

BLESSING IN CHRIST

The Bible is a blessed book. It begins with blessing. It ends with blessing. It's about blessing. Even more, it is a blessing. But all of this begs the question, what do we mean by blessing?

Count Your Blessings

In everyday parlance, the word reflects a range of meanings. We can count them, one by one. So for example, we might speak of bumping into a long-lost friend as an "unexpected blessing," or (depending on the friend!) even as a "mixed blessing." Here the word more or less conveys the idea of personal gain and good fortune. But the term can also carry with it a sense of granting approval, as when a love-smitten lad asks for the "blessing" of a would-be father-in-law for his daughter's hand in marriage. Still further, we often think of blessing as connoting divine favor and protection, hence nearly every presidential speech ends with those grandiose words, "God bless America."

I would suggest, however, that none of these uses of the term get to the bottom of blessing. Sure, the Bible likewise speaks of it in a multiplicity of ways. We thus read of blessing being referred to as the reward of a birth-right (Gen. 27), the goodwill of one person to another (Gen. 33:11), the endowment of fatherly favor (Gen. 49:28), the privilege of serving God (Ex. 32:29), the receiving of an inheritance (Josh. 15:19), the benefit of a healthy crop (Lev. 25:21; Heb. 6:7-8), the bounty of creation (Ps. 65:9-13), and so on. But even these blessed experiences need to be read against the wider backdrop of the Bible's teaching on blessing.

From Whom All Blessings Flow

The common word for "blessing" comes from a Hebrew noun (*berakah*) that is most often used to communicate the conferring of God's covenant favor and goodness. Similarly, the verb form, "to bless" (*barak*), means at root to kneel but is frequently used to describe the reverent worship of God's covenant people, both in terms of prayer and praise.

But how are these Hebrew words related? Think of the difference between a benediction and a doxology. Both involve a distinct aspect of blessing. In a benediction, we receive a blessing (*berakah*) from God (Num. 6:22-27). But in a doxology, we exalt or bless (*barak*) God for his blessing (Ps. 103:1-5). In short, benediction begets doxology (Eph. 1:3-14).

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**COMING
EVENTS**

SUMMER 2011

JUNE 2

7:00 P.M.

Baby Shower-Melissa George

JUNE 7-10

General Assembly in VA

JUNE 12

*Receive new members
Congregational Lunch*

JUNE 21, JULY 19,

AUG. 17

Lunch Bunch

JUNE 27

Idlewild Outing

JULY 9-16

Fairmont Mission trip

JULY 22

Pirate Game@7:05 p.m.

AUGUST 20

Guys Barbecue

AUGUST 28

*PM Service-
Church Picnic at Turner
Farm &
Terry and Francine Clark*



And the Lord make
you to increase and
abound in love one
toward another ...

1 Thessalonians 3:12

The bestowment of divine blessing, therefore, points to an intimate relationship that exists between a benevolent benefactor and his unworthy recipients. The former gives and graces, the later receives and rejoices, with blessing as the bond between them. God richly blesses us, and we in turn bless him for his blessing. So we gladly sing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

This however is only the nuts and bolts of blessing. Throughout Scripture, the word is inextricably linked to four other biblical principles: creation, covenant, cursing, and Christ. In this context, blessing takes on a much richer, and more specific, meaning.

Fount of Every Blessing

The Bible opens with a pronouncement of blessing. In Genesis 1, we learn that the first benediction was spoken directly by God: he blessed creation on the fifth day, humanity on the sixth day, and the Sabbath on the seventh day. Life in paradise was lived under the full blessing of God.

In Genesis 3, however, God's benediction becomes a malediction due to Adam's sin. Thus he curses the serpent, the woman, and Adam for their rebellion. As a result, humanity no longer lives under the umbrella of divine favor but under the hand of divine judgment. Sadly, the blessing that was enjoyed in paradise was lost as a result of the Fall.

The rest of the Bible tells the unexpected story of how God's blessing from creation is rediscovered by means of God's gracious covenant. Hints of how this will be accomplished are given to Adam (Gen. 3:15), Noah (Gen. 9:1), Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3), Moses (Deut. 27-30), David (2 Sam. 7:28-29), and Ezekiel (Ezek. 34:25-26), among others. But the fount of God's blessing is ultimately revealed in the Son of God incarnate.

