

"The Zionette" July, 2014 Edition

Zion Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Minister – Mr. Tommy Willcockson

From the Pastor's Desk

Minister
Rev. Tommy Willcockson

This month I want to start with an assignment.

Go read Luke 15. You choose the translation, but go read it and then come back.

The main thing I want to focus on is "The Prodigal Son." If this were a sermon, I would give you a modern paraphrase—something like, "A man in Fredericksburg had two sons, Ralph and George and he loved them both very much. One day Ralph, the youngest son came and asked for his inheritance—even though his dad was still quite young and had no intention of dying anytime soon..." If I decide to preach the passage later I'll tell you my version of the story. But, since space is limited, I will get right to the point.

There is a lot of Prodigal in all of us (well that and a lot of the "older brother" in us—but that is another story). We all stray. We all run. We all disrespect our heavenly Father and want our way not his. We all rebel.

Isaiah 53:6 says it well. *All we like sheep have gone astray. Everyone has turned to his own way...* [World English Bible]. But 1st John 1:8; 10 is even clearer. *If we say that we have no sin. We deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us...If we say that we haven't sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not is us* [WEB].

The point is that we fail. We should try hard not to, but we shouldn't be TOO surprised when it happens. We also shouldn't be surprised that there are consequences. God's word warns us that we will fail—that is part of the human condition. His word also shows that there are

consequences. For instance, Prodigals go hungry and straying sheep may fall in a hole, drown, or be eaten by predators.

1st John 1:9 has THE answer to the human condition. *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* [WEB]

James 4:8 says that if we draw near to God, he will draw near to us—even as the father did as he saw his son returning. He ran to him as fast as he could. THAT is what God does when we seek him.

If we are children of God, running from his authority OR if we are not yet his children and are running from the truth of our separation from him, God is waiting and watching for us to come home.

Romans 5:8 says that while we were still sinners [separated by our own actions] Christ died for us. Revelation 13:8 describes Jesus the Christ as the Lamb slain before the foundations of the earth [were laid]. Before Eve took that first bite of the forbidden fruit in the garden, the Son of God was already packed to leave for Bethlehem.

God is willing and able to forgive any sin. He, like the father, is waiting and watching. He loves every human being totally, deeply, and without condition. He is patiently waiting for us to head for home.

In the story of the Prodigal, I think the patient, loving, and forgiving father is the REAL main character. Of course, this is really the story of a loving God who wants to forgive and then work to take what was and make it work for the good—for us and for his kingdom

Our names might not be Ralph—but that same acceptance and forgiveness is available to one and all. God watches and waits. Longing to see us come home.

Tommy

Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, June 8th

These three things were voted on and passed and will take effect in July.

1. Elect officers and leaders
2. Approve budget for new church year
3. Approve amendments to Church Constitution and hear report on Board approved changes to the Bylaws

Reminder: As you travel throughout the year, please remember to collect small hotel-sized toiletry items (especially shampoos, body wash and lotions) to support Zion's ministry with the Oak Ridge unit at the Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Center. These items are used as prizes when Zion visits and plays bingo with the teenage boys there a couple of times a year. The guys love getting these items because the toiletries they are rationed have no fragrance. Please forward any items you collect to David Koogler.

Thanks, David Koogler

Membership/Missions

Hope you will be feeling better soon Pam.

We will have a Membership & Mission meeting on July 15th at 7pm in the Christian Center. We will be planning our yearly calendar and also the final touch's to our Christmas in July Picnic. All are welcome to attend we need lots of help to make this year a success, so please consider joining us.

Also I would like to thank everyone who has helped with the luncheon for the Estes' Family. May God Bless you as you walk thru the life with him as your guide.

We will be having a Christmas In July luncheon & picnic on Sunday July 20th in the Christian Center Bay area.

Membership and Missions Committee,
Pamela Steele, Chair person

Disciples' Women

The Disciples Women will meet in Aug. if everyone is well. No further report at this time.

Thanks again & God Bless *Patsy Corker, Treasurer*

Disciples' Men

We are also planning a mission trip to Appalachia in Sept. If you are interested please contact David Koogler. All men are invited to join us for our next breakfast meeting, we meet each second Saturday for food and fellowship.

Also the Men will go to Beaumont Saturday July 5th to visit the boys and have a cookout for them. Women are invited to go also.

Zion Disciple's Men's Group
David Benckert, Secretary

"The Happy Beavers" The "Happy Beavers" will meet at 11:00 am on Thursday, July 10th - at the church. We will go to the Red Lobster. Hope to see everyone there.
Please note change of day.

Joan B. Sasser, 883-5260

Worship/Education Committee

July News:

Special Dates:

Christmas in July, July 20
Meeting of Worship & Education

Acolytes & greeters for July:

July 6th – Dylan & McKenzie Holloway

July 13th - Cailyn Woody & Leah Hartley

July 20th - William & Leah Hartley

July 27th - Ryan & Wyatt Hall

Thanks Acolytes & greeters for doing a great job for our Worship Service.

God Bless, *Karen Cuthrell*, Chairperson, Worship committee

We will be having our Vacation Bible School August 4th, 5th, & 6th from 9am – 12n. The theme will be Son Rock Kid's Camp for K-5th grade. On Wed. August 6th we will have dinner in the Christian Center at 6pm

and a Commencement exercise at 7pm in the church. Please spread the word around to all children. See attached flyer.

Jane Sasser, Chair, Education Committee

EVANGELISM/OUTREACH EVENT

The Outreach committee hosted with the Men's group at church, a cruise is on June 21. Even with the threat of rain (and we did have a few raindrops), and storms around us, we had a good turn out with 10 vehicles participating and a good stream of folks attending to vote for their favorite vehicle and enjoy the wonderful chili dogs George grilled for us. Our next cruise in will be July 19th, and as someone said, "even if you don't enjoy looking at the old vehicles, you can stop by for dinner because where else can you get a chili dog, with chips, and a drink for a dollar?". That answer would be "Only Zion Church."

Outreach will also be working with Worship and Membership committees to plan "Worship in the Bays" in July and August as well as September and October. You ought to join us because it will be a different worship experience. Did I say Fun as well as Spiritual? You should give us a try if you haven't been to Zion in awhile because we turn the old firehouse into a church service like on other. Don't forget to check us out on our website! See you at Zion! We have a lot going on there!

Margie Koogler, Chair

Continue to use our web site @ www.Zionchurchdoc.org. Thanks to Linda Holt our Web-master

From the Publishers Desk

Please let me know if you don't want to continue getting this publication by mail or email.

E-Mail address: sassyrn1940@embarqmail.com

Phone: (804)883-5260 leave a message on the answering machine.

Joan B. Sasser

Wheat News

Zion continues to collect breakfast foods for the WHEAT pantry on an ongoing basis.

Thanks for your support.

Shirley Mills

CHILDRENS CHURCH-

During worship

(3-10 yrs of age) Come join us for some

NURSING/REHABILITATION FACILITIES

Betty Hall – Crump Manor, Room C-11

Learning and fun!

Kim Hall

Mary "Grandma" Fencher – Crump Manor,
Room C-11
Josephine Goodman – Alpha House
Susie Hall – Ashland Convalescent Center
Robert Harlow – Parham Rehab
Ellen Harris – Henrico Rehab Center
Elsie Waller – NH – in Fredericksburg

Shut In's

Emily Bishop
Nelson Carter
Lewis Geyton
Louise Lowman

The Families of:

Justine Corker Parrish
Warren Gayle
Tyler Wright



Collin Allison
Hank Bagby
James Bowline
Donna Bond
Fred Brooks
Mary Carter
Mack & Linda Childress
Robert Coates
Patsy Corker
Marion Diehls
John Wayne Dickerson

Peggy Fortune
Jennifer & Michael Grzunkowsk
Baby Michael Grzunkowsk

Nancy Hackney
Bee Hall (Emit Hall)
Roland (Jim) Hall
Linda Hall & Family
Mary Ann Hall
Ralph Harris
Roswell Jones, Sr.
Nickie Labrador
P. A. Lewis
Ray Martin
Margaret F. Moody
Ethel Moss
Wilbur Mills & Family
Don & Marie Newman
Peggy Orchid
Judy Pleasants (Jimmy)
Francis Rogers
Earl Richardson
April Samuels
John Smith
Lois Stanley

Our President, Nation, & World
All unspoken concerns
All of our Armed Forces & their families
Zion Christian Church

Pam Steele
Stan Vickhouse
Betty Wickham
Tommy Willcockson

I have taken a number of names off of the Prayer list as they have been there for several months. If you think that they should be left on or taken off, **Please let me know.** A lot of these folks I do not know. I do need your help. Thanks. Joan B. sassyrn1940@embarqmail.com or 804-883-5260

<<<<<<< SINGING – CHILDREN – MORE >>>>>>>>

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>SINGERS</u> | <u>Children's Sermon</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| July 6 th | Voices of Zion | |
| July 13 th | Paul Dickerson | |
| July 20 th | Zion Praise Team | |
| July 27 th | Warren Samuel | |

How Asparagus Got It's Name

A sixth grade child was asked to write a book report on the entire Bible.

