

The Messenger

August 12, 2015



MOMENT'S REFLECTION

Jenny and I visited my mother and Harold in their home in Modesto, California this summer during vacation. Harold and my mother married 10 years or more after their first spouses died—his wife, my father.



I've come to love him. My mother is a strong woman. Fiercely independent. But in the year or two before they met, she was weighed down in a spirit of aloneness. Harold came into her life at just the precise time of her deepest need. I often tell Harold that he's a God-send. He thinks I'm exaggerating. I'm not.

They make an amusing pair. These two octogenarians are in many ways polar opposites. He watches FOX News. My mother switches it to MSNBC. Harold pores over the latest edition of his church's Old German Baptist Brethren publications. My mother sits in her living room easy chair surrounded by several piles of various contemporary authors.

My mother was an English teacher in her life, but she's first of all a life-long Christian. During our visit she remembered with a whisper of sorrow the day her child-hood church (Grace Brethren Church) was burned down in Salida. "I was brought to that Church as a child in my mother's arms." My mother has that deep Christian conviction in her bones.

But somewhere along the way, she also cultivated a deep love of literature. And because of her, I developed a great love of literature, too. Both of us were practically weaned on Holy Scripture, which is to say: we don't read to supplant the sacred uniqueness of Scripture. Like mother, like son, we both read because in reading we find particular artistic expression of the biblical truths.

In his book, **Of Other Worlds**, Christian writer and novelist, C.S. Lewis wrote that literature enlarges our world of experience to include both more of the physical world and things not yet imagined, giving the "actual world" a "new dimension of depth." In his book, **The Christian Imagination**, Leland Ryken adds that this makes it possible for literature to strip Christian doctrines of their "stained glass" associations and make them appear in their "real potency."

My mother is reading the British author, Ian McEwan, this summer. She can't find all of his works at the local library, so I told her I was going to research McEwan's writings and order her three of the best of the remaining. That's how I got hooked. Late one night this summer, I was struck by an especially evocative passage from McEwan's book, **Enduring Love**. In it, Joe and Clarissa struggle to overcome their witness of a horrific tragedy. When they return home, they instinctively gather at the table and begin to talk:

"There was a comfort in reiteration, just as there was the weight of wineglasses and in the grain of the deal table, which had once belonged to Clarissa's great-grandmother. There were smooth, shallow indentations in its surface near the knife-scarred edges, worn by elbows like ours, I always thought; many crises and deaths must already have been considered around this table."

McEwan's words transported me in mind to the Lord's Table. For years I've recited Paul's Words of Institution, "For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you," Paul says, and then recalls Jesus' command: "Do this to remember me." And I have remembered. Yet perhaps not often enough have I relished the strengthening comfort of this Table's history: the Table bears the prints of other faithful hands (and elbows), and in coming to remember Him, I also remember them, too. And in remembering them, I communicate with a great cloud of witnesses who met at Table to consider how to keep the faith in similar times of crises and death. **-Dan**

Join Us this Sunday, August 16th for **YOUTH SUNDAY** as the youth recount their Mission Trip Experience



MANDATORY YOUTH PARENT MEETING (K-12)

Sunday, Aug 23rd, immediately following the Worship Service in the Chapel
Hosted by Rev. Allison Ray

A Memorial Service for Rev. Ray Owen's mother, Mary Elizabeth Owens, will be held at FCCG at 1:00pm on Saturday, August 15th, in the Sanctuary.

For Allison Ray and Travis Drake

Saturday, August 22nd

1:00pm - 3:00pm

In the Parlor

Registered at www.myregistry.com



Mission Day—Labor Day Parade

NEED Bottled Water Donations
(prefer small [8 oz] water bottles)

Bring donations to Fellowship Hall by Sunday, Aug 30th

Families & Professionals will distribute bottled water with messages of love at the Garland Labor Day Parade.



PROMOTION SUNDAY will be held during worship on Sunday, August 23rd. We will take a moment to celebrate another great year of learning and kick off the new school year! Children and youth will join in the procession at the beginning of worship and be recognized during the worship service. Parents, please have your child in the Sanctuary Foyer by 8:55 a.m.

Friends, our Children's Choir is growing! Over the past few years, our Children's Choir leaders have done such a great job that the children want to stay in Children's Choir even when they have technically aged out of it. Because of the passion of our children, we are splitting the Children's Choir in two. We will now have a Children's Choir and a Youth Choir. This split will enable to our leaders to create more age appropriate lessons. They can teach songs but also notes, reading music, and more as the children grow up. We will have a slight adjustment in the



Sunday evening schedule to accommodate our two Choirs. Youth Choir (3rd Grade and up) will meet from 4-5pm before continuing with the normal youth schedule. Children's Choir (4 yrs old through 2nd grade) will meet from 5:30-7pm. Children's Choir will also spend some time playing either on the playground or in the classroom. We invite all children and youth to think about joining one of the choirs this year. Tammy Holcomb and Judy Grasham have worked

very hard to pick out great lessons and songs. Eric Dacon and Janie Goheen are also going to help lead our groups. **Kick-off of the Choirs is September 13th and they practice any Sunday we have youth group! -Pastor Allison**



CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsals will begin Wednesday, September 9th at 7pm. If you are interested in joining, email Stan McGill at Stan.mcgill1@gmail.com



Handbell Choir rehearsals begin Wednesday, August 26th at 6:00pm; contact Virginia McBee for more info.

vmcbee0453@aol.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

Cup of Life

Robbie Collister

Hands of Faith

Gary Carroll

Glenda Lee

The Grapevine

Terry Barnes

Keith Biffle

Dylan Godwin

Lynda Simpson

Tracey Williams



To purchase
CDs of the
Joseph
Martin Music
Service, see Stan McGill. CDs
are \$5.



CPR-CERTIFIED?

If you presently hold a CPR certification, please advise the Church Office. A list is being compiled of all CPR-certified members. Thank you.

CPR, First Aid, and AED Training

ATTENTION

September 26th

9:30am-12:00pm Rm. 201

Only a couple of spaces left in the Sep 26th class; secure your spot now. The cost of the training class is \$35 per person. Funds have been set aside for anyone who needs assistance. Contact Steve Sutton (214.893.1709) for more information.

Please advise the church office as soon as possible if you need childcare for the Sep 26th class. Thanks.

Elders-On-Call for July:

Russ Lyons
972.412.9107



Chris McMillan
214.793.2719



BUY A BRICK

Contact Kathleen Yant;
kyant1@aol.com;
972.496.0534 or Eva McKannan;
patevamck@verizon.net;
972.414.1737



Many thanks go to each of you for donating sneakers so generously for those children in need when school starts. Sneakers were donated to New Beginning Center and the Salvation Army. Leo was also given a pair that fit him. The grand total of sneakers collected were 208, total number of socks was 87 and number of underwear was 40. The winner of adult classes was Christianity 101 and of youth classes was age 4-3rd grade. Again, thanks for your participation in making this a success for our community children.

Brenda Crosthwaite—Outreach Ministry



Saturday, August 15th **MEN'S BREAKFAST** has been cancelled

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