The following quotation from 2 Chronicles 7:14 has become very popular to recite.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, I will forgive their sin and will heal their land".

The two letters of Chronicles cover the period of Israel from its birth to the return from Babylonian captivity in the 6th Century BC.

A central figure is King David. The writer of Acts reminds us that David "had done the will of God in his own generation" (Acts 13:36). The faithfulness of teachers contribute to us being able to read. So too with David, his faithful serving of the Lord served future generations. Here we are some three thousand years later still talking about the man and his achievements. King David left a rich heritage and impressive legacy based on his desire to live out the will of God in his life and guide Israel in the ways of the Lord.

Most people would agree that they desire living life celebrating our common heritage. After all, we are the "land of the Free, and home of the Brave". We speak of being "one nation under God". As summer approaches, and BBQ's light up, the words from 2nd Chronicles seem strangely distant. What "wicked ways" do I have to release, surrender and repent from? Isn't that more for other people? Could I manage to live one day a year not asking for forgiveness? I could try, but I hope it will be very difficult.

After all, there is such power in prayer that as I pray daily, I discover I am able to walk in victory. It is so wonderful to awaken in the morning and run these lyrics through your mind; "Woke up this morning with my mind set on Jesus". It will take a supreme effort to not sing that on July 1st!

Last week a Federal Judge ruled that for the government to declare a national day of prayer, was unconstitutional. In her ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Crabb wrote, "the nature of prayer is so personal and can have such a powerful effect on a community

that the government may not use its authority to try to influence an individual's decision whether and when to pray".

The judge is partly right, prayer can and does have a "powerful effect on a community.

We know that right?! Our vision and commitment to protect our heritage will hopefully extend beyond keeping BBQ's fired up. Perhaps we can afford one day a year this year to not pray for what is coming at us. I am thinking of the two vacancies that will soon exist on the Supreme Court. The departure of Justice John Paul Stevens will see the last Protestant on the court. Justice David Souter has also informed the President of his intention to return to his native New Hampshire.

Currently, the court is composed of 6 Roman Catholics, 2 Jews, and Stevens. Do we really care, and does it matter what religious views our leaders have? I believe it does.

The great Reformer Martin Luther once said that, "I would rather be ruled by a wise Turk, then a foolish Christian". There is a real irony that the Christian Conservatives in Germany have just appointed a woman of Turkish origin to being a government minister.

Her declaration to have all crosses removed from schools makes one wonder whether she is more "foolish then wise".

Christians are not called to be, nor can we afford to be "foolish". Wise Christians realize that, yes, perhaps one day a year we can 'afford' to not pray. We would not want to go any longer would we?

The words of an early Israeli judge come to mind; "Decide this day whom you will serve..." (Joshua 24:15). This day is a good day to pray! The apostle Paul would agree that a "National Day of Prayer" is a thin spread of our "powerful effect".

He urges us to, "Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor 10:5).

May that be our daily prayer. It will serve future generations well, and assure our Freedom.

PJ



As I reflected on the point of view that was in the Messenger last month, I realized that we have so many new people in our family that they may not know what an elder's duties are. So, I thought that I might spend some time educating the family about an elder's responsibilities. If you have been a Presbyterian since dirt was invented, it is not going to hurt you to refresh your memory about these things.

All of this information comes directly from the Book of Order, which is part of the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The following are the general description of our duties.

Each Ruling Elder exercises the power of order. This is the power that belongs to the Elder by right of ordination. Thus,

