

WELCOME SUMMER

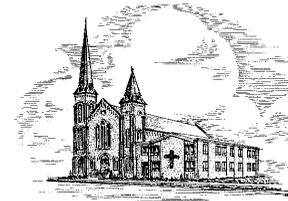
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 COOKOUTS
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 FISHING
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 ICE CREAM
 JULY
 JUMPROPE
 JUNE
 MOVIES
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POPSICLES
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VOLUME 222 JUNE 2018 NO. 6

Greetings:

Who are you? When we meet someone new that is the question we want answered. In one way of another we want to know who the other person is and they want to know who we are. We want to know to what degree we can trust this other person. We want to know if the other person is dangerous or not.

If this other person we are meeting is a stranger, and we are going to be around them for any significant amount of time, we also want to know other things. There are questions about where the person lives, maybe about where they went to school. If they are old enough, we usually ask something about their being married and about children.

It is most common for men, who are strangers and who are instructed to get to know each other, to start with family and then talk about where they work. After that the topic may turn to sports. Many men find it hard to go beyond these basics because they are beginning to reveal who they really are.

This is one thing I have noticed about meeting strangers. It is something that makes me very sad. In getting to know someone, seldom does information about a person being a follower of Jesus come up. That is true of myself as well as of others. If it comes up at all, it is usually in the form of asking what church they belong to.

We sometimes wonder why our church is not growing. Church growth should be the result of people following Jesus. If we put the information very low on our priority in getting to know someone, how can we expect our church to grow.

In the past, society expected someone to go to church. (That is not necessarily the same as being a follower of Jesus.) This is no longer true. What attracts people to a church is what others see in the people who are already part of the church. It is how enthusiastic we are about what is happening in the church. Others will come because they see we are excited to be a part of this group of followers.

However, if the excitement about church is because the people are entertained, it may have little to do with following Jesus. The primary purpose of a church gathering is basically two-fold. First, it is a time to worship God. Anything which hinders that worship or directs toward anything other than God is not acceptable. Secondly, the church gathering is a time for Christians to support each other. It should be a time for encouraging one another. When people gather and complaints are the central focus of the conversation, the church is in danger of being lost.

When people discover that they have a lack of excitement about the church, they often wonder, "What can the church do to build excitement?" That is entirely the wrong question. The question that will be helpful is, "What can I do to be more excited about worship and about being a part of this group of followers of Jesus?"

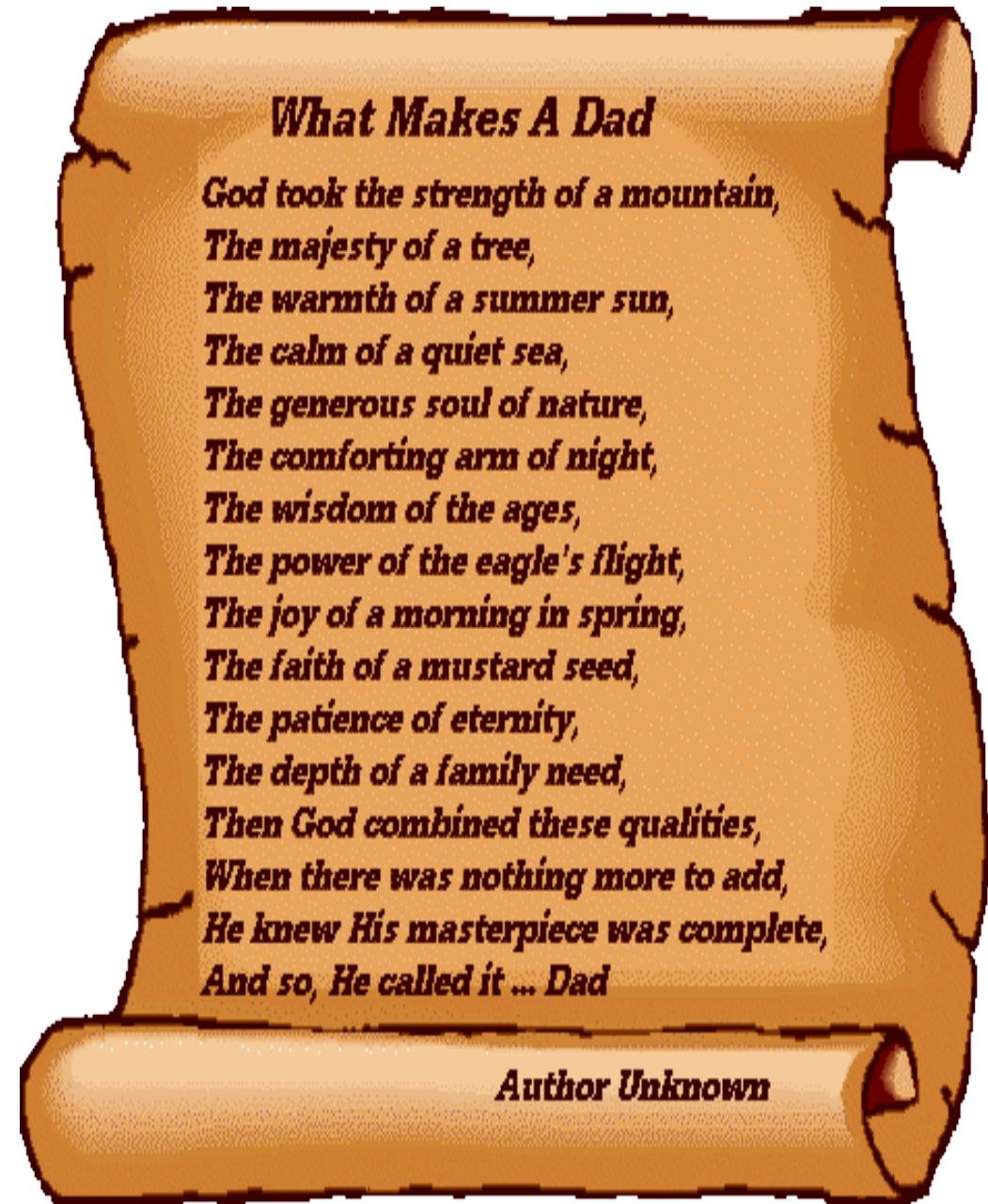
I will end with that question, "What can you do to make following Jesus more exciting to you?"

