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THE SCROLL

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CHURCH OF THE MASTER PC(USA)



FROM PASTOR BEN

BY THE REV. DR. BENJAMIN D. SELLER

Prayer is so powerful. One day I called my mother on my cell phone with some exciting news. While speaking I realized that she hadn't said anything for several seconds. I looked at my screen and it said that we still had a connection. I said her name several times and waited for a response but did not get one. I was frustrated because I was pretty sure that she was still on the line, but for some reason my conversation was only working one-way. After hanging up and trying again, we were able to resume the conversation. She said she could hear me, but I could not hear her. Later I got to thinking about my experience and realized that prayer can sometimes feel the same way.

I know that God can hear me when I pray, but when His voice feels silent in my life, I sometimes wonder if the connection only works one-way.

"Go out and stand before me on the mountain," the Lord told him. And as Elijah stood there, the Lord passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave..."

1 Kings 19:11-13

In this story, Elijah was searching for God. First, he looked for Him in a windstorm, then a powerful fire and earthquake, but God was not in any of those things. These were significant experiences for Elijah because God had established a pattern of appearing in these ways over hundreds of years when communicating with His people. God appeared in a burning bush to Moses in Exodus 3 and in billows of smoke on Mt. Sinai in Exodus 19 with winds that shook the ground. Despite these patterns, Elijah does not feel God's presence until he hears the faintest of whispers. Do you ever find yourself expecting God's voice to come in windstorms and explosive fireworks? I know that when I am desperately seeking God in prayer, I most often want to hear or see His response in very obvious, visible ways.

(continued)

THIS ISSUE:

FROM PASTOR BEN
PAGE 01

MINISTRIES LIST
PAGE 03

DEACON'S CORNER
PAGE 04

STEPHEN MINISTRY
PAGE 05

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
PAGE 06

BIRTHDAYS &
ANNOUNCEMENTS
PAGE 07





FROM PASTOR BEN (CONTINUED)

BY THE REV. DR. BENJAMIN D. SELLER

If I am sick, I pray for healing and want to feel better immediately. If I need help with a problem, I want a clear solution. If I am in emotional pain, I want God to make the pain go away. Sometimes, though, I feel the same way I did during my dropped call with my mother. I talk to God in prayer and feel and see no change. It is in those moments that I need to remember that God's voice sometimes comes in a gentle whisper. God doesn't always work in dramatic ways. Sometimes it is in the little things that God moves the most. I might not feel healthy right away, but He may nudge me toward the help that I need. A solution may not present itself to fix my problems, but God can use those problems to make me stronger. The pain may not always go away immediately, but God sometimes uses that pain to remind of all that He has blessed me with. These are just a few tangible ways that God speaks through a whisper. How are you looking for God to respond to your prayers? Maybe the connection hasn't been lost. Perhaps you are just not listening carefully enough.

THIS ISSUE:

FROM PASTOR BEN
PAGE 01

MINISTRIES LIST
PAGE 03

DEACON'S CORNER
PAGE 04

STEPHEN MINISTRY
PAGE 05

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
PAGE 06

BIRTHDAYS &
ANNOUNCEMENTS
PAGE 07





HIS WORK, OUR HANDS

We are a community built on the love of Christ here at Church of the Master. Take a moment to review the four Pillars of Ministry that support our House of Worship. Within each, you will find just a few of the active, diverse ministries we embrace. For more information, call the office to connect with each ministry leader.

MINISTRIES OF THE MASTER

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

Christian Education
Paul Martin

Family Ministry
Sydney Prinster

Men's Bible Study
Wayne Woodland

Presbyterian Women
Sue Christie

Redemption Homeless
Outreach
Keith Downs

Stephen Ministry
Carol Story
Chuck Holland

Sustainable Hope Earth
Care Ministry
Erin M. Rausch

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

Bereavement Ministry
Rev. Dr. Ben Seller

Faith, Activity,
Nutrition FAN
Fran Caldwell

Historical Society
Lee Mason

Medical Supply Ministry
Beth Woodland

Midweek Supper Team
Fran Caldwell

Needlers Ministry
Heather Ceasar

Out To Lunch Bunch
Bruce Long
LaVonne Wellborn

PARTNERSHIP MINISTRIES

Agape Brass

C.A.N.
Beth Woodland

Co-Dependents
Anonymous

Faith Christian School

Maranatha Community
Church

Missions Ministries
Judy Youngren

Montlure Camp

Presbytery of the
Grand Canyon

Staying Alive: CPR & First
Aid Training

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

A/V Ministry
Gary Wellborn, Ted
Martin

Bells of the Master
Handbell Ministry
Dr. Nathan Arch

Chancel Choir Dr.
Nathan Arch

Chancel Guild
Ministry
Diane Windish
Margie Van Roekel

Communion
Preparation Ministry
Kathy Holland

Greeters & Ushers
Ministry
Heather Ceasar

Welcome
Outreach Ministry
Barb Cooley
LaVonne Wellborn

HOLY BIBLE



DEACON'S CORNER

Are you a pew potato - someone who spends some time at church, occupies a space, and then goes home without much thought? Are Sunday mornings more habit than worship? Or maybe you are more of a tater tot - someone who has "been there and done that" and now feels like it's someone else's turn to step up. If this could be you, maybe you need to go in a different direction to re-energize your worship experience.

Attitude could be a starting point. Instead of going through the motions of getting ready for church, think about why you're going there. Because you always have? You want to see your friends? You want to praise God for all the blessings you have received in the past week or that you need encouragement and strength because the past week has been really awful? Taking a few moments ponder these things won't change the world but may give you a needed spark.

