

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 2, 2015

THE FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS

Acts 2:42 & Romans 1:11-12

Fifteen years ago my daughter-in-law asked me to lead a small group for a few of her friends. She invited 3 women, they each invited a friend, I invited two young moms, and later my best friend joined us. We met weekly in the “upper room” of my home to study the Bible, to fellowship and to pray. The girls became transparent quickly. Each of our lives was messy, but the common thread was we all wanted more of Jesus. Our nights ended with us on our knees praying. We saw God move in mighty ways. Over the years, four moved to different cities, new women joined, and life called us to different places. This past week the original group of women gathered for a reunion. It had been more than 10 years since our last small group. Our hearts were full as we reflected on how God had changed each of us in profound ways in that season and has continued. The power of The Word, prayer, encouragement, support, and mutual trust led us all to a more intimate walk with Jesus. I share this to encourage you in your own journey. The Disciple Team is working on group and study opportunities for the New Year. Be praying about starting a group with a few people you want to spend more time with or stepping out and joining one. We will host a few connect events in January that will help you get started. It can be life changing!

- Susan Fisher, Director of Discipleship/Adult Education

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 3, 2015

EVERY LEADER NEEDS AN ABISHAI!

Proverbs 27:17 “As iron sharpens iron, a friend sharpens a friend.”

Building a healthy ministry doesn't happen in isolation. It requires teamwork! In my years of ministry I've worked with incredible people who are much more talented than I could ever dream to be. One of the reasons that I've been able to pursue a lot of different opportunities is because I've always surrounded myself with an “Abishai”. I know, you're thinking, “Huh? Did Brandon not take his meds today?” Every leader needs an Abishai. This person is crucial to the success of a leader. You need an Abishai! Abishai was a warrior and a friend of King David. He is mentioned in 2 Samuel 21:15-17, “David and his men were in the thick of battle, David became weak and exhausted... Ishbi-benob had cornered David and was about to kill him. But Abishai came to his rescue and killed the Philistine.” David had several men around him who were extremely loyal and dependable. I believe that every minister needs several Abishais, people with whom we can share the joys and struggles of ministry. We need people who will help us when we are weak and exhausted. Ministry is better and healthier when it is done together. With that said, let me just say how thankful I am for everyone who serves in our church. Thank you for all the energy and time you spend helping our faith family. Our ministry could not grow without you.

- Rev. Brandon Dasinger/Teaching/Missions Pastor

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 4, 2015

GOD KNOWS

Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”

When my father-in-law, Ron Skoneki told his wife Doreen, who has dementia, that she would move into assisted living this summer, her first question with great concern in her eyes was, “Who will take care of you?” As a wife, mom, and grandmother she has spent a lifetime taking care of others, and now it's our turn to take care of her. During a recent visit, she looked at a beautiful photo on her wall of respite of volunteer hands making the shape of a heart and inside the heart is the first few words of Proverbs 3:5. Doreen slowly read the words out loud, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart...” I'm not sure she fully understands them or realizes their power or at this point, even knows God, but one thing I'm certain of, God knows her. When I visit with Doreen, even though the conversation may take confusing turns, it's very peaceful. Why? Because Doreen has spent a lifetime drawing near the throne of God now, as see in Hebrews 4:16, His mercy and grace are finding her in her time of need. God's eye is on the sparrow and my mother-in-law and any loved one you have who, because of a devastating disease, may not fully know their God. As you share in the abundance of grace and mercy flooding into their lives, trust this, God knows.

- Kim Hendrix, Media Ministry Director

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 5, 2015

IF YOU FEED THEM THEY WILL COME

John 6:33-35

Ashley and I enjoy feeding the hummingbirds during the summer and fall. We have two hummingbird feeders on poles in our back yard. It is fun to watch the hummers flutter about and chase each other around our yard. Ashley boils water and adds the right amount of sugar to the hot water. As long as there is water in the feeders and it has not turned sour from the heat, the hummingbirds will come. When the food is gone or it has turned bad, no more hummers. If there is food, they will come. Soon we will be putting out our bird feeders. We love to watch the sparrows, finches, chickadees, cardinals, doves, and other birds come to the feeders. As long as there is food in the feeders, they will come. Thinking about the birds made me think about the church. We are all called to encourage others to come to worship with us and come to meet Jesus. We have wonderful food to offer. We can offer them Jesus, the bread of life. We can offer them God's Word, which is bread for our soul and spirit. And we can also offer them physical food. Perhaps you could invite someone to worship or some other church event, and then invite them to go out to eat with you before or after the event. You could invite them to join you for our Wednesday night supper. Everyone enjoys a good meal, and we cherish the fellowship around the table. Let's start a feeding campaign at Frazer and invite people to “taste and see that the Lord is good” (Psalm 34:8). If you feed them, they will come.

