

Since moving to South Dakota (33 years ago) I have come to enjoy the fall tradition of pheasant hunting. I recently had the joy of going out for a couple of days with some friends from Mississippi, hunting CRP ground that some members of Sun Prairie graciously allowed us to hunt. What a treat! Although it was a *BLAST*, it was not in the way you might think. I was blasting away and not hitting anything. One day I shot 16 times, missing 8 birds in a row. And of course, the birds flew away and just laughed; unless one of the other guys was close enough to back me up. At first, my friends laughed too. But after a while they were feeling sorry for me. My dog would just stand there and look at me wondering why my gun went off and the pheasant just kept flying.

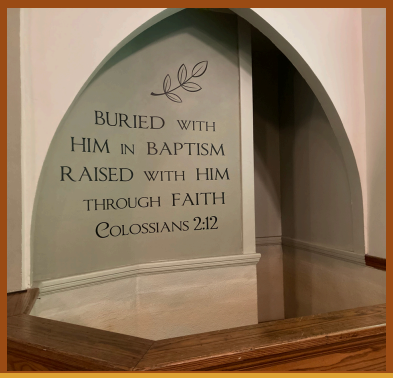
My first thought about why this was happening was that God was humbling me. And I thought about all kinds of areas where I needed to be humbled. At one point I felt like giving up. I had finished off the box of "good" high speed lead ammo that I had been using and pulled out some shorter, cheaper and less effective steel ammo. Walking out of the last field of the day my dog pointed, I shot, and the bird went down. One of the guys asked what brand of lead I had been using all day. When he pulled out of my place that night he left me with 2 boxes of his preferred brand.

The next day I left the office and went home for lunch and noticed a pheasant running across the road and into the ditch. I went to the garage, got my gun and my dog and 4 of those new shells. Chip flushed a dozen roosters out of that ditch. I shot all 4 shells and dropped my limit of 3 birds. After a simple test, I discovered that the high-powered shells had a smaller pattern than the other brand. For a true marksman, the size of the pattern doesn't matter, but for someone like me, we need as wide a pattern as possible!

As I think about this lesson in shooting, I was reminded how important humility is in my life. But there was another application that came to my mind regarding my approach to sharing the gospel with others. It reminded me of how important the ammo/tools that we use are. Sometimes a very narrow, powerful and to the point approach is necessary for an unbeliever to receive the gospel. Other times, a slower, and broader explanation of the gospel has greater impact on the heart and mind of a sinner needing salvation. So, when you get discouraged with that person you've been sharing with, consider changing things up a bit. It might be that your witness is just a little overpowering, and you need to slow down, taking a gentler approach.

And don't worry, I won't forget about the day that I missed 8 in a row.

Pastor Mark



Wednesday, November 25th at 7 pm
Thanksgiving Eve Service
and Baptism followed by
Pie and fellowship

See Pastor Mark if you are interested in
taking this next step in your
faith journey





November

Saturdays
Men's Breakfast and Bible Study at 7:00 am

Sundays
Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 am
Worship at 10:30 am

Wednesdays
9:30 am. Women's Bible Study
6:00-6:30 pm: Supper
6:45 pm: Adventure Club (PreK-5th Grade)
7:00 pm: Adult Bible Studies, MS & HS Youth Group

Wednesday. November 4th at 8:00 pm
Deacon Board Meeting

Saturday November 7 9:00 - 11:30 am
Discover Sun Prairie Seminar

Sunday November 15 at 6:30 pm
Thailand Summer ministry report

Sunday, November 22nd
Operation Christmas Child boxes must be returned

Wednesday, November 25th
Thanksgiving Eve Service, Baptism and Pie Social

Saturday, November 28th at 5:30 pm
All Church Christmas Decorating followed by Pizza

Happy Birthday

2 JD Haskell
3 Jon Haskell
5 Nicole Waldner
5 Sebastian LaLonde
9 Darin Shroeder
9 Theodore Holland
11 Jamie Brech
13 Aleah Wobig
13 Eddie Wobig
16 Brock Anderson
16 Wanda Bailey
17 Nicole Siemonsma
18 Katie Sabers
18 Lindy Ihnen
20 Kimber Palmquist
22 Bryce Rabenhorst
24 Summer Koch
25 Barrett Buus
27 Wylee Cadwallader
29 Lily Aus

Happy Anniversary

3 Trent & Amy Sabers
5 Mark & Deb Palmquist
6 Tim & Carol Sue Eklund
11 John & Angie Pulse
12 David & Mary Rae Skoglund
13 Rich & Vicki VanDenberg
21 Jon & Renee Haskell
22 Jared & Robyn Koch
25 Jack & Wanda Bailey
26 Jeff & Marcia Anderson
27 Dan & Sandi Rabenhorst
27 Keith & Julia Weis

Operation Christmas Child!



Pick up a cardboard shoe box in the foyer or grab a shoebox from home, fill it and return it by Sunday, November 22nd.