Peace

Pastor Ross

BOOK CLUB INFORMATION

The Tuesday morning Book Club invites you to join us as we explore God's messages to us as interpreted by Christian scholars, all with seminary education. These authors are educators in colleges, in pulpits and some have additional education of the Aramaic language (spoken by Christ), archeology and of the various cultures of the biblical peoples. We read aloud the books we are reviewing and have many discussions that open our minds and our hearts. We will begin reading, on June 12, the book "*UNBELIEVABLE*," written by one of our favorite authors, John Shelby Spong.



THANK YOU to Sheila and Steve Claar for providing Family Dinner on May 6. The delicious sloppy joes, pasta salad and munchies created a picnic atmosphere and the homemade cookies and candy was absolutely awesome! We applaud the Pastoral Search Committee for their progress report following the meal.



Welcome Susan Anderson to our church staff. Sue began on Monday, May 21st and will be working part-time, Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 2:00. Sue will be taking over the secretarial responsibilities. She comes with previous work experience, most recently Manpower. I think you will find her friendly and more than willing to help you with your church needs. Sue and her husband and three daughters reside in Jackson. Stop in sometime and welcome her to the church; she will be happy to meet you!



We meet from 10 am to 12 noon each Tuesday at the home of Vic & Billie Johnson. You are all welcome (male and female alike) for the Christian ride of your life.

EXECUTIVE BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

May 20, 2018

- The Pastoral Search Committee is communicating with one candidate while continuing to pursue additional candidates.
- Endowment earnings are down.
- Earnings were down approximately \$30,000 during 2018 first quarter.
- Worship Committee Report of Audio-Visual Equipment.
- Worship Committee Report of Praise and Worship addition to Sunday worship.
- Susan Anderson will start May 21 as FBC secretary with office hours Monday through Friday 9 am -1 pm.
- Help is needed in facilitating the Connection Service on occasion.
- Teacher recognition and graduate recognition will be June 3.
- Fellowship Funds are intended primarily for assistance within our church family; church needs to be made aware when assistance is needed.
- Furnival Scholarship will be offered this year.



Volunteers are needed on Saturday, June 9 at 10 am, for the church's annual spring cleanup and minor building spruce up. We will be putting down mulch in the flower beds (weather permitting) and doing other odd jobs to keep our church looking good.

If you are feeling hungry on this Saturday, the Men's Breakfast have waived the **No Women Allowed** rules (just kidding), but have extended an invitation to everyone to join them at Steve's Ranch at 8 am before going to the church.

