
TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

August 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- AUG 1 - ALAN & GINGER BRILL'S ANNIVERSARY
MIKE VANDERLINDEN'S BIRTHDAY
- AUG 3 - PRAYER MEETING 6:30 - 7:30 PM (CHURCH)
- AUG 6 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
HEATHER REID'S BIRTHDAY
JEAN KENNEY'S BIRTHDAY
- AUG 7 - BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
- AUG 8 - ADDYSON BRILL'S 16TH BIRTHDAY
- AUG 10 - PRAYER MEETING 4 - 5 PM (LARUES)
- AUG 11 - DAN DONOVAN'S BIRTHDAY
- AUG 12 - MENS BREAKFAST 7:30 AM (HAYFIELD REST)
DAWNNA SELDON'S BIRTHDAY
- AUG 13 - SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHURCH PICNIC 11:15 AM
LAFOLLETTE HOMESTEAD (SEE
ARTICLE)
- AUG 14 - BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
- AUG 16 - BRIAN & AMY BRILL'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY
- AUG 17 - VANESSA WALKER STARNES BIRTHDAY
- AUG 20 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
LADIES FELLOWSHIP MEETING
(SEE ARTICLE)
- AUG 21 - BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
- AUG 24 - PRAYER MEETING 6:30- 7:30 PM (CHURCH)
- AUG 27 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
HOME MISSION OFFERING
- AUG 28 - NO BIBLE STUDY
ELIZABETH WINGFIELD'S BIRTHDAY
- AUG 30 - HENRY SMITH'S BIRTHDAY

Sunday School and Church Picnic

Our annual Sunday School and Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 13th beginning at 11:15 am. Again, this year, Ruby has graciously invited us to the farmhouse, which is located about 3 miles from Shiloh United Methodist Church on Back Creek Road. Meat and drinks will be furnished, but please bring your favorite covered dish to share. Directions are as follows: Take Back Creek Road 23/3 and at the Shiloh Cemetery go down the hill to a "T" in the road. Stay on the paved road. At the "T" go right, continue for about a mile, and the farmhouse is on the right. It is a two-story white house with upper and lower porches. It sits off the road with walnut trees out front. Everyone is invited. Bring a lawn chair and plan to have a good time! In the event of rain, the picnic will be moved into the basement of the Parish Building.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP MEETING

The next Ladies Fellowship meeting will be held on Sunday, August 20th for the purpose of planning for the upcoming Yard/Soup sale which will be held on September 8th and 9th. More details will follow as the date gets closer.

We welcome any articles, comments, or suggestions.
Alan & Ginger Brill, alanbrill1@frontier.com
(304) 856-3635

TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

August 2023

PASTOR'S PEN

Sin and Forgiveness

As I sat on the beach during my recent vacation, I couldn't help thinking about a bible scene from the book of John. In the last chapter of the gospel of John, Jesus deals with the restoration of Peter. It's a reminder for us that, as sinners, we all need forgiveness. That's because we have all failed at some point, hurt someone near us, and sinned against someone. The question is, can you hear your announcement of forgiveness from Jesus and hear Him announce forgiveness to others as well?

Let me set the context for the passage in John. Just before the arrest of Jesus, Peter is told that before the morning comes, he will deny Jesus three times. Peter doesn't believe it until the rooster crows for the third time in the morning. By then, he has denied Jesus three times. In response, Peter leaves the outer court and weeps bitterly. This context is a crucial part of the restoration we find in John. Peter has carried the guilt of his actions throughout the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

I am confronted with a scene at the beach that is not exactly like the scene on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. On the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, the waves are loud. The sound drowns out other noises. On the beach that morning at the Sea of Galilee, the water would have only lapped against the shoreline. It would have been quiet, making it easy to hear the question coming from the shore; "Children, do you have any fish?" The men answer, "No!" When Jesus tells them to cast the net on the right side of the boat, and they catch 153 fish, they immediately know it's the Lord. Jesus calls them to come and eat. They find fish already cooking on an open fire and eat breakfast together. In this quiet moment, Jesus restores Peter, removing his guilt and calling him to serve the kingdom of God faithfully.

It's easy to make some simple observations from this narrative. First, you could point a finger at Peter, looking at his sin, acknowledging that he needs forgiveness while staying aloof from any personal application. You may take the next step, realizing you, too, need forgiveness and then rejoice over the restoration Jesus offers in this loving episode with Peter, knowing that the offer also extends to you. Recognizing the validity of this second option is essential in the life of every Christian. You must understand that you are a sinner saved by grace, just like Peter learned. However, there is one more thing I want you to learn from this passage. Each of us needs to accept that the forgiveness Jesus offers us is the same forgiveness He gives others.

It is easy to allow the world to drown out the call of Jesus to come and eat. To come and find forgiveness. To come and receive restoration from the Savior who loves you. And it's really easy to forget that the forgiveness and restoration offered to you, Jesus, also offers to everyone who comes to Jesus.

Only when you refuse to allow the noise of the world to cover your own sin will you understand the magnitude of the mercy offered in the gospel? And only when you let the Holy Spirit work in the quiet moments of life will you understand the power the gospel has for others and yourself. But once you allow forgiveness to go beyond yourself to those around you, its power is unstoppable, its love unlimited, and its restoration irrevocable.

~ Pastor Mike