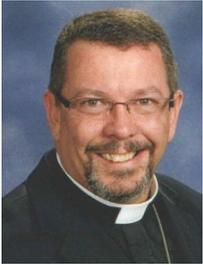


MAY 2021 News & Updates



From the Pastor's Pen

"As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love." (John 15:9-10, ESV)

Abide. Our Lord Jesus tells us to abide in His love. He loves you with an everlasting love, an unconditional love, and He simply bids us to abide in that love He has had and continues to have for His children.

Abiding in His love is not a passive thing. He also tells us that if we keep His commandments we will abide in His love. Love is a living and active thing. It requires us to deny ourselves and treat others as more important than ourselves. Love requires us to turn outside of ourselves and to turn toward God and our neighbor. The Ten Commandments Jesus reduces down to two. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." These two great commandments encapsulate both tables of the Law. Our relationship with God and our relationship with our neighbor.

Abiding in Christ's love and keeping His commandments begins to take on new attitudes in our lives. As we grow and mature in our faith of Him who died and rose again for us, we begin to look at these commandments differently. Instead of it being Law, the "we have to's" it begins to look more like "we get to's". Instead of it being oppressive, the love of Jesus for you begins to overflow into the lives of others as you look at others through the eyes of Jesus' love. You begin to see how love truly manifests itself into a compassion for others just as Christ's love has compassion on you that led you to His passion and cross.

Our love of God and others begins to take the shape of that same unconditional love that Christ has for us. As Paul writes the Church in Philippi, *"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."* (2:5-8). Our love for God and neighbor is one of humility and servitude.

But with the humility and servitude comes great blessings. Eternal life is ours; paradise is ours! These things are the blessings we get to look forward to in the life to come. The great thing about being a Christian is that the pay may suck now, but the benefit package is out of this world!

May our Lord grant that we are conformed more and more into the image of His Son, Jesus, humble and selfless in compassionate love for each other and for the unbeliever.

--Pastor



From the Deacon's Desk

BUTTERFLIES

March winds bring April showers and May flowers. If our Easter Sunday attendance was our April showers, I greatly anticipate our May flowers. As we emerge from the insidious COVID-19 lockdown, let us emerge as God's beautiful butterflies sharing the love of Christ crucified wherever we go. May this springtime give you new life in your Christian Faith.

In Christ,
Deacon Nick DeRose



Outreach Committee

Thank you so much for all the donations for Moses House. We received quite a few items and the Outreach Committee was able to add to them by using some previously donated funds. We are sure Moses House will appreciate every single item.

As always, we appreciate your support with all our outreach projects.

Blessings,
Kathy, Curtis, Cyndy, Sue, Sheryl and Diane



Memorial Fund

In April, we received five donations in memory of Marjorie Wilson. Thank you!

Also, we are missing several easel picture frame holders that are used at funerals to display photos. They were purchased using memorial fund money so we would like to find them. They were in the sacristy stored in a container that is usually used to hold magazines. If you have seen them, please let Kathy Benzow know.





From the Trustee's Shop

Jean and I will be returning May 3 and we trustees will start working.

Thanks to Ken and Bob who covered for us in our absence.

Thanks for all your support.

Dennis Coburn
Trustees



Stewardship

St. Paul teaches us: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: "Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:13-14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: "In the same way ..."

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We're to support the Gospel ministry "in the same way." But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always" (Deut. 14:22-23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry "in the same way?" If it does, ask yourself: Is the church's job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites' job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God's revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and

the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God's own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us "the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light." For once we were not a people, but now we are God's people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9-10).

Elders

By Member's Last Name:

- A-I: Rick Ferrell 760-694-3309
- J-R Mark Amer 602-619-2232
- S-Z: Ken Porter 760-792-1069

May Birthdays

- Deborah Hanley 1
- Melinda Coburn 2
- Mindy Hanson 3
- Rebecca Harter 3
- Tammy VanVliet 11
- Doreen Peterson 15
- Mark Amer 18
- Jim Garcia 22
- Jacob Nelson 30



May Anniversaries

- Ken & Doreen Peterson 5/28/1980
- Dave & Mindy Hanson 5/30/1992
- Michelle & Brian Powell 5/31/1997
- Ralph & Rita Hopper 5/23/1999
- John & Arlina Luley 5/14/2005

