

July - August Park Bench 2017



Greetings, friends and family of Franklin Park Baptist Church.

Summer is in full swing. The weather is warm (almost) every day. And we have had our annual 'Weenie' Roast, thanks to everyone who put their best foot and side-dish together. Our young people are getting ready for their Mission Trip to WV, and we are busily building the set for Vacation Bible School. All good stuff!

Our Sunday morning study of John's gospel has gone into a temporary holding pattern as we circle one particular statement of Jesus in John 14:6 where Jesus makes the culturally unpopular statement, "*I am the way, the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father except by me.*"

I have recently been thinking that perhaps Jesus should have at least taken some online classes in personal evangelism...and maybe even a couple classes in cultural 'tolerance' towards people with other belief systems and worldviews that clashed with His understanding of what it takes to enter the Kingdom of God. And besides, He obviously doesn't have the charisma of a Joel Osteen or the flair of a Billy Graham.

After spending several years in seminary, I also think Jesus would probably have failed my personal evangelism class. [Matthew 19:16-22](#) describes a young man who looked like the hottest evangelistic prospect the Lord had encountered so far. He was ripe and eager. There was no way Jesus would let him get away without receiving eternal life.

But he did. Instead of getting him to '*make a decision*' or '*sign a card*' or '*come forward*'.... Jesus actually seemed to chase him away. Why didn't Jesus '*bag him*'? Jesus seems to have forgotten to *close the deal*.

I believe Christ's confrontation of this young man gives us much-needed insight into reaching the lost.

Turmoil of the Heart

All of the religion and wealth of this young man had not given him confidence, peace, joy, or settled hope. There was a restlessness in his soul and heart that the things of THIS WORLD could not satisfy. He was coming on the basis of a deeply felt need. He knew what was missing: eternal life. His motivation in coming to Christ was faultless.

His attitude was right as well. He wasn't haughty or presumptuous; he seemed to feel his need deeply. There are many people who know they don't have eternal life but don't feel any need for it. Not this young man. He was desperate. There's a sense of urgency in his question, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I might have eternal life?" He did not beat around the bush; he didn't warm up; he just blurted it out. He even allowed such an outburst in public and risked losing face with all the people who thought he was a spiritual giant already.

It was a simple, honest question asked by one in search of truth: "*What good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?*"

The Sin Problem

But here's where the story takes an extraordinary turn. Jesus' answer to the young man seems outrageous: "*If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments*" ([Matthew 19:17](#)). Strictly speaking, Jesus' answer was correct. If a person kept the law all his life and never violated a single part of it, he would have eternal life. But no one can. Since he had come with the right motive to the right source, asking the right question, why didn't Jesus simply tell him the way of salvation? We have all heard it at some church service, revival or youth retreat;

“Repeat after me.... Jesus, I invite you into my heart....”

Except Jesus knew that the young man was missing an important quality. He was utterly lacking a sense of his own sinfulness. His desire for salvation was based on a *felt need*. He had anxiety and frustration. He wanted joy, love, peace, and hope. But that is an incomplete reason for committing oneself to Christ. It is merely the hope of exchanging bad feelings on the inside for good ones.

Our Lord didn't offer relief for the rich young ruler's felt need. Instead, he gave an answer devised to confront him with his sin and his need of forgiveness. It was imperative that he perceive that his bad feelings were a symptom of a much deeper problem that was only deepening by the day.... **his sinfulness**.

People cannot come to Jesus Christ for salvation merely on the basis of psychological needs, anxieties, lack of peace, a sense of hopelessness, an absence of joy, or a yearning for happiness. Salvation is for people who hate their sin and want to turn away from it. It is for individuals who understand that they have lived in rebellion against a holy God and who want to live for His glory.

Jesus' answer took the focus off the young man's felt need and put it back on God: *"There is only One who is good."* Then He held him against the divine standard...and this would show him exactly how far short he fell: *"If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments."* But the young man ignored and rejected the point. He was utterly unwilling to confess his own sinfulness.

Effective Evangelism must take the sinner and measure him against the perfect law of God, so he can see his deficiency and desperation. A gospel that deals only with human needs, feelings, and problems is superficial.... It is powerless to save since it focuses only on the symptoms rather than sin, the real issue. It focuses on avoiding the consequences of our sin and the punishment we deserve by offering something 'nicer' and more 'pleasing' to the human condition.... This is why many churches are often filled with people whose lives are essentially no different after professing faith in Christ. Many of those people, sad to say, are unregenerate and grievously misled.... Jesus calls them **lost!**

In the coming weeks we are going to keep looking at evangelism from Jesus' perspective. We will continue our study in the book of John, but we will try to pause each week to mine Jesus' approach to evangelism as he continues to open the eyes of His disciples in the upper room discourse while he prepares them for his imminent departure.

P.S. Be on the look-out for the Fall Sunday School as we intend to begin a series on *"Reading and Studying Our Bibles More Carefully and Intentionally"* I am particularly excited about this because it is something ALL OF US need! We will be talking about it soon as Fall is right around the corner.

Have an AWESOME Summer!

Blessings and Peace.

Pastor George

Our church is to be sold !



Our church is to be sold ! Yes, our church is to be sold ! No, we are not about to lose our building through foreclosure or repudiated debt. However, our church must be sold to the city and county. It has been planted to wield an influence beyond its membership and walls. Thus, we are presented with an enormous challenge.

Our church must be sold to the un-churched ! There are scores of people in our community who would attend our church and join us in the Lord's service if we would bother to sell our church to them.

How much is our church worth to you? How much do you value its ministry? How much do you value the Christ it proclaims? As a member of this church, you are selling your church to others every day. Are you selling it short? Has it helped you to the extent that you're willing to sell it to others? Will you be enthusiastic in talking about your church? Will you share your church with others who have no idea what they're missing?

Take our church seriously and talk to people about what our church has to offer them.

Sunday, August 5, 2018

We will join together in the pavilion at Blueberry Hill Park for our outdoor summer worship service and celebrate communion at 10:30 a.m. We will follow the service with a church-wide picnic lunch. Each family is asked to bring a side dish or salad and dessert to share. (RAIN or SHINE)



PLEASE UPDATE in your church directory the new address of
 of
Gordon and Sandy Bonham:
[210 Fowler Road # 2005,](#)
[Wexford, PA 15090.](#)
 Their phone numbers and email addresses remain the same.

*Blessing of the Backpack -
 August 19 at our 9:30 a.m.
 worship service*



- 3 Rick Raraigh
- 3 Eddie Gildernew
- 4 Eleanor Mooney
- 5 Jordan Frazier
- 8 Dorothy McKinney (her 104th !)
- 8 Jane Myers
- 8 Janet Eberhardt
- 8 Joseph Maxwell (his 18 th !)
- 10 Carol Jean Keefer
- 11 Martha McEvoy
- 12 Jill Whipple
- 13 Jared Dauer (his 17th !)
- 16 AMANDA and CHRISTIAN CARVER
- 16 Cate Meteny (her first !)
- 20 Lori Merriman
- 22 Rev. Paul Aiello
- 23 Scott Merriman
- 28 Jen Ott
- 28 Beth (Frankenstein) Mauro
- 29 Audrey Maxwell (her 10th !)
- 30 Janet Tehois



Worship Service Greeters

- July 1 – Rick and Sandy Hughey
- July 8 – Dan and Marge Douglass
- July 15 – Youth Group
- July 22 – Cindy Foight
- July 29 – Mary Eberhardt

- August 5 – Blueberry Park
- August 12 – Lois Gobrecht
- August 19 – Ann Dobson
- August 26 – John & Millie Flinchum

- 5 Laurie Dauer
- 5 Clay Nichols
- 5 John Cress
- 9 Jean Willoughby
- 10 Wendy Spurling
- 12 Katelyn Dauer (her 19th !)
- 13 Xander Spurling (his 9th !)
- 14 Madison Cress
- 17 Jamie Lopez
- 20 Ron Merriman
- 24 Leslie Worst
- 25 Rick Hughey, Jr.
- 26 SHELBY (CUNNINGHAM) & LINCOLN ROOP (their first !)
- 27 Earl Neely, Jr. (Pete)
- 27 MARTHA McEVOY & MIKE JONES (their 13th !)
- 27 Nico Lopez (his 9th !)
- 30 SANDY & EDDIE McGINNIS
- 30 Cari Stewart
- 30 Karen Ott
- 31 SCOTT & SALLY CUNNINGHAM





Friends in the Lord

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV) says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." It's important to choose friends who help us be more like Jesus. How many words can you make from the word *friendship*?

F R I E N D S H I P

2-letter words: _____

3-letter words: _____

4-letter words: _____

5-letter words: _____

Words with 6 or more letters: _____

Answers include: in, is, hi, he, hip, end, sip, dip, tip, nip, pie, sir, hid, ship, send, ride, dine, find, fine, drip, shed, dish, fish, and, npe, hide, fried, pride, siren, fresh, ferns, friend, fisher, diners, nused, shine, finish, shiner, insider, hinders, inspired, panish, refinish, finished

Prayer Requests and Concerns

July, 2018

- ^ **John Cress** will be starting chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer in the near future.
- ^ **Carl Hummel, 38**, had open heart surgery for a bacterial mass and vasculitis. He's doing great. They still don't know what the infection was caused by. Carl is the son of Cindy Merriman's sister, Judy and Roy Hummel. He came home last Saturday and was able to attend his cousin, Abby Hofstetter's, 16th birthday party. Praise and thanks !
- ^ **Dave Bell**, minister friend of Millie and John Flinchum, has been diagnosed with ALS.
- ^ **Katelyn Francis, 17**, has a return of cancer in her young life. Doctors are not sure what the next step is because the treatment she was on was experimental . Please keep Katelyn In your prayers and that an option is found for her. Katelyn is the great-granddaughter of Millie and John Flinchum and great-great granddaughter of Dorothy McKinney.
- ^ **Joe Hudak**, cousin of Ellen McKenna and Emilie Gildermew, was diagnosed with ALS a few years ago. They received word that it is now effecting his speech and that he is no longer able to walk.
- ^ **Ted Parks, nephew of Gordon and Sandy Bonham, and his family** have moved from Kazakhstan to Phoenix, Arizona where he will be continuing his ministry online. Pray for settlement of his family in the United States.
- ^ **We ask for safety in travel** for those in our church family who are enjoying vacation plans and visiting family.

- ^ **Prayer for all** the policeman and first responders who are in danger as they are out there doing their job. Especially Shawn McNaughton who is a member of this church family and works in Cecil Township.

- ^ **Answered Prayer and Praise For : Colin and Cory (Weaver) McGinnis** who were married on Saturday, June 13, 2018. Colin is the son of Sandy and Eddie McGinnis and grandson of Dorothy and Ed Cress. Best wishes !

- ❖ **Continued Concern For:** Austin Gildermew, Matthew Valente, The Scott family, Shelley and Alli, Davey Frankenstein, George Kriever, Doug Wolford, Jean Willoughby, Luke Sciulli, Lois Titus, Lauren Slick, Jen Ott, Mary Glassburn, Katie Jones, Tim McCrory, Edith Yockel, Christians around the world who are being persecuted.

- ❖ **Those With Cancer:** Bill Smith, Rich Necter, Tom Duffola, Matt O'Leary, Mary Ann Yoder.

- ❖ **Missionaries :** **Becky and Larry Stanton** (Hungary); **Peter and Sarah McCurdy** (Dominican Republic / Cuba); **Carol Sydnor** (Nepal); **Nora and Pieter Kalkman** (Prague, Czech Republic), **Brian and Lynette Smith & their boys** (Haiti). **Valerie and Aaron Osterbrock** (East Malaysia), **Ted Parks** (Kazakhstan).

- ❖ **In Service of Our Country :** **Major Doug Bauer**, his wife Hope and children, Walker & Mackenzie in North Dakota; **William G. Palombo** (Marines) and his wife **Sam** (Navy) are serving in D.C.

	Dorothy McKinney Creek Meadows Personal Care 1630 Ellwood City Road Zellenople, PA. 16063	Albert (Buck) Bucklew Chicora Medical Center 160 Medical Center Road Chicora, PA. 16025-2612	Peggy Bucklew Chicora Medical Center 160 Medical Center Road Chicora, PA. 16025-2612	
Janet Tehois Broadmore Senior Living 3275 Washington Pike Apt. 221 Bridgeville, PA. 15017 412-559-2813		George Green Cranberry Place 5 St. Francis Way Room 122 Cranberry Township, PA. 16066		Mrs. Shirley Wright Passavant Retirement Community Trillium House Room 215 Zellenople, PA. 16063 Telephone 724-452-5400
Homebound - Jane Nagel & Dale, Jr. 4015 Wick Place Wexford, PA. 15090	Gloria Meinert 2915 Salisbury Court Wexford, PA. 15090	Jean Downing	Mrs. Eleanor Mooney 221 Chickasaw Avenue Pittsburgh, PA. 15237	

It's that time again ! Our Summer Mission Trip is in just 2 weeks. A group of 12 will be heading south to Grafton, WV to spend the week helping a single mom with 2 girls improve their living conditions.

MISSION PROJECT 2018 July 15 through July 20

LISA has lived in her community for 4 years. She likes her neighborhood because it is a quiet safe place to raise her 2 children Samantha (17) and Sophie (6). She volunteers at the Anna Jarvis visitor center and with the Taylor CO. Historical Society. Lisa likes reading, writing poems, and doing crafts. She enjoys the time spent with her daughters. She likes people and being able to work with other children. Scheduled to be done that week :

- o Install Family Fire Safety Kit.
- o Replace damaged fascia metal.
- o Repair front concrete porch and steps.
- o Replace damaged ceiling tiles.
- o Install new kitchen floor covering. • 12' x 14'
- o Remove old door to kitchen and replace with a working door. • 32" LH inswing
- o Install a door to the bedroom. • 30" LH inswing Bonus Projects
- o Install new flooring in the girl's bedroom. • 10' x 18'
- o Install new steps and handrails to the back porch. • About 5 steps.
- o Replace damaged 8" siding. *All projects are subject to change prior to or during
- o Install a new toilet.
- o Repair missing soffits.
- o Install a new back porch exterior door. • 36" RH inswing
- o Upgrade and install code compliant gas supply line.
- o Repair damage to ceiling in the girl's room.
- o Paint kitchen.
- o Paint the living room.
- o Install a bed room door.

The group is going to be busy and we ask that you keep them in prayer as they tackle this outreach for this family. This is the 30th year that this group has been giving up a week during their summer to help others and **THEY LOVE IT !** Just ask them about one of their trips and the people they have helped and they will let you know what an impact this service has made on their lives! Let them know how proud you are of them ! They deserve it !!! **Safety in travel and on site for our mission group.**



***Invite! Invite ! Invite !
your neighbors, grandchildren and their friends !
Register them today !***

**A great time is planned for the week of
July 8 through 12 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

“SHIPWRECKED – RESCUED BY JESUS”

***Call the church to register 724.935.3950
or go to our website “franklinparkchurch.org”***

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE :

September 9 - Regular Hours return

September 16 - Cranberry Barbershop

Concert here

September 18 - Tuesday Night Bible

Study begins 7 – 8 p.m.



**Colin McGinnis and Cory Weaver were
married on June 16, 2018. Colin is the son
of Eddie and Sandy McGinnis and
grandson of Ed and Dorothy Cress.
~ Congratulations and Best Wishes ~**