And there is always prayer. Prayer is a time to have a conversation with God. You don't have to wait in line or hope that He might be available today. You don't have to go to a certain place or buy a book to tell you how to proceed. It's a time to settle your mind from all life's distractions and have a talk. And remind yourself that communication is two-sided. We seem to be pretty good with the talking and asking parts, but how good are you about listening? Are you expecting a burning bush but receiving a small nudge?

Maybe you are feeling somewhat lost or confused. God has given you a roadmap in scripture for that too. It covers just about everything that you may be feeling - hate, jealousy, envy, hurt, betrayal, loneliness - it's all there. The Bible goes way beyond commandments like "don't kill," "don't steal," or "honor your parents" too. In Galatians 5:22-23, all things to strive for are laid out in black and white: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and (a tough one) self-control. Good thing we can start with baby steps with all that!

Many of us are comfortable with who we are and are secure in our spiritual journey at this stage of our lives. That doesn't mean we don't have a few rough edges that may need work. A true relationship with God requires work and your participation in the process. You probably don't need a complete overhaul but, maybe, just a little tune-up would help. Don't be satisfied with "religious activity" that lacks true fellowship with God.

See you in the pews as people of God, not potatoes.

Food for Thought: Only God's chosen task for you will ultimately satisfy. Do not wait until it is too late to realize the privilege of serving Him in His chosen position for you. --Beth Moore

In His service with love,

Fran



STEPHEN MINISTRY



Stephen Ministry

God heals...

“For I will restore you to health; of your wounds I will heal, says the Lord.” Jeremiah 30:17

We live in a world filled with beauty. But there may be times when the struggles of this world prevent us from experiencing this beauty. Our struggles may become too much for us, causing us to become ill--physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually. While external bodily wounds may be easy to identify, interior wounds, those that affect not only our bodies, but also our minds and our souls, the “wounds of our our heart,” are less easy to identify.

Our trained Stephen Ministers offer a safe and confidential space for you, or someone you know, to experience God’s healing for all your wounds. A Stephen Minister regularly meets with you and compassionately listens to you without judgement. He or she prays with and for you in your healing journey.

“Love heals. With love, unconditional love, welcoming love, prayerful love; these heal and transforms those on whom it is bestowed.” Marie, Stephen Minister

The care of a Stephen Minister may be exactly what you need to bring Christ’s healing to you.

... through the hands of others

“O Lord, my God, I cried out to you and you healed me.” Psalm 30:3

If you or someone you care for could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, we encourage you to reach out to us Stephen@CotmMesa.org or **480-985-1660 ext 1.**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Dr. Susan Jackson Dowd is the Executive Director of Presbyterian Women and a keynote speaker at PW events. In a recent publication, she shared how the PW Purpose matters.

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Nurturing Faith Matters

PW nurtures faith by publishing Bible studies written by women in the Reformed tradition; prayerfully celebrating the Fellowship of the Least Coin and World Day of Prayer; and engaging in worship and in advocacy.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is a program where all points of the PW Purpose merge. FLC brings together women around the world to pray for peace and reconciliation,



Working for Justice and Peace Matters

Presbyterian women have worked tirelessly for justice and peace since the first Presbyterian General Assembly in 1789. Excluded from participation in the assembly and confident of their call to serve God, the church and the world, the women began to gather. They spread God's good news through cent and mission societies, educational pamphlets and Bible study, and working toward inclusion.

PW meets this point of the purpose today by engaging issues that impact God's children and creation; providing and participating in programs that support those who are refugees, immigrants, houseless or in need of support.



Supporting Mission Matters

PW supports mission by giving time to hands-on mission; working ecumenically with regional, national and international partners; volunteering for programs and projects at all levels of the church, including the Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; participating in relationship-building through partnership opportunities;

Building Inclusive Community Matters

PW builds inclusive, caring communities by gathering as PW sister organizations, together as Presbyterian Women, and ecumenically as God's faithful community; engaging in Racial Equity Dialogue and antiracism efforts; and focusing on leadership development through Honorary Life Memberships, scholarships and endowment funds.

A Reminder! Barb Cooley is leading the final lessons in "Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ" this summer. All are welcome to attend on **Monday, July 13 in the Choir Room!**



Join us in celebrating our friends!

Charlotte Toke - 7/1
Debbie Stahmer - 7/1
Tony Ball - 7/2
Bailey Dannemiller - 7/4
Debra DeVault - 7/5
Lois Tysseling - 7/5
Vincent Torrez - 7/8
Carol Hayward - 7/11
Linda Hayball - 7/12
Sharon Smith - 7/14
Ted Martin - 7/15
Carol Story - 7/17
Jane Suh - 7/17
Nevaeh Kuck - 7/18

Jennie Burel - 7/20
Lynne Collins - 7/20
Rick Gregory - 7/21
Vicki Giardina - 7/22
Larry Johnson - 7/23
Lee Mason - 7/23
Ginny Studer - 7/24
Taylor Woodland - 7/24
Mason Ruenes - 7/25
Bryce Murray - 7/29
Carol Radenz - 7/29
Amanda Harrison - 7/31
Betty Jean Reidhoefer - 7/31



ANNOUNCEMENT

New Member Class

Are you interested in learning more about the church, or maybe you're ready to become a member? We're planning a new member class following the service on August 2. More details coming soon.

Bible Study

Barb Cooley is leading a 3-part women's study on "Finding Our Identity" from the Presbyterian Women's 2025-26 curriculum, lessons 7-9. The last class is 1-2pm in the Choir Room.

August 10—Luke 24:13-35.
Everyone is welcome!

The Out to Lunch Bunch

Join us for the Lunch Bunch on Thursday, July 23 at 11:30 AM for a huge menu of American food at JJ Madison's Restaurant & Tap (430 N Power Rd in Mesa). Please sign the sheet at the Welcome Desk on your way out of the sanctuary. Nancy Phelan is hosting this month.

