BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY

God cares for you. I will sound like a broken record pretty soon, but I say it with good reason: God cares for you. That theological truth is evidenced in the very beginning of scripture when God created human beings to find their true fulfillment in Him alone. That is the might and majesty of the creation account that especially highlights the uniqueness of humanity as the crown jewel of God’s creation. Theologians use the phrase “Imago Dei” to emphasize that we were created in the image of God. Your identity as one made in His image should lead you to conclude some important truths about yourself. Chief among these was is you were created specifically and perfectly with a purpose – a purpose that finds meaning in the person of Christ Jesus.

The second creation account beginning in Genesis Chapter 2 emphasizes the intimate relationship that God has with his creation and gives purpose for your very existence. It is easy to get a little confused with the sequence of events in the first two chapters of Genesis. For the sake of brevity, it is simplest to say that they are two perspectives of the same creation story. The first account focuses on God as Creator of the universe. In Genesis 1, God speaks and creation happens. In the second creation account, the writer uses the name Yahweh – a name commonly associated with the intimate, covenantal relationship between God and his people, Israel. For that reason, this second account is a type of “zoomed-in” look at the intimacy that God shares with His creation.

Importantly, God did not merely speak as some far-off supreme being who chose to remain far from his people, but instead He was completely hands-on in His approach. He carefully crafted the man with his own hands and literally breathed His own spirit into man. There is an unparalleled intimacy in the creation of this man in God’s own image, filled with God’s own spirit.

Beyond the creation, God doted upon this new and beloved creature. He placed the man in a garden that is literally paradise. The trees were pleasant to the sight and the food was incomparable in its satisfaction. God provided all that the man needed to live, but He even went so far as to shelter his mind from that which could have existed. There was a tree of the knowledge of good and evil nearby that man was forbidden to touch. God loved His creation because man was created in the image of God for the glory of God.

The creation account created the basic foundation for a proper view of the Christian life. God created you for intimacy with Him. As the rest of the story unfurled, this utopian intimacy would come to an end, but the deepest longing of the human heart yearned for a reconciliation with this divine reality. That reconciliation was realized through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. You were made for intimacy with God and Christ made that intimacy possible again. Let that sink in for a minute – your one purpose was to dwell with and bask in the glory of almighty God. That should put everything else in a very unique perspective.

Christ made a way to reconcile humanity back to its original purpose. You have been given a chance to fulfill the deepest longing of the human heart: a reconciled purpose due to a reconciled relationship. Will you see life in light of the perspective of one who was created for intimacy with God? This Sunday, we will continue our series that focuses on the importance of seeing yourself as God sees you. I pray that we can all come to a greater understanding of the Father’s deep desire to see His love play out fully in our lives.

Expecting His Best,
Stephen V. Allen, Senior Pastor
CHILDERN’S CORNER

Attention VBS Volunteers
On May 3 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall we will have dinner and a short training session for VBS volunteers. You will receive your binders at that time. We will have a time when you can meet with your class volunteers to start planning. We are still in need of a few volunteer teachers and are also looking for people who would like to be on a decorating team. Please contact the Children’s Ministry office if you are interested.

Vacation Bible School
June 5-9, 2017

EXTENDED TEACHING CARE
Sunday, April 30, 2017
Team Leader:
Vickie Brookings
Babies/Creepers (Room 107):
Scottie Jennings
Sandra Meigs
Toddlers (Room 101):
Diane Copeland
Mark Brookings
2 Year Olds (Room 106):
Joel & Allison Shirey
3 Year Olds (Room 120):
Walt & Amy Murphy

THANK YOU NOTE
A Thank You Note has been received from:
Judy Crumpton

CUMBERLAND MISSION TRIP

CUMBERLAND MISSION TRIP
July 2-7, 2017
Applications are now available.
Cost: $100/person $300 family cap

STUDENT MINISTRY NEWS

SKYZONE
April 30  Cost: $25
Bus departs the TLC at 12:30 p.m.

SENIOR RECOGNITION
High School Seniors
Graduating high school seniors will be recognized during morning worship on Sunday, May 7. Please remember to turn in your photographs for The Tidings and breakfast R.S.V.P. to Stephanie ASAP!

College and Graduate School Graduates
Those who are graduating with degrees from colleges, universities, and graduate schools will be featured in the May 3 edition of The Tidings. If you are graduating from the ranks of higher education, or know of a Tabernacle member who is, please inform the church office with his or her name, institution, and degree by ASAP!

CHURCH CAMP
June 12-16, 2017
Cost: $225
Deposit $125 due by 4/30
Remaining $100 balance due by 5/31

MISSIONS MINISTRY

WMU LADIES’ GROUP
END OF YEAR BRUNCH
Tuesday, May 2
11:00 a.m. in the Cafe
Ladies, bring your favorite Brunch food. For those who do not cook, please come as there will be plenty of food to go around. This will be a special time of sharing you don’t want to miss.

We will be honoring our Mothers during this time since it is Mother’s Day month. Please bring a picture of your Mother along with a favorite story or two to share.
Staff Birthdays and Anniversaries
for May

One of Tabernacle’s most valuable resources is those who serve on our Church Staff. This month we recognize these employee birthdays and anniversaries:

**Birthdays**
- Marie Ragsdale - May 1
- Emma Eddleman - May 11
- Mike Bradley - May 26
- Alexandria Dyer - May 27

**Anniversaries**
- Frank Goodman - Four years on May 8
- Mike Bradley - Ten years on May 15
- April Dedman - Seven Years on May 21
- Emma Eddleman - One year on May 26
- Brittany Pope - One year on May 26
- Wally Dedman - Two years on May 31

Listen Learn Lead (L3)
Suicide Intervention
May 20, 2017
9:30 a.m. until 4:15 p.m.
A one-day workshop in suicide intervention based on the Armed Forces work with more than 25,000 soldiers and veterans. L3 principles will benefit individuals from all walks of life and offers applications in various life situations.

Workshop Cost: $50.00
Registration available through the church office or on the church website.
Deadline to sign up is Friday, May 12.

Senior Adult News
2017 Fall Jubilee Conference
Start making your plans now for the 2017 Annual Fall Jubilee Conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The dates are September 18-20 (Monday - Wednesday). The cost will be $225.00 per person. Sign up continues at the hallway table. Pick up a brochure from the table.
Deadline to sign up and pay $75 deposit is April 28.

With Sympathy
To the family of Margaret Walker, our member, who died April 18.
To the family of Sharon Couch, our member, who died April 24.
Pastoral Team

Stephen Allen, Senior Pastor
Mark Barnes, Interim Associate for Music and Worship
Mary Lou Grimmett, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Wally Dedman, Interim Minister to Students
Julie Harris, Interim Children’s Minister

Sunday’s Report - April 23, 2017

Worship Gatherings
Worship Center 334
ETC 19
Children’s Worship 23
YM Musical 195
Total Worship 571
Quarterly Conference 58

On-Going Bible Studies
Sunday
On Campus 282
Cottage Landing 18
Weekday Bible Studies N/A
Total Bible Study 300
S.S. Active Enrollment (March) 404

The financial report and the memorials and honorariums for April 23 will be printed in The Tidings next week.

THIS WEEK: April 30

SUNDAY 10:30 A.M.

SERMON: “When You Feel Insecure: Seeing You as God Sees You”

PREACHER: Rev. Stephen Allen, Senior Pastor

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139:1-24

WORSHIP LED BY: Mark Barnes, Interim Associate for Music and Worship Tabernacle Choir

DEACONS OF THE WEEK: April 30 - May 6, 2017
Gary Bullock, Rick Smith, Jim Wallis

so do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

ISAIAH 41:10