- A. A Ruling Elder should study and learn the Word and become equipped to teach that Word, even to supplying a regular ministry of the Word where none is available. The Ruling Elder should become adept at leading worship and at leading in prayer.
- B. As an Undershepherd, that person should visit the sick, the bereaved, the lonely, the aged, the shut-in, and all those who have a pastoral need. In cases where there is a special need, the Ruling Elder shall be careful to inform the Pastor.
- C. It is especially incumbent upon the Ruling Elder to see to the development of the children of the congregation, to inquire after the inactive members, to encourage new members in spiritual development, and to otherwise show care for those whom they serve.
- D. A Ruling Elder should be diligent to watch for moral failures and seek to warn, to admonish, and otherwise to reclaim those who stray. In special cases, where it is deemed necessary, such failures should be brought to the attention of the Church Session for appropriate action of discipline.
- E. A Ruling Elder may be temporarily authorized by Presbytery as a Commissioned Pastor to preach the Word, evangelize, moderate a session, administer the sacraments, perform marriages (if civil law allows), preside at funerals and provide pastoral care for churches without pastors, mission churches, church development works, hospital, hospice, prison or other specialized ministries as deemed appropriate by the Presbytery.

These are all the responsibilities and powers of each individual Ruling Elder as stated in the Book of Order, G10-6.

I believe that past and current Ruling Elders have done well in areas A and C. Many of us have taught Bible Studies and/or Sunday School classes. Many of us have preached from the pulpit. Currently, each month a Ruling Elder gives the Offertory Prayer each week. Each of us is part of the ministry team at the end of each service ready to pray for people with needs. As more children have been coming to the family, many of us have taken some of them under our wings for guidance both spiritually and discipline. Each new person to enter the family is embraced by Ruling Elders and nurtured. We spend time trying to develop relationships with all whom we serve.

I believe that we fall short of the mark in areas B and D. However, this must become a priority for the current session to improve in both of these areas.

As for part E, we have done this in the not too distant past. One of our current Ruling Elders was given this authority, in order to perform at a relative's wedding.

This covers the areas of responsibility and power for individual Ruling Elders. Think about these over the next month and seek out elders and ask questions, help us to improve in the areas where we need improving. Next month I will delve into the duties of the Elders as they serve together on Session.

Lee Ault, Clerk of Session

During the regular business meeting of Session on April 20, 2010 the following actions were taken:

**approval** of amendment to the Millbrook Presbyterian Church. A baptized individual under the age of 16 will be a non-voting member. At the age of 16, they become eligible to become a voting member.

**approval** of Session meeting on the second Tuesday of each month for prayer and study of the book, The Healthy Small Church by Dennis Bickers. There will be no business discussed.

**approval** of financial report for the month of March showing revenue of \$19,635, expenditures of \$22,993 for a net loss of \$3,358.

**approval** of the use of the Fellowship Hall by Campus Christian Academy for testing during either to week of May 10 or May 17, 2010.

**approval** of vacation dates for Mickie Swan from May 3 to May 25, 2010.

**approval** of a high school room key to Greg Stewart.

**approval** of the use of either the Fireside Room or the Conference Room by Jerry Voss for Healing Room training on June 4 and June 5, 2010.

**acceptance** with regrets the resignation of Curtis Nickel from the chairmanship of Buildings and Grounds.

**approval** of designating the storage area adjacent to the kitchen as Food Storage Pantry including some free standing shelves.

**approval** of storage room key to Tim Lockwood and Brian Stewart.

**approval** of proceeding with the back lot project including fixing the electronics for the sprinkler system and seeding the area with Bermuda grass.

**approval** of vacation dates for Robert Hyatt on May 16 and May 30, 2010.

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Once there was a Queen who thought she had everything she could ever want or need. She spent her days with all the people she loved and cared about unaware that she was being watched. She believed everything was set, she had a plan and had no thoughts of sharing her kingdom, this was her responsibility, her duty so to speak and she was happy to serve as she could. One day without notice the watcher approached her; hmm where did he come from she thought, no idea what he might want; being who she was she listened as he told her he wanted to sing a song and spend time with her. Rather peculiar she thought no one ever went out of their way to spend time with her, although flattered she hesitated thinking I don't need to hear a new song. Then suddenly she said "yes, I would like to hear your song". As she listened she didn't notice the song was taking her into a place she had not been, wasn't a bad place and made her happy. The watcher continued to visit, days went by he sang many songs the queen found much pleasure in his songs, stories and enjoyed just talking; she found the most pleasure just being in his presence. After a while she couldn't wait to see the watcher and looked forward to the time they would spend together. Then without warning the watcher stopped coming, no more songs and no more stories that would make her laugh. Now the Queen had a decision to make and that is where this story will end. I ask you to think how many times you yourself believed the world were turning your way and suddenly everything just stopped no rhyme, no apparent reason, and all you could do is whatever you do when disappointed or feelings of helplessness set in. Almost like you are possessed, actually you are possessed. Possessed by something unexplainable so my question to you is what possesses you? For where your hart is, is your treasurer?