- Dr. Neil Epler/ Congregational Care Pastor

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

SANCTUARY - NOVEMBER 29, 2015

WORSHIP GUIDE & DAILY DEVOTIONS

FRAZER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6000 ATLANTA HWY. MONTGOMERY AL 36117
FRAZERUMC.ORG • 334-272-8622

FLOWER DEDICATION

Flowers are placed in loving memory of the Rev. John Morgan on the fourth anniversary of his homegoing on November 28, 2011, by Pat Morgan, and family.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (Rogers)
..... Fran Wilkinson, piano; Kelley Garrett, organ
Call to Worship: “O Praise the Lord” Choir
Apostles Creed Congregation
Hymn #203: “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” Congregation
Special Music: “Instrument of Your Peace” Choir
Prayer Dr. Neil Epler
Light of Advent Candle
Hymn #211: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Congregation
Announcements & Call for Offering Dr. Neil Epler
Offertory: “Gesù Bambino” Yvonne Collins, violin
Doxology Congregation
Sermon Dr. Tim Thompson
Hymn #174: “His Name is Wonderful” Congregation
Benediction Dr. Tim Thompson
Prelude: “Come, O Savior of the World” (Medlock) Kelley Garrett

SERMON NOTES

LIFE WITH JOY AND HOPE

Psalms 30:1-5 “¹ I will exalt you, LORD, for you rescued me. You refused to let my enemies triumph over me. ² O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you restored my health. ³ You brought me up from the grave, O LORD. You kept me from falling into the pit of death. ⁴ Sing to the LORD, all you godly ones! Praise his holy name. ⁵ For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime! Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.” (NLT)

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

11 Corinthians 4:8-10, 14-18 “⁸ We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. ⁹ We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. ¹⁰ Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.... ¹⁴ We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. ¹⁵ All of this is for your benefit. And as God’s grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory. ¹⁶ That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. ¹⁷ For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! ¹⁸ So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.” (NLT)

11 Corinthians 5:1 “For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.” (NLT)

— Dr. Tim Thompson

Watch today’s sermon on WFRZ-TV, online at frazerumc.org/media or download the podcast at frazerumc.org/podcast. You may also order a CD of today’s service at the Connection Point desk.

MONDAY

NOVEMBER 30, 2015

COUNTING THE NUTS

Galatians 5:25-26 - “If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”

There was a story recently in which some passengers on a major airline were complaining that the first-class passengers got more cashews in their snacks than rest of the folks. Somebody sat there and counted how many nuts of each kind he had. He didn’t think the mix of almonds, cashews, and other nuts was fairly divided. I hate to break it to you, but if you’re counting your nuts, you might be nuts. Happiness never comes from comparing your blessings to somebody else’s. That’s called envy, and it will rot your soul. Proverbs 14:30 says, “A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.” Maybe you don’t count nuts, but do you keep track of who has a nicer house or car than you? Does it bother you when someone else gets a promotion at work? Do you become jealous of friends having fun together and spending time together if you’re not there? The Bible says love doesn’t keep a count of the bad things, but rejoices in the good things. “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant.” (1 Cor 13:4) Instead of getting upset when someone has extra, why not be glad for them? If you have to count something, count your blessings. When you concentrate on what you have, instead of what you don’t, you’ll be surprised how much more joy you’ll find. The things that really count in life are how much we love God, and how much we love and serve others. Everything else is just peanuts.

- Dr. Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 1, 2015

GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT

Joshua 1:9 - “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

The world we live in today is full of times of discouragement. It is easy to have moments on a daily basis where we feel powerless or hopeless. In the perfect moment though, God gives us bits of encouragement to make it through life. The verse above is a great example of this. Moses had been leading God’s people to the promise land, and then he dies. God gives Joshua the task to take over for Moses. I can only imagine what was going through Joshua’s head. It is easy to see that Joshua probably needed some encouragement. Three times through the first chapter of Joshua God says, “Be strong and courageous!” There is also a great promise in these verses that says, “the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” May you and I today, no matter what we are experiencing in life, never forget these two great encouraging statements from the God of the universe. No matter where you find yourself today, God is with you!
- Chase Faulk, Student Minister