
September 2010

The Sentinel

Central Lutheran Church
1000 Easton Road
Dallas, TX 75218

GOD AND THE SHARDS OF OUR LIVES

In looking for something else the other day, I ran across a quote from Blaise Pascal that caught my attention. Pascal (1623-1662) was a child prodigy and genius in the areas of mathematics and the physical sciences. Following an accident that nearly took his life in 1654, he had a profound conversion experience and mystical vision that changed the rest of his life as he devoted himself to writing only on religious issues. He wanted to write a book defending the truth of the Christian faith, but at his death at age 39, the book only existed in fragments. These fragments were published after his death in the book *Pensees* (thoughts). To give you the flavor of the book, consider the following quotes:

“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by a created thing, but only by God the creator, made known in Jesus.”

“Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it for religious conviction.”

“We know the truth, not only by reason, but also by the heart.”

The quote that I stumbled upon I had never seen before: “Who knows what God can make of the shards of our lives if we give them entirely over to Him.” It was the word “shards” that jumped out at me and that God can take these “shards” and make something out of them.

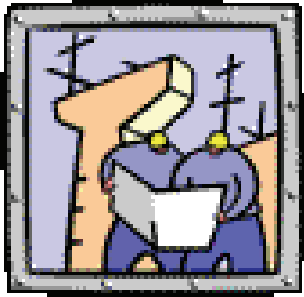
Life seems so fragmented; we seem to live life in bits and pieces with our lives scattered all over the place; there is work, home, church, relationships, leisure, and other commitments. When all these are peeled away like layers of an onion, is there anything at the center, at the core, that links our fragmented lives together? In Paul the Apostle’s hymn to Christ in Colossians chapter one, Paul says (v. 17) that “...in him all things hold together.” Not only is Jesus holding the universe together, He is the glue which binds together and gives meaning and purpose to all the *shards* of our lives, even in the most mundane and earthly pursuits. So all of life becomes the means of expressing our core identity given to us in Jesus Christ. Paul writes later in Colossians (3:17) “and whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

“Shards” also suggest to me the brokenness of life. The circumstances in life can shatter us so that it seems our life is just so many pieces of broken glass and there is no way for us to put the pieces back together. Maybe it is my age, but as the years go by, I seem to be more aware of the brokenness and heartaches of life.

But we have to believe that God in His mercy and grace can put the broken pieces back together. I realize to trust God to do this is really difficult for us. We are limited in our ability to see what God is up to in our lives, but remember, God is not limited at all. This does not mean that the pieces will go back into place perfectly or in the way we want them to go back together. We bear the scars of our journey of faith. I remember breaking an expensive Polish pottery bowl, which fortunately had broken apart in large sections, which I glued back together. Today, the bowl is whole, but you can see the lines, scars, that are a reminder of the brokenness and the healing of the bowl. So it is with our lives.

Pastor Rich

THANK YOU, DENNY AND ADA



Denny and Ada Gough, former longtime members of Central who now live in Flat Rock, North Carolina, have again shown their unwavering support for Central's Building Fund through The Dennis and Ada Gough Family Fund of the Lutheran Community Foundation.

Their leadership on Central's Council, in many other areas of their church life and now as "extended family," has been invaluable to the growth and success of our congregation. We thank them for their continued generosity, pray God's endless blessings on them and look forward to the next time we see them in one of our pews!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Tues. Morning Bible Class resumes study at 10 a.m. on Sept. 14 in the library. Marlys Wing can supply you with a study book on Nehemiah. New members are welcome!

Thanks to all our many Vacation Bible School volunteers who gave of themselves, their time and their talents in July. Thanks also for the many items donated and the monetary donations.

Fifty-eight children participated, and we had numerous responses from parents and grandparents who were impressed with our program and said how much their children enjoyed their time here.

Youngsters and their parents were invited to join us for worship the Sunday following VBS. Letters went to those who did not indicate a church home on their registration forms inviting them to join us for Sunday school and worship throughout the year.

The children worked hard bringing in their offerings (\$121) to help this year's mis-

sion: *Africa Jam*. This program focuses on sharing God's love and message among 10,000 youth in Cape Town, South Africa. Its goal is to provide a safe and healthy environment with educational and recreational activities after school.

Thanks again for your support in helping spread God's love to children in our community. —Alesia Pearson, Director

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: A MUST ON FALL SCHEDULE



As school gets under way, children in 1st – 6th grades are invited to join us again on Wednesday afternoons for choir rehearsals.

Plans are to rehearse as one choir this fall,

4:15-5:00 p.m. Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, Sept. 8. We will sing at several morning worship services throughout the year.

Please contact Director Alesia Pearson at the following: (alesia-pearson@swbell.net; 214-319-8536) if you have questions or would like your child to participate.

MAKE THE MOST OF VOLUNTEERING

Want to make a difference in our congregation?

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can help. Thrivent Financial is a Fortune 500 financial services organization that has been serving Lutherans and their families for more than a century. It's also a not-for-profit organization that supports Lutheran congregations and the efforts of its members to help their communities and congregations.

One of Thrivent's programs is Care Abounds in Communi-

ties®, which provides funding support for volunteer and fundraising activities that benefit Lutheran congregations.

In order to receive funding:

- Form a congregational service team to identify a need in the congregation.
- Choose a fundraising activity to meet that need.
- Submit a funding request to Scott Buie, Central's Thrivent Congregational Advocate.

Thrivent also offers other

volunteer opportunities. You can volunteer as chapter leader, support a food shelf or help build a home with a family in need through Thrivent Builds.

For info on how Thrivent can help this congregation, contact Elisabeth R. Schaefer, Financial Associate, at 972-612-0220 or the following: Elisabeth.schaefer@thrivent.com or visit www.thrivent.com

Rewards come from knowing you're making a difference.



INSTRUMENT DONATION REQUEST

Please bring your *instrument* (your voice, that is!) to our

Fall Fajita Party

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 8,

at the home of Diane and Larry McCain, 7007 Hillgreen Circle.

This is for all current Senior Choir members, Senior Choir alumni and anyone who would like to see what it's like to be in a group which is singing, learning, praising, praying and leading in worship through music.

Please donate your *instrument* by coming. Do not worry if it's a little dusty or rusty. Give it a little exercise, and you'll be pleasantly surprised by how much blessing you will give and receive.

Contact any Senior Choir member or Larry McCain with questions.

R.S.V.P. Judy Nash at judynash@aol.com



SEMINAR SET ON HEALTHY CHOICES

A seminar offered by the Public Witness Team of the NT-NL Synod will examine lifestyle issues related to food consumption from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 18. Place is Advent Lutheran Church, 3232 S. Cooper, Arlington.

There's a small registration

fee and a brochure is available at www.ntnl.org under "upcoming events." Or direct your questions to these two: chuck.hubbard@yahoo.com or ginger.georgulas@verizon.com.

As weight management, obesity and related health issues such as diabetes pose major

challenges for many Americans, choices will be addressed in discussion sessions featuring Dr. Anne Georgulas, a pediatrician.

Also to be provided: an overview of *The End of Overeating* by Dr. David A. Kessler.



ADOPT-A-PLOT UPDATE



Thanks go to the following members who have so willingly volunteered to help keep our church grounds looking beautiful!

Here are the areas on which they chose to focus their care:

Courtyard outside the Fellowship Hall - Charlotte Danielson and Gay Inkrote.

Front parkway

wooden sign area - Joyce Lewis.

Holly shrubs on the Swallow Lane side of the sanctuary, the shrubs in front of the sanctuary and along the red brick wall - Ralph & Ann Parker. (The Parkers also maintain the bed of flowering plants beneath the chapel window.)

Alley side of the Fellowship Hall - John Sanders.

Needed: Volunteer(s) for the one remaining area to be adopted behind the vestibule of the Fellowship Hall leading to the playground and next to the kitchen.

-Maxine Smith & John Sanders Adm.

SEPTEMBER: BACK TO CIRCLE

4052 is the number you give the checker at Tom Thumb Stores in order for Central to receive a check for a percentage of the sale.

Elizabeth Circle President Judy Nash invites you to "Please come and join us at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14, in the Fellowship Hall."

Members gather Sep-

tember through May on the second Tuesday of the month for coffee and brunch goodies followed by a meeting and Bible study at 10 a.m.

The study this year will be "Who Is This

Man, Jesus."

Other officers are Eva Evans, vice president; Joyce Lewis, secretary; Mary Swenson, treasurer; and Marilyn Green, food chairman.

John Swenson and Charlie Oldfield continue to add to their pile of sawdust—and thank goodness for that! Take a look at their latest project—a handsome wooden frame on the wall in the narthex for displaying the weekly prayer list. (Next to the cabinet they built for *Christ in Our Home* and take-home pamphlets.)

We are thankful for John and Charlie's craftsmanship.

WAYS TO HELP AT WHITE ROCK CENTER

A container is placed in the narthex for your contributions to White Rock Center's food pantry. You can take your gift items and closet "extras" to the Center during the week—and remember them financially on Mission Partners Sunday.

Food needs: macaroni & cheese, canned soups and beans

and jelly. Other needs: men's shoes and socks, underwear 34-40, men's jeans, school uniforms, towels, wash cloths, Bibles, diapers, clothespins.

Personnel need: Assistant to help sort and price items and the ability to recognize collectibles and antiques and know their worth. Volunteers are also

needed to straighten shelves and clothing racks in the resale shop.

WR served 560 families in July, paid over \$7,000 for clients' rent and utilities; provided over 20,000 lbs. of food; and distributed about 5,400 clothing items. Volunteers served 2,780 hours. —Thanks, Joyce Lewis

CAKES AND CANDLES

September is filled with birthday celebrations.

2-Brian Meggers

3-Kathy Nagel, Teresa Solomon

4-Dan Sefko

5-Ann Parker

6-Chad Staffeld, Ethan Krampitz

7-Gisele Watson

8-David Fisk, Shauna Gibson

10-Ellen Straach, Bob O'Day, Michael Paschetag

11-T.J. Lymenstull II

15-Dan Krampitz

16-Glory Gopinath

17-Susan O'Day, Mary Ridgway

18-Steve Haynie

19-Frances Goodson, LeRoy Wing

20-Wyatt Pearson

21-Jim Kuchera, Austin Matthews

22-Derek Krause

24-Tim Wrobbel, Leah Hart

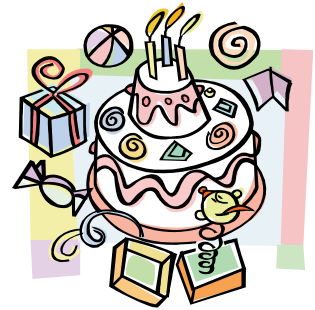
26-Claudia Goodson, Maureen Adams, Joel Green

27-Marlyn Krampitz

28-Jerry Krause

29-Byron Evans

30-Judy Nash



REMEMBERING BAPTISM DATES

We celebrate our baptism which took place in September of other years.

2-Peder Johnson

6-Jonathan Quill

7-Jack Haynie

9-Trevor Johnson

11-James Pritchett

12-Cleo Coons, Mary Swenson

13-Claire Melby

15-Clay Penland

17-Janis Farrow

19-Katelyn Sefko

23-Lesley Todd, Jordan Haefling

24-Nancy Anglin, Mario Montejo

25-Viola Cage

26-Randall Farrow, Jacob Nagel

28-Betty Jenkins

29-Mark Buie

30-Karen Fischer

Also, this month: Stephanie Wahlstrom

Sept. Anniversaries

15 Years: Todd and Connie

Zimmermann, Sept. 16

12 Years: Christina and Greg

Boatright, Sept. 12

7 years: Jim and Sarah

Kuchera, Sept. 20

ATTENTION, PRIME TIMERS

Prime Timer Directors Vivian Curry and Katie Emmert invite you to come and wear your “thinking caps” at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 9. “We’ll plan some events for the fall, enjoy several games of white elephant bingo (part with one of your treasures) and then dine on potluck lunch.”

Also, bring along some non-perishable items for White Rock Center of Hope—they always need pantry replacements such as peanut butter, jelly, macaroni & cheese, cereals and those hotel/motel shampoos, lotions, etc., from your recent travels.

Mario Montejo ran across an interesting fact: Gen. Robert E. Lee ordered all his Confederate soldiers to carry the book *Les Miserables* by Victor Hugo with them because he believed it symbolized their cause.

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ADDRESS FORWARDING

Phone: 214-327-2222
Fax: 214-320-8501
E-mail: centrall@swbell.net

Pastor Rich Pounds
Music Director Larry McCain
Youth Director Jennifer Nixon

9 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Class
10:30 Worship
Communion on 1st, 3rd, 5th and Festival
Sundays

Purpose of *The Sentinel*, monthly newsletter prepared for members, prospective members and friends, is to inform and share news about the ministries and activities of CLC and the people who worship here.

-Reba Liner, Editor

HERE AND THERE

Check these September Sunday dates: 5, 12, 19 and 26 and please add your name to the charts in the Education Bldg.

Jennifer Cannatti will deliver the Children's Sermon on the 12th and 26th.

Karla Buie will be Lector on Sept. 12; **Marlys Wing**, Sept. 19.

Karla has volunteered to be Assisting Minister on Sept. 5.

Ushers will be **Michael Phillips, captain; Max Green, Todd Buie and Mike Futrell**.

Melvin Sammann will handle the lighting.

Rachel Brown will serve as Acolyte on Sept. 5; **John Paul Wrobbel**, 12th; **Lily Townsley** and **Noah Wahlstrom**, 19th; **Isabelle Barse**, 26th.

A **150-voice choir** from metroplex Lutheran Churches, under the direction of Sam Eatherton, will present "Triune God, To You We Sing!" at the Meyerson Center at 7 p.m. Sept. 19. Also appearing will be the children's Chorus of Greater Dallas under the direction of Cynthia Nott. Guest organist is Dr. Jeffrey Blersch, Concordia University.

Sponsors are Friends of the Lutheran Hymn Festival and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Tickets may be purchased on-line at the following: www.lutheranhymnfestival.org or you can print a mail order form from the site and send it with a check payable to: Lutheran Hymn Festival, POB 200893, Arlington, TX 76006.

ELCA's Mission Investment Fund is offering CD-type products and IRA products to individuals and ministries at 4.5% APY. For more information, contact Pastor Carol Spencer at Carol.Spencer@elca.org or call 817-927-3239.

Interested in a cruise and guided tour to the Holy Land? Alesia Pearson's parents, the Rev. Byron and Norma Ruth Myrick, will host a 13-day trip in November. Contact them at bd_nr_myrick@verizon.net or 903-447-2620.

Congrats to former members **Sandy and Wayne Nelson**, Ben Wheeler, TX., who observed their 50th anniversary Aug. 21, at Four Mile Lutheran Church, Ma-bank.