Be Blessed

Rachel Ebrahimzadeh

Greetings to all of you who support our friends all over the world who serve in communities for the Name and Glory of Jesus Christ. We recognize that all of you have demonstrated a love and care for those who are working the fields in various endeavors. Your generosity in giving is breathtaking and humbling. We all know that many of you give quietly where you see a need. A hand is given, a check written and prayer lifted as required in your mission for the Kingdom. You all are AMAZING!

**Off the presses:** The Woodrings continue to situate in Montana, but travel the world in various capacities. The Foresters are enjoying married life and meeting young people who struggle against culture and religion. Marisa Horn has been in various places near Israel and will be undertaking a new mission. The Eastwoods continue with Business as Missions traveling to the South Seas. David Hooker continues to serve with Joni and Friends, but has been promoted to the main office. He will continue to reside in Fresno, but will be traveling more. We hear from New Life for Girls, Evangel Home, and the Pregnancy Care Center and they continue to meet the needs of women in the valley. We are unable to mention some friends due to the location of their service. Please pray for our family in Central Asia. Life for the Body is becoming more dangerous.

Blessings and strength to David Lockwood as he completes his Army service to the USA. Pastor Jerry is on the field in the month of May. We are rejoicing at your generosity in supporting our sister church in Kenya. Over \$1000 was given in love to our brothers and sisters.

**Future plans:** Missions will be developing some criteria for people requesting support. Larry Ingoldsby is working on the preliminary documents. We will send a letter to all of our missionaries explaining that we (MPC) are seeking the Lord's will and explaining the changes in our finances. We are asking them to apply for finances for the next budget year. A list of the criteria will be included in the letter, expressing our desire to have regular (monthly) communication from our missionaries.

Please join your mission team at any time. We welcome new members. Check with the fearless leader, Larry Ingoldsby regarding dates and times.

The biggest gift you give is to pray for our friends...especially Pastor Jerry in his current adventure for the love of the Savior.



- *Family of Evelyn Henningsen*—Evelyn was called home by the Lord on May 4th. Please pray for her daughter, Debra, and grandson, Matt.
- *Family of Dolores Blades*—Dolores was called home by the Lord on April 28th. Please remember her son, Keith, in your prayers.
- *Levi Woodring*—for good healing and minimal scarring from lip/nose surgery (5/4/10). Grandma Mickie is there to help.
- *Pastor Jerry*—for a safe return from Kenya on Tuesday, 5/11.
- *Private David Lockwood*—for adjustment to being back in Iraq for 8 more weeks, and for protection and to be an effective witness of Christ's love.
- *Gladys Vail*—home, continued healing and strengthening of broken leg.
- *Norma Keck*—there are still concerns about blood flow to her foot following vein surgery, has another blockage.
- *Hazel Powers*—at Pacific Gardens (577 S. Peach), continue to pray for her heart and wound healing.
- *Tommy Anderson*—on chemo but having no side effects, pain is greatly reduced.
- *Lori Kohman (Lola's daughter)* - continuing treatments for breast cancer.
- *Mary Quinones*—treatment for throat cancer.
- *Wally Nickel (Curtis' Dad)* — pray for his health.
- *Marg Griffin*—(Jennifer Kennedy's mom) - multiple health problems.
- *Diane Eisenbise*—healing from a car accident, sore neck & shoulder.
- *Barbara Hosford*—original tumor is smaller but cancer has spread, no further treatments.
- *Our elderly, sick and shut-in members*
- *Our Missionaries:* Craig & Jennifer, Herbert & Tamara, Marissa, Ed & Jo, Tommy & Fatimah,
- *Mike & Heather, Scott & Leslie.*
- *The Persecuted Church around the world*
- *Military Personnel & families*—Herb & Gertie's grandson, Dan Marques (Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, Crohn's Disease); Grace Flint's grandson, Jeremy (officer's training in San Antonio); Larry & Betty Reis's nephews, David & Eddie; Tim & Kris's son, David (Iraq), and their nephew, Tommy Najarian (Ft. Lewis, WA); a friend "X" of Pastor Jerry's (Afghanistan/Pakistan border); Margaret & Ruben Barrios's nephew, Jason Munoz (Afghanistan).
- *Our country, elected officials and leaders.*



## Anniversaries

- May 7 Curtis & Peggy Nickel  
May 16 Bill & Linda Lawless  
May 24 George & Michelle Smith

## Birthdays

- May 2 Bob Giese  
May 5 Norma Keck  
May 7 Cheryl Lugo  
May 7 Ned Herbert  
May 8 Mitchell Giles  
May 11 Gabrielle Pennington  
May 12 Bill Lawless  
May 13 Gladys Vail  
May 13 Gail Campbell  
May 15 Jane Guire  
May 15 Jonathan Stewart  
May 16 Mickie Swan  
May 16 Christopher Lugo  
May 23 John Edmondson  
May 24 Hannah Tunnell  
May 27 Betty Gara  
May 28 Grace Olcese  
May 29 Carl Campbell  
May 31 Tim Lockwood



**"Change for Babies"**

Pregnancy Care Center Fund Raiser

If you'd like to participate, please pick up a baby bottle in the Narthex after the service this morning. Fill it with coins and return it on Father's Day.

Our compassionate support enables PCC to extend to young women in crisis pregnancies; the love of Jesus, counseling, resources, and services in support of birth options as opposed to abortion.

**Communal Prayer—May 15th**

Come and join us for a special time of prayer in the Sanctuary, this Saturday evening at 6:00 pm.

**Joni & Friends Romania 2010****Dessert Fundraiser**

Thurs. May 13th ~ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Piccadilly Inn, 2305 W. Shaw Ave.

RSVP 227-5664 ~ This is a no-cost event, desserts will be provided.

**Congregational Meeting—May 16th**

There will be a congregational meeting after church on May 16th to vote on the following amendment to our by-laws:

"An individual under the age of 16, who has made a profession of faith and is baptized, will become a non voting member of Millbrook Presbyterian.

At the age of 16, they will become eligible to vote."

**Directory Updates**

Rachel Ebrahimzadeh— new phone number: 455-7796, and she no longer has an email address.

**Adult Sunday School Classes @ 9:00a*****Psalms—Heart Food***

Led by Ned Herbert in a classroom on the north side of Cavitt Hall.

***Dust to Glory***

A DVD series by RC Sproul, gives an overview of Scripture. Each week we look at a different book(s) in the Old Testament.

This class meets in the Fireside Room.

***New Believer's Class***

Led by Tim Lockwood and meets in the Conference Room. Questions?

Call Tim @ 435-6553

**Mighty Men of Millbrook**

**Saturday, May 8th @ 8:00 am**

Mike Giles will lead the devotional and Roy Kelly will help with the food. All men are invited and welcome!

**Potluck—May 23rd**

There will be a Salad Potluck Luncheon after church on May 23rd to honor the mothers in the congregation.

**A-J** bring fruit pies

**K-Z** bring a favorite salad

The Friendship Team will provide rolls and punch

**Senior Pastor** - Jerry J. Voss • **Pastor of Discipleship** - Robert Hyatt • **Director of Urban Ministries** - Alex Castellanos

**Office Manager** - Judy Edmondson • **Finance Manager** - Carl Campbell

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**Editor** - Robert Hyatt

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