Here is what he wrote:

The Children's Bible in a Nutshell

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord thy God is one," but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, "Give me a light!" and someone did.

Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden ... Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff.

Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot, He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore

There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, "Close the door! Were you born in a barn?" It would be nice to say, "As a matter of fact, I was.") During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas **Asparagus**. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot, Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

“Suthnuhs”

For those who don't know the rules

Southerners know their summer weather report:

Humidity

Humidity

Humidity

Southerners know their vacation spots:

The beach

The rivuh

The crick

Southerners know everybody's first name:

Honey

Darlin'

Shuga

Southerners know the movies that speak to their hearts:

Fried Green Tomatoes

Driving Miss Daisy

Steel Magnolias

Gone with The Wind

Southerners know their religions:

Bapdiss

Methodiss

Football

Southerners know their cities dripping with Southern charm:

Chawl'stn
S'vanah
Foat Wuth
N'awlins
Addlanna

Southerners know their elegant gentlemen:

Men in uniform
Men in tuxedos
Rhett Butler

Southern girls know their prime real estate:

The Mall
The country Club
The Beauty Salon

Southern girls know the 3 deadly sins:

Having bad hair and nails
Having bad manners
Cooking bad food

Only a Southerner knows the difference between
a hissie fit and a conniption fit, and that you
don't "HAVE" them,
you "PITCH" them.

Only a Southerner knows how many fish, collard greens,
Turnip greens, peas, beans, etc,
Make up "a mess."

Only a southerner can show or point out to you the general direction
Of "yonder."

Only a Southerner knows exactly how long "directly" is, as in:
"Going to town, be back directly."

Even Southern babies know that "Gimme some sugar" is not a
Request for the white, granular, sweet substance that sits in a pretty
Little bowl in the middle of the table.

All southerners know exactly when "by and by" is.

They might not use the term, but they know
The concept well.

Only a Southerner knows instinctively that the best gesture of solace
For a neighbor who's got trouble is a plate of hot fried chicken and a
Big bowl of cold potato salad. If the neighbor's
Trouble is a real crisis, they also know to add a large banana pudding'!

Only Southerners grow up knowing the difference between "right
Near"

And "a right far piece."

They also know that 'just down the road' can be 1 mile or 20.

Only a Southerner both knows and understands the difference
between

A redneck, a good ol' boy, and po' white trash.

No true Southerner would ever assume that the car with the
Flashing turn signal is actually
Going to make a turn.

A Southerner knows that "fixin" can be used as
A noun, a verb, or an adverb.

Only Southerners make friends while standing in lines,
...and when we're "in line," ...we talk
To everybody!

Put 100 Southerners in a room and half of them will discover
They're related, even if only by marriage.

In the South, y'all is singular, and, all y'all is plural.

Southerners know grits come from corn and how to eat them.

Every Southerner knows that tomatoes with eggs, bacon, grits,
And coffee are perfectly wonderful; that red eye gravy is also a
Breakfast food;

That scrambled eggs just ain't right without Tabasco,
And fried green tomatoes are not a breakfast food.

When you hear someone say, "Well, I caught myself lookin',"
You know you are in the presence
Of a genuine Southerner!

Only Southerners say “sweet tea” and “sweet milk.”
Sweet tea indicates the need for sugar and lots of it – we do not like

Our

Tea unsweetened.

“Sweet milk” means you don’t want buttermilk. And a true Southerner knows you don’t
scream obscenities at little

Old ladies who drive 30MPH on the freeway. You just say,
“Bless her sweet little heart”...and go your own way.

To those of you who are still a little embarrassed by your
Southernness:

Take two tent revivals and a dose of sausage gravy and call me in the
Morning.

Bless your little heart!

And to those of you who are still having a hard time understanding
all this Southern stuff...bless your hearts, I hear they’re fixin’ to have
classes

on Southernness as a second language!

Southern girls know men may come and go but friends are fah-evah!
There ain’t no magazine named “Northern Living” for good reason.

There ain’t nobody

Interested in livin’ up north, nobody would buy the magazine!