In the New Testament, we discover the good news that Jesus turned God's cursing into a blessing by becoming himself a curse on the cross (Gal. 3:10-14). Those who trust in Christ are therefore gloriously forgiven and blessed both now and in eternity (Rom. 4:7-8); but those who reject him tragically yet justly remain under God's judgment and are cursed forever (Jn. 3:36). Blessing lost is now blessing regained by the Lamb of God (Rev. 22).

What then is God's blessing? The answer is simple: Jesus (Eph. 1:3).

Your pastor,

John

SUMMER MISSION NEWS

The first trip will be Dale and Linda McLane returning to serve in Belize July 2 – 18, 2011. They don't usually know exactly what they will be doing until they get there. They do know they will work along with Alvaro Pott, the Belize Presbytery and the school administrators.

The Fairmont team will be gone July 9 – 16, 2011. They have 17 participants this year, a nice increase from last year. The team is led by Bob Conrad, Rich Gardner and Rob Gray. The members are Jay Bennett, Terry Gardner, Andrew and Anna Lintelman, Jessica and Caleb Mattson, all 6 Sabellas (!) and Heather and Heidi Vizino. The group will be working on the homes of 2 women – Cheryl Tate and Jessica Walker. They will be doing multiple small jobs in these houses. There will not be any VBS this year.

Next Terry and Francine Clarke will visit August 28th. That afternoon is also the Church picnic so they will join us there. The Clarkes have served in Australia, first as the administrator of the seminary and then closing and relocating the seminary from Brisbane to the Sun Coast. The seminary is doing well now.

Also, Rick and Sandy Stiffler are planning a return trip to San Clemente, Peru possibly in August. Rick was there after an earthquake on a disaster relief team and saw other needs. Then the two of them returned later to support the pastors and church with educational materials and teaching .

June Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Jim Spitzel | 19 Tim Brickner |
| 2 Debbi Dutton | 24 Joe Wilson
Tim Dizak |
| 6 Allison Brickner | 25 Pam Renda
Rick Stiffler |
| 8 Laura Airgood
Elaine Swearingen | 26 John Irwin
Mary Sellers
Riley Moss |
| 10 Becky Musser | 28 Eric Matta
Jean Purdy |
| 11 Hannah Vizino | 29 Carolyn Dailey |
| 12 Kim Agate
Gabriel Crawford
Helen Whitlinger | 30 Helen Colwell |
| 13 Ashley Agate
Bob Sisteck | |
| 14 Paul Sabella | |
| 15 Hong-Jun Yoon | |
| 16 David Schofield | |
| 17 Julie Douglas
Brooks Dutton
Suzanne Werner | |



July Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Jay Schwarz | 11 Buz Sellers |
| 4 Mary Jenkins
David Schofield | 14 Charles Dailey
Donna Gray |
| 6 Curt Cornell
Bob Isherwood | 22 Callie Boyer
Mary Lou Wolfram |
| 7 Bob Renda | 24 Ava Clayton |
| 8 Bradley Campbell | 25 Bob Bremmer
George Strang |
| 9 Erin DeFazio
Marjorie Stephens | 27 Joshua Lawyer |
| 10 Jack Anderson | 29 Buck Gray
Joel Sullivan |



August Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Markus Sullivan | 13 Kate Dering
Russ Harke | 25 Jacob DeFazio
Linda McLane |
| 2 Daniel Airgood
Day Boyd
Richard Malone
June Miller | 14 Wayne Airgood
Anna Dering | 27 Shirley Micheals |
| | 15 Judy McGuire | 28 Heidi Vizino
Carolyn Sisteck |
| 4 Amy DiNatale
Tom Frost | 18 Angela
Tweeddale | 30 Gus Dering
Judy Stewart |
| 9 Sonia Maingi | 19 Eric Douglas | 31 Jay Bennett
Will Burns |
| 11 Marty Agate | 20 Nonna Taylor | |
| 12 Dolly Servetnick | 23 Connor Moss | |
| | 24 Pat Watt | |



Births

May 4

Jonah Delbert Frost

Son of Tom and
Amy Frost



Baptized

May 8, 2011

Ava Charis Clayton

Daughter of Jeff and
Rachel Clayton



Financial Summary

January 1 - April 30, 2011

Operating Account:

Receipts	\$121,876
Disbursements	\$116,919
<i>Account Balances -</i>	
Operating Checking \$	\$ 13,130
Operating Saving \$	\$223,855

Benevolence Account:

Income	\$35,436
Disbursements	\$37,803

*Congratulations to our Graduates:
High School, Technical School, College
and Post-Graduate*

High School

Hannah Airgood -Fox Chapel HS
Laura Airgood -PA VCSchool
Brad Campbell -Homeschool HS
Nathan McGuire -TCS
Holly Vizino -Homeschool HS

College

Lindsay Crawford -Grove City
Maria Taylor -Carlow Univ.
Mark Taylor -Duquesne Univ.

Seminary

Claire (Magnuson) Hopple
Covenant Seminary

Post-Graduate

Jay Schwarz -Pitt, Ph.D.



Welcome New Members

The session has received the following as new members of FRPC:

*Will and Liz Burns
Helen Colwell
Jason and Rebekah Skopp
Liz Shepler
Fred and Judy Stewart*

They will be formally received and introduced on Sunday, June 12, during the morning service.

Welcome!


June 2011

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p>Each Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship</p>			1 6:00 Christian Ed. 7:00 p.m. Youth Group	2 Baby Shower Melissa George 7 pm	3	4
5 AM Rev. John Tweeddale Lord's Supper PM Mr. Rob Gray	6	7	8 7-9 1st week YG Girls Summer Study	9	10	11
PCA General Assembly, Virginia Beach, VA June 7-10						
12 AM Rev. John Tweeddale Receive new members Congregational Lunch PM Rev. John Tweeddale	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 AM Rev. John Tweeddale Recognize Graduates PM Rev. John Tweeddale Popcorn Fellowship	20	21 1:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch at DeNunzio's 7:00 p.m. Joint Meeting Deacons /Elders	22 	23	24	25
26 AM Pastor Spitzel Commission McLanes PM TBA	27 Idlewild Park and Soak Zone See sign up sheet at Welcome Center	28	29 7-9 YG Girls Summer Study	30		

July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 McLanes leave for Belize
3 AM Rev. Tweeddale Commission Fairmont Team PM Rev. Tweeddale	4 	5	6 7-9 YG Girls Summer Study	7	8	9 Team leaves for Fairmont
10 AM Rev. Tweeddale PM Rev. Tweeddale Lord's Supper	11	12	13	14	15	16 Team returns from Fairmont
17 AM Rev. Tweeddale PM Rev. Tweeddale Strawberry shortcake fellowship after service	18	19 1:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch 7 pm Session	20 7-9 YG Girls Summer Study	21	22 Pirate Game 7:05 p.m.	23 Presbytery At Calvin PCA
24 AM Rev. Tweeddale PM Rev. Tweeddale AM Rev. Tweeddale PM Rev. Tweeddale	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Each Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship					

August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 7-9 YG Girls Summer Study	4	5	6
7 AM Rev. Tweeddale Lord's Supper PM Rev. Tweeddale	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 AM Rev. Tweeddale PM Rev. Tweeddale Ice cream social	15	16 1:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch 7 pm Session	17 7-9 YG Girls Summer Study	18	19	20 Guy's Barbecue
21 AM Rev. Tweeddale PM Rev. Tweeddale	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28 AM Rev. Tweeddale PM Terry and Francine Clark Church Picnic Turner's Farm	29	30	31	Each Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship		



Summer Adult Sunday School

What did you Expect? Redeeming the Realities of Marriage.

We know that our marriages don't escape the reality of sin or the brokenness of the world. It may surprise you that your marriage should be rooted in worship rather than romance. When we worship God as Creator, Sovereign, and Savior, it enables us to love as we should, including our spouses. The surrounding culture would lead us to believe that a marriage of unity, love, and understanding is rooted in romance. Scripture says that a good marriage is the result of worship. Learn practical insights for the everyday issues and situations of a real marriage; and, learn the practical steps that will help you know how to get from where you are, to where God wants you to be.

We are going to a Pirate Game !



Free T-shirt Night



Pirates-Cardinals

Friday, July 22
Game time 7:05 p.m.

*Call church office before
to reserve your seats
412-793-7117 or sign up at the Welcome Center*

Summer Book –Ladies of the church: Do you like a good book?

Because He Loves Me, How Christ Transforms Our Daily Life, by Elyse M. Fitzpatrick.

This book explores and celebrates the truth of our identity and growth in Christ in our daily lives through his Spirit. Be inspired to live the gospel out in every part of your life!

Sign up at Welcome Center. Read it on your own and then join us for a casual, end of the Summer Book Review with refreshments.

