



Greetings Everyone — Today is Sunday, June 21st, and it is Father's Day. Best wishes and blessing to all of the Dads. There are great moments in being a Dad like that pictured in the image to the left. There are also challenging days where your children are in the midst of tough decisions of their own needing your guidance, or anxiously waiting for, "Wait 'til your father gets home" and then you arrive thinking you were going to have a quiet evening. Through it all though the journey is worth every step. The good days and the occasional hard day always lead me back through all of those moments to the very first one, when after some expectant hours, the doctor exclaims "Here it comes. It's a ..."

A Father's Day Message
Reverend Richard Herman

*A father is someone
who carries your
picture in his wallet
where his money
used to be. ~*
Anonymous

Like many of you, on this Father's Day I am culling through memories of my father who died 18 years ago this coming July – just as we were leaving Western Pennsylvania and moving to New Jersey. I still miss him to this day. Whenever I am asked who has had the greatest impact on my life, my instant reply is: "Dad." I am grateful to God for him since I know many who, for one reason or another, can't say that.

That's not to say Dad was perfect—he wasn't. But that was more than OK with me. It meant he understood my imperfections, screw-ups and hang-ups; and it made him compassionate. In that, dad reflected our heavenly Father of whom the psalmist says: *As a*

father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on his faithful followers. For he knows what we are made of; he realizes we are made of clay (Psa. 103:13,14 NET).

I still have tools from his basement workshop where he taught me about working with wood, fixing broken things rather than tossing them out and the right (and safe) way to use power tools. When I pick up his old level, screwdrivers and wood plane, we are connected again.

Together we built my HO train layout. Every spring we worked side-by-side to turn over the earth, dig in compost and plant a vegetable garden. And, whether it was the annual Boy Scout father-son winter weekend camping trip or the troop's weeklong encampment in June along Little Pine Creek, dad was one of the few fathers always there.

The author is unknown, but the sentiment is one I echo: *The greatest gift I ever had, came from God; and I call him Dad!* His greatest gift and legacy was one of faith in Jesus Christ.

One treasure I inherited was his journals which offered a deeper look into his heart and soul; though I wish he'd shared more of those thoughts with me when he was alive. There I saw a real, honest follower of Jesus—who struggled, who prayed, who kept on learning and who sought to be faithful as best he could. I saw him as a man of prayer who invites me to grow deeper in prayer as well.

One prayer, in his distinctive handwriting, written on the inside cover of his New Testament was: *Dear Lord Jesus: Take this problem—and make it holy. Fill me with Your love so that all who see me may see Jesus in me.*

Speaking of another, which he called "A Dangerous Prayer," he wrote in July 1964: *A few weeks back in private prayer I asked God to take my life and use it as He saw fit. This is a dangerous thing to do as the Lord is prone to take one up on such an offer.*

And he prayed for the church of which he was a member like this: *Thank you, Jesus, for what You are doing at Grace church. Bring us as Your people to become effective witnesses, not so much by what we say as by what we do. Give us, I pray, soft hearts with a compassionate spirit to reach out to those in need and through Your Spirit, bring new life to hurting people.*

***He didn't tell me how to live;
he lived and let me watch
him do it. ~ Clarence Kelland***
(1881-1964), American writer

For that legacy of faith, I am most grateful; and hope that I can be as faithful to our daughter and her children as he was to me.

Happy Father's Day, Friends.

Pastor Dick Herman



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, June 21, 2020

Get Busy Being Still

Randy York

About eight months ago, I noticed a billboard on Route 130 North just past Mastori's Diner. It was an advertisement for a bible study presented by The Capital City Fellowship on the book of Exodus. The title they used for the study was: God Draws Us Out To Draw Us In. The phrase bounced around in my mind for some time (as many things do with the amount of space available). I came to believe it is an important consideration...God drawing us out (of something) to draw us in (to a closer relationship). As you read this newsletter another week has passed. Was it a busy one full of work, meetings, news, TV shows, errands, and God somewhere in the mix? Or was God your epicenter?



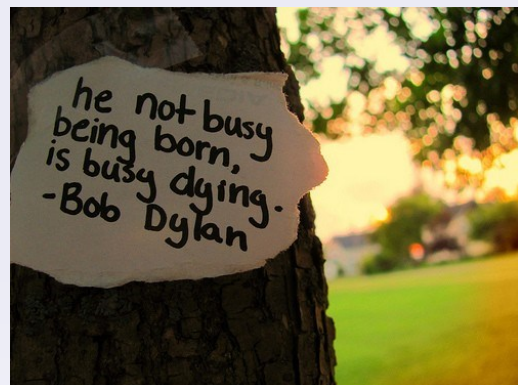
If God is just on the periphery, and the daily activity of our lives, and we ourselves are central, then grace and peace will only be passing thoughts in our lives. But if God draws us out of the busyness and draws us into a relationship, if He is central, then grace and peace will fill our lives. We need to be removed from the frantic pace of our lives and to spend time alone with God. When we try to fit Him into our day, we have an acquaintance. When He becomes our focus, He becomes our Father.

Time spent alone in silence seems foreign in our non-stop world, and when God is added, it seems obvious to this reporter that it may be a bit awkward. What if I can't think of anything to say? Where and how do I begin? Begin by knowing that God loves us unconditionally. He anguishes over our self-absorption and self-sufficiency. Richard Foster wrote, "Today the heart of God is an open wound of love. He aches over our distance and preoccupation. He mourns that we do not draw near to Him. He grieves that we have forgotten Him. He weeps over our obsession with muchness and manyness. He longs for our presence."



So take time today, to pause, just you and God. No politics, no news cycle, no impending work worries, no dinner concerns, no yard work. Come just as you are; just you and God. Consider all He has done, all He has provided. Consider how we have come up short made a mess of things so many times. Consider that God so loved the world, that He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him, will not perish but have eternal life. Consider salvation. Consider the prodigal: that while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion, he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. Consider grace...really consider grace. Pause with your Abba Father, sit silently against His heart.

Noted theologian Bob Dylan observed, "That he not busy being born, is busy dying." God calls us to relationship with Him. Let's get busy.



PS: The Burlington Food Pantry provided food to 121 families this past Wednesday.





Providence Presbyterian Church

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord



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PRAYER REQUESTS

Roland & Janet Newell — Continued Prayers For **Ginny Heal**, as she continues to recover from shoulder surgery

Marie Hudak — For Joseph Celkupa, who was in the hospital last week. He is restricted to a wheelchair, begins physical therapy on Monday. Please provide him encouragement with a call or a visit.

Becky Jensen — For continued prayers for the **PNC** as they carry on their mission.

From All Of Us — Continued prayers for Jeffrey Caron & the Caron Family as they adjust to Jeffrey's diagnosis of diabetes.

Margo Mattis — For her Mother, **Jean Miller**

Wendy Kasper — Asks for continued prayers for healing and strength in the midst of her chemotherapy.

Randy & Barb York — Prayer for God's comfort and healing for **Wendy Pearl** who is waiting on a needed liver transplant.

Sheila Zier — Prayers for healing and strength and encouragement for her daughter, **Brittany Zier** as she is battling a serious long term disease.

Don't Forget We Are On YouTube!

See vintage services from our archives. There is a new posting each week. The direct link is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxLAXFkRJWgH8pLkGX988Bg/videos> The Link is nerdy, but you can also Google "Providence Presbyterian Church Burlington YouTube" and we rise to the top of the list. Accept no imitations! *Also Get Past Issues of this Newsletter at ProvPresCh.org*

Coming This Week!

Tune in Friday, June 26th at 7:00 PM on our YouTube Channel or Facebook Page to see highlights from VBS Weeks past on this traditional VBS Closing Night





Providence Presbyterian Church

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Graduations!

June

Ethan Walker—Burlington Township High School



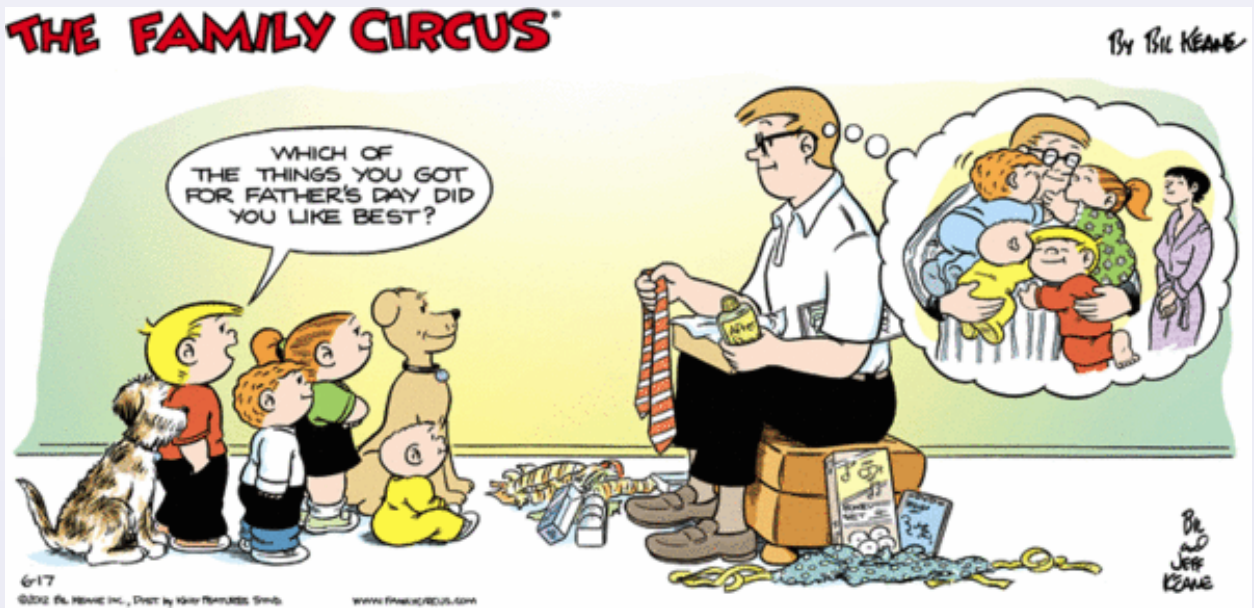
Birthdays!

Verity Cheslo — June 18

Rick Cheslo — June 28



Please e-mail RickCheslo@Gmail.com if there are others who are graduating, celebrating a birthday or any other life event, and we will recognize you here.



Notices

Barbara Hammell has placed copies of the May/June Upper Room devotional in the back of the Church. Come by on Sunday & pick up a copy while taking advantage of the drive-thru offering! This clever young couple rode their bikes!

Church Office Hours

Barb Hammell is manning our Church Office to keep us on top of all our Business needs & obligations. Thank you Barb!

Her hours are Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM. The office telephone is (609) 499-2753

Reminder - Save a Stamp!

Come to the Drive - Thru Offering from 8:30 am to 9:00 AM and 11:00 to 11:30 AM each Sunday morning.

We average 12 to 14 cars each week. Come join the parade and Say Hey to Jack! Also don't forget to Honk or Ring Your Bell on your way out!





Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, June 21, 2020

Easy Peanut Butter Cookies

Robin McCarter

"Best Peanut Butter Cookies ever! These freeze well and are so easy to make!"

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 C creamy peanut butter | 1/2 t vanilla |
| 2/3 C brown sugar (light or dark) | 1 egg |

Preheat oven to 350. Mix all ingredients together. Let sit for 2 minutes. Scoop tablespoon and roll into a ball. Place 2 inches apart on cookie sheet. Criss-cross with fork dipped in sugar. Bake 11 minutes-take off cookie sheet.



Bustleton's Best Church Cookbook Recipe of the Week

We have enjoyed far too many treats during shutdown, but I have had a hankering for one thing the whole time.

Peanut Butter Cookies!

Then right here on page 76 my indulgent prayer is answered. Maybe I can convince one of our household culinary talents to bake them for my birthday this week. **Thanks Robin!**

Jane Cheslo's Report From The Mountain

The Magpie Sisters (Jane and Carrie) have moved on to Connecticut. Our weekend trip included 18 miles of beautiful New England trail. Connecticut is not nearly as flat as we thought! Normally, I don't worry much about bears. We are rather chatty and noisy hikers and usually there are enough other hikers that it is a good bet that most of the wildlife easily avoids the trail. This time we only met five people over the two days. Although we didn't meet any bears, I certainly thought about them!

