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January 2012

Pausing with a Purpose in 2012

Routine is good! You know, “early to bed and early to rise. . .” A large hazelnut coffee and a granola bar for me to start the day. A large dish of chocolate mint or chocolate chip ice cream to finish the day (well once in a while). We all have a routine. Those who work out have a weekly schedule they follow. Smart phones have replaced Day Planners and become standard companions to help organize a faster pace of life. The walkers and runners have their routes chosen and timed out to the minute. Students of all ages develop schedules and will succeed when consistent. Our doctors and car dealers remind us to keep regular appointments. Our insurance companies and shrinking bank accounts tell us otherwise. We want to glean something from Ben Franklin’s wisdom, because it “. . . makes one healthy, wealthy and wise!”

Sometimes I wish I were more diligent about working out. I could also benefit from having a seasonal maintenance schedule for taking care of my home, yard and equipment. Maybe I can make a few New Year’s resolutions and follow through in these areas (yeah, maybe!).

There is one spiritual discipline that I could not live without. It is prayer. My life as a Christian, roles as husband, father, pastor, son, brother, neighbor, etc., are dependent on connecting with God – pausing each day with a purpose and learning to give over my life, the calendar and the day to God.

I love the title and content of the 2012 Week of Prayer Guide we receive from our denomination (Department of Spiritual Formation): **Selah, Pausing to Pray in a Rush Hour Life.**

John E. Aho wrote this devotional guide for the Covenant Week of Prayer which begins January 1. Using the first 6 Psalms, each day has a focus. The themes are: Blessed, Rebel, Pause, Call, Sigh, Expectation, and Worn Out. Here is some of the introductory invitation:

With the demands on our lives each day, many of us don't have a moment to ourselves. Let us take time to stop, pause with purpose and pray. Selah is a musical mark of instruction meaning stop and listen, pause and reflect. When was the last time you did this? In the rush hour traffic of life, will you take a moment to selah?

One of my favorite Psalms is 131 (A song of ascent). This gives a visual for selah!

*My heart is not proud Lord,
my eyes are not haughty;
I do not concern myself with great matters
or things too wonderful for me.
But, I have calmed myself and quieted my ambitions.
I am like a weaned child with its mother,
Like a weaned child I am content.
Israel, put your hope in the Lord
Both now and forevermore.*

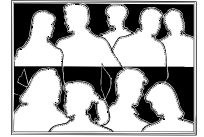
WEDNESDAY NIGHT, JANUARY 4, 7:00 PM – COME TO PRAY WITH A PURPOSE FOR THE CHURCH, 2012, OUR MINISTRIES AND OUTREACH. We will also anoint with oil for healing. Let us pause together and pray!

In Christ's love, Pastor Tim

Discipleship/Confirmation

We meet from 5:00-7:00 pm Sunday nights for games, snacks, Bible time fellowship and great joy! Our leaders are Glenn Hafele, Jessica Bedosky and Pastor Tim.

- 1/1 No D/C – Happy New Year
- 1/8 Session 11 – Instructions for Life
- 1/15 Session 12 – God's Promises Fulfilled
- 1/22 Session 13 – The Choice Is Yours
- 1/29 Session 14 – Judges for Hard Times
- 2/5 Super Bowl Party! Stay tuned for location.

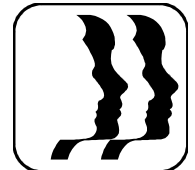


Winter Retreat is February 24-26 at Pilgrim Pines. The cost is \$110. See a leader if there is a need for financial assistance.

CHYG

CHYG (Covenant High Youth Group) is for all students in grades 9-12. Leaders are Lisa Olsen, Nick Samela, Christy Fredlund and Hilary Vigeant.

- 1/1 . No CHYG – Happy New Year
- 1/8 5-7 p.m. Regular CHYG
- 1/15 5-7 p.m. Regular CHYG
- 1/22 5-7 p.m. Movie Night
- 1/29 5-7 p.m. Regular CHYG



Serving in the War

Serving in the War: Jason Michaels (Navy, Afghanistan) (Art Piel's son-in-law); **Recruit Eric Beyus** (Marines, Parris Island, SC) (Linda McMaster's nephew); **John Conlon** (Drew (Gomes) Conlon's husband) (Marines, Afghanistan); **2nd Lt. Derek J. Hackert** (U.S. Army National Guard, Fort Benning, GA); **Jacob Poulin** (Special Forces, Okinawa, Japan); **Derek Roy** (son of Valerie Cyr) (Army National Guard, Danbury); **Emily Johnson** (niece of Karen & Chip Gill) (Army, Germany); **Cadet Brad Hackert** (USAF Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado). If you can update this information, please contact the Office Manager



Women Ministries

Women Ministries events are for all women of the church and their friends.

1. **Stitching with Spirit** on Mondays, 7:00 p.m. at the O'Connell's home. Knitting and quilting, etc.
2. **Women's Bible Study** on Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:00.
3. **Women's Book Club:** The next meeting is Wednesday, January 18, 7:00 p.m., at Lisa Olsen's. The book to read is *The Butterfly's Daughter* by Mary Alice Monroe.
4. **Women's PM Study** (for women who work during the day), meets on Tuesday evenings at 7.

Men's Ministry Tie-In: You can sign up to help the Men's Ministry for a month. It's only once a month and the men are visiting 6 to 8 people. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Prayer Chain Update

The Prayer Chain has 2 standard components: a phone chain and an e-mail chain. If you are on the chain and want to stay on, do nothing now. If you are off and want to be on, or on and want to be taken off or want to switch from phone to e-mail (or vice versa), fill out the form below and put it in the offering or give it to Gary Freimuth. We have a separate "sudden, urgent need" phone chain for folks who usually can be reached instantly by phone; if you want also to be included on that, make note of it.

Prayer Chain Update

Name _____

Please add me to:

The phone list _____ E-mail list _____

"Sudden, urgent need" phone list _____

Please take me off _____

Switch me from _____ to _____

Phone # or e-mail: _____

Church Meeting Notes

From December 4, 2011



✍ General Fund offerings through 11/27/11 are \$153,277.56. This is \$10,569 or \$220 per week below the budgeted average expected through 48 weeks. This includes two missed weeks, one to Hurricane Irene and one to Winter Storm Alfred.

✍ The Fellowship Room/Kitchen restoration is almost complete, except for a couple of items, one being the small hand-washing sink next to the stoves and another, the floor molding. Osowieckis have been asked to bid on a backflow valve to prevent future sewage backups.

✍ Plans are moving forward to install a gas-fired furnace. Quotes have been requested for a dedicated HVAC unit to serve the Pastor's Study, the Church Office, and the Library.

✍ Twelve Christmas Child boxes were delivered.

✍ The Cookie Walk sold more than 100 pounds of cookies, bringing in \$622.25.

✍ Gary Freimuth is working toward a Bi-Vocational Ministry license and the congregation voted to affirm him in this.

✍ New officers and committee members were elected with only one vacancy, which should be resolved at the Annual Meeting. In response to recognized difficulties presented by increased specialization in the Treasurer's position, an amendment to the bylaws was proposed and the congregation agreed that the amendment should be presented again for approval at the Annual Meeting.

✍ The church has received the final distribution of \$950 from the Ruth Todd bequest. Consensus yielded a decision to take no action on the use of the bequest at this time.

Annual Meeting

All boards and committees are reminded to meet before the Annual Meeting on January 22 to elect officers. Diaconate, Trustees, Christian Education, and Missions & Evangelism Boards must also appoint a representative to the Nominating Committee. (If you were a Chair of any Board or Committee in 2011, please convene an organizational meeting, before January 22, of that group even if you will not be serving with that group in 2012.

Auditors must audit all financial records before the Annual Meeting.

Men's Ministries

Bible Studies

Thursday mornings at 6:30 a.m.
Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.



New Commandment Ministry: Second Saturday of the month: Teams of men ministering the love of Christ to those in the church family who are in need! Get involved today – takes just a couple of hours a month, but you'll feel good about them all month long. Call Gary Freimuth (860 283-4540) or Pastor Tim (860 283-9146) for more information.

Missions and Evangelism

Scrapbook-a-Thon: On Saturday, January 28, join us for a full day of scrapbooking, 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Registration is \$30 and includes lunch, dinner, snacks, reserved table space, workshops, use of tools and so much more! Pre-registration is required and seating is limited so please reserve your spot early! After January 1 we will advertise outside the church. Registration forms are on the Missions Bulletin Board downstairs. Please contact Sarah or Jean Morton with any questions (860-283-8415). We look forward to a fun filled event!

New Directory Time

If you need to be added to our directory and mailing list or if your information has changed, please let us know. Put the information in the offering plate or give to Ruth Johnson. (Watch for a new directory early in 2012.)

Family address and phone				
Family members				
E-mail/Cell				
Birth date & Yr.				
Wedding anniv. & Yr.				

Keeping Up



- The Beardslees have moved: 184 Edgewood Avenue, Thomaston, 06787.
- *Thanks to all for your help, meals, cards and prayers at the time of my surgery. With God's help, I am feeling better.*
Glenn Hafele
- I want to thank you all for your love and care surrounding my skin surgery just before Christmas. Your calls and your prayers really help. Thanks, also, for your generous Christmas gift. Being your "churchmouse" has been a source of joy and satisfaction for 15 years now – and even more because of your expressions of appreciation for what I do here.
Ruth Johnson