



News for the Pews

The Newsletter for Wasaga Beach Community Presbyterian Church
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Barry's Blog

You Are Blessed! -
Matthew 5:3-12

We have read these words of Matthew 5 many times... These are the Beatitudes, and we probably have some pre-conceived ideas of what they are all about, or whether or not we can live up to them...

There is a trap hidden in the Beatitudes that I know I have fallen into countless times, and perhaps you have, too. The trap is as simple as it is subtle: believing that Jesus is setting up the conditions of blessing, rather than actually blessing his hearers. All my life I have approached the Sermon on the Mount from a very individualistic point of view. I've thought of it as being of the type that will shape ME into being a better Christian... *Am I humble? Do I work for peace? Do I love my enemy? Do I judge?*

When I hear the Beatitudes, it's hard for me not to hear Jesus as stating the terms under which I might be blessed. For instance, when I hear "*Blessed are the pure in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,*"... I tend to think, "Am I pure enough in spirit?" or "I should try to be more pure in spirit." Whatever that looks like!

The truth is, the word "*Blessed*" is misleading... Others have translated it to be ***honoured are those...*** or ***happy are those...*** Honoured is better, happy doesn't really capture the full essence of Jesus' words... One commentator has translated it this way... *Wonderful news for the poor in spirit!* I love that! Because it is wonderful news to know that we don't have to ***do*** anything to be blessed, but that we ***are*** blessed...

People are looking for a way to deal with the challenges, the uncertainties, and the difficulties of life. We hear this cry from people all the time... especially in these times. How do we find our way through this? When will this end? Is there any light at the end of the tunnel?

As we hear Jesus' words and consider the Beatitudes, it's easy to look at ourselves and say, "That is not me, that is not the world, that is not even the church." You are right, it's not. We tend to look at what we are not. God, however, focuses on what we can become, who we are called to be...

The temptation is to think that the Beatitudes are rules or conditions for being blessed or receiving our heavenly reward. They are not that at all. They are not about building up, accomplishing, or acquiring. They are about letting go, surrendering, living with a vulnerable and open heart. That does not mean we run away, back down, or isolate ourselves from the realities of our life and world. It means we engage them in a different way, Jesus' way. The beatitudes teach us to trust God more than the external circumstances of our lives. They invite dependence on God rather than self-reliance...

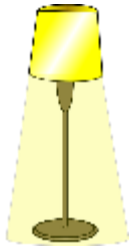
To live the Beatitudes is to live a life of surrender to God. The only reason we can do that is because we know and trust ourselves to have already been blessed by God. We live the Beatitudes, not as some kind of spiritual checklist...but, as a response to God's blessing each day.

Blessings,
Rev. Barry Doner



On the Lighter Side

An avid duck hunter was in the market for a new bird dog. His search ended when he found a dog that could actually walk on water to retrieve a duck. Shocked by his find, he was sure none of his friends would believe him. He decided to try to break the news to his most skeptical friend, inviting him to hunt with him and his new dog.



As they waited by the shore, a flock of ducks flew by; they fired, and a duck fell. The dog responded. It did not sink, but instead walked across the water to retrieve the bird, never getting more than his paws wet. The friend saw everything but did not say a single word.

On the drive home the hunter finally broke the silence, asking, "Well, what do you think of my new dog?" The other guy was quiet for a moment, then said, "So, your dog Can't swim, huh?" 😊



Easter Story *Word Search*

S	C	B	M	N	E	J	E	S	U	S	C	H	R	I	S	T
K	A	A	P	O	D	V	G	V	A	R	E	J	O	I	C	E
J	R	V	M	S	P	R	A	Y	E	R	W	C	B	V	F	S
Y	N	O	I	X	I	F	I	C	U	R	C	T	R	M	L	E
L	A	P	C	O	I	E	B	Q	O	X	B	B	N	O	O	L
I	R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	R	E	S	T
T	R	E	P	P	U	S	T	S	A	L	Y	E	M	B	L	S
S	H	L	U	P	V	Y	T	K	V	F	D	M	T	E	K	O
O	C	A	R	N	E	P	A	X	R	E	S	I	H	M	R	P
C	R	M	E	P	E	N	L	D	M	A	N	A	O	I	E	A
E	U	B	I	K	G	A	A	P	I	J	R	R	R	R	V	V
T	H	X	C	H	Y	N	T	N	H	R	S	M	N	A	O	X
N	C	N	C	A	M	I	E	O	C	T	F	Y	S	C	S	J
E	K	E	R	K	O	S	E	W	N	E	I	D	A	L	S	U
P	U	T	O	N	I	R	N	W	R	P	Y	A	O	E	A	D
L	E	Z	W	R	W	M	D	R	Q	I	T	Y	F	O	P	A
B	S	M	N	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	C	X	G	S

APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
CAVE
CHURCH
CROSS
CROWN
CRUCIFIXION
DISCIPLES
FAITH
GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
JUDAS
LAMB
LAST SUPPER
LENT
MARY
MIRACLE
PASSOVER
PENANCE
PENTECOST

PRAYER
REDEMPTION
REJOICE
RESURRECTION
RISEN
SAVIOR
SON
THORNS
TOMB



Financial Update



The monthly financial report for May was not available at the time this Newsletter was put together. Please look for it in next month's edition.

Thank You all for your offerings and contributions!



Presbyterians Sharing

Although we fell short of our \$4000.00 pledge, Karen thanks us for our generosity and ongoing support throughout these trying times.

Plans to host a spaghetti dinner as a fundraiser this past year were derailed by COVID. If you have any ideas for 2021, please email me at jmschneider290@gmail.com or call 705-429-3903.

Until we are able to access the special Presbyterians Sharing envelopes at the church, please indicate on cheques or PAR givings any amount you wish to direct to Presbyterians Sharing.

In God's love,
Marilyn Schneider



Celebrations

May Birthdays

Ivy Crann, John Doan, George Hollema,
Lloyd Johnstone, Jackie Kimber, Jim
Lupton, John McCartney, Pat
McKinley, Sylvia McLeod, Roy Norton

April Anniversaries

Roger & Sandra Barr,
Willard & Marie Henry

* Blessings to all who are celebrating this month *



NEW BOOK CLUB:

Books by the Bay Book Club meets – The Last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

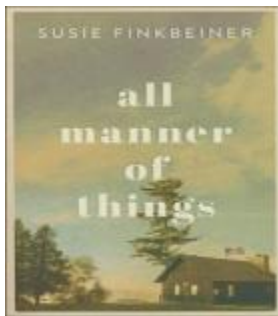


Join us as we discuss books from a variety of genres, best sellers, fiction, non-fiction, multicultural, religious, and not so much. We will read and discuss books that make you happy, sad, frustrate, challenge, and make you think.

For more information and to sign up to be a part of our discussion please contact Heather Doner 705-429-9963 or by email doner.heather@gmail.com. A Zoom invitation will be given to you for each of our discussion times.



Book Review



In 1967, Mike, Annie's older Brother, enlists as an Army medic in Vietnam. He mails Annie a paper with information regarding their long-estranged father. "If anything should happen to me," he says, "let him know."

While Mike is overseas, their father returns to face tragedy at home. Annie and her family will struggle with tensions of holding onto grief and hope, even as they learn to turn to the One who binds the wounds. In this book you will find there are interesting family dynamics, some humor, faith, a wee bit of romance, some sad times but also hope.

