



"We have this hope as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul" Hebrews 6:19



Telling Your Story!

During the Indiana State Fair this year, my wife and I managed to catch part of the "4-H and Open Llama and Alpaca Show." