

*From the Assistant Pastor--*


*"...since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light." - Colossians 1:9-12*

The Apostle Paul was a man of prayer. Nearly every one of his letters begins with a prayer. Paul prayed "always" and "unceasingly" (Rom 1:9, 1 Cor 1:4, Eph 1:15, Phil 1:4, Col 1:3, 1 Thess 1:2, 2 Thess 1:3, 2 Tim 1:3, Philemon 4) for those to whom he ministered. He prayed for their specific needs and continually praised God for these people. His heart was filled with gratitude to God and genuine concern for the church family that God has placed in his life.

As a missionary Paul's church family was rather large (it extended to over 7 cities!) and yet he exhibited an attitude of compassion and gratefulness for each and every person who made up that family. Paul says, "I thank my God every time I remember you" (Phil 1:3). Prayer wasn't just something that Paul did now and then; prayer wasn't just a hobby. Prayer was Paul's life.

I wonder why for many of us prayer is a chore. When I talk with people about how they might improve their walk with the Lord the primary response is usually, "I need to pray more." Why is this? Why do many of us struggle with maintaining a life of prayer? Let me suggest two possibilities for our struggle.

First, I believe that many struggle to believe that God is really listening. Tara has a blog that she updates every so often and there is a place for people to leave comments. After uploading a new post, Tara likes to check to see who has made comments – she likes to see that people are listening to what she is saying. In the same way, we all want to be heard. Nobody enjoys talking to a wall, much less sharing the deep concerns and cares of your heart with thin air. We long for someone to hear us and respond to us. When it comes to prayer many of us have a faulty view of God. We struggle in our belief that God hears us and that He cares about us. Let us remember the words of the Psalmist when he says; "My voice rises to God, and I will cry aloud; My voice rises to God, and He will hear me" (Psalm 77:1).

A second reason we struggle with prayer is that we no longer value silence. Between the cell phone, TV, Facebook, computer, radio, and  we have created a world of noise. And not only this, but we have trained ourselves to need constant entertainment and "connectivity" with the world around us. Here's a novel idea: try turning off your cell phone once and a while (don't

worry, the world won't end and if Jesus comes back you'll know). While we continually strive to stay connected to the world around us, we often forget about the one true connection that we should pay the most attention to – our relationship with our Father and God Jesus Christ.

Prayer doesn't have to be a chore. It doesn't take a spiritual warrior. You don't have to go anywhere special. Prayer is simply talking to God. It is sharing your heart with the only person who will fully listen to you. It is giving thanks to the God who made you and calls you His own. May we strive to be a people who follow the example of Paul and lead lives of prayer and thanksgiving.

Pastor Jonathan



## This Week In Worship

Eph 2: 11-22.....God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Unity is vital to the lifeblood of the church.

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Sunday's Nursery Volunteers: Gretchen Cozby & Karen Hubbs  
Sunday's Greeters: Lyle & Pam Teeter

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### Final Summer Get-Together...

Thursday evening, July 29<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:00 (supper included)....again at Kent and Melinda's on N. Main St. in Anna across from the Veteran's Home from.

These get-togethers serve as an opportunity for the church to come together to encourage one another in their personal growth and to get to know each other better in a relaxed, food-filled casual discussion.

## K - 5th Swim Party!!

You and your family are invited to  
a swim party and picnic.

**When:** Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Kent and Melinda Young's  
711 N. Main St, in Anna

**What to bring:** Food to compliment hotdogs  
Towels  
Lawn Chairs



Please RSVP to 614-2633 by Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>

# Prayer

Special prayer needs this week.

Pat Swieca  
Carolyn Hickam  
Divorce Care Children's Leader  
Sr. High Mission Trip

Each week we remember to pray especially for several members of the church family taken alphabetically from our church roll.

John, Barbara, & Sean Haase  
Jim, Nikki, & Connor Hadley  
Larry & Cathy Haley

To my dear friends,

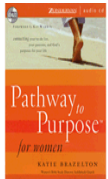
*You mean so much to me. Without your love, prayers, cards and hugs I would have felt so alone, but without this trial I would not have been able to appreciate "the peace that passes understanding." I am blessed beyond measure and beyond what I deserve. Thank you and may God bless you that you may continue to bless others.*

*In God's Love, Nikki Nance*

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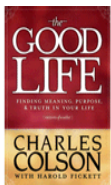
## Library News. . .

**Do you feel the need for "self improvement" – these may help.**



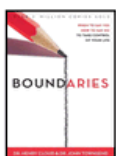
### **Pathway to Purpose for Women by Katie Brazelton**

What was I born to do?" Discover the divine purpose for your past, present, hopes---and hang-ups! Filled with practical how-tos and personal stories of women transformed by Brazelton's proven principles, this guide will help you embark on an exciting journey to becoming the woman God created you to be!



### **The Good Life by Charles Colson**

A big house, a fancy car, an expensive vacation---that's happiness! Or is it? Exploring the ways we seek pleasure and contentment, Colson shares real-life stories about people who define themselves by their positions and possessions vs. those who define themselves by their faith in God. You'll find new purpose and meaning for your own life.



### **Boundaries (DVD)**

*by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend*

For over a decade, Drs. Cloud and Townsend have been teaching people how to set personal boundaries. Here they give you the biblical basis for setting boundaries, explain how you can construct your own, and show how boundaries can be damaged. They also give you methods for dealing with abusive or controlling people and keys for gaining control of your life.

## Women...

PACK YOUR  
CAMPING GEAR  
AND  
JOIN US AS WE  
FLOAT IN THE WATER  
AND...



## BASK IN THE SON!

August 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>  
Johnson Shut-Ins State Park

Cost: \$ 45.00  
Deadline to Register: July 25<sup>th</sup>

For more  
information  
contact  
Pam Miles,  
Tami Ury,  
Marilyn Carstens,  
or Cathy Haley

## IT'S HAPPENING AT FEPC

### *Calendar of Events*

Sun. July 25 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Early Worship
	9:45am	Sunday School
	11:00am	Morning Worship
	2:00pm	K-5 <sup>th</sup> Swim Party (at the Young's)
Mon. July 26 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	Deacon's Meeting
Wed. July 28 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs. July 29 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	Get-Together (at the Young's)

## Happy Birthday!

Larry Goldsmith - July 26  
Marla Williams - July 26  
Nelly Smith - July 28  
Jonathan Mattheis - July 28  
Holly Gearhart - July 28  
Vivian Marseglia - July 30



## Happy Anniversary!

Bill & Mary Rader - July 26  
Wesley & Dishona Wright - July 27  
Stuart & Pat Anderson - July 27

Last Week's Statistics

***Attendance***

Early Worship - 100

Sunday School - 89

Morning Worship - 57

***Giving***

General Fund - \$7922.30

Building Fund - \$610.00

**Bethany Village Menu of the Month**

Tuna, Tuna Helper, or Mushroom Soup & Noodles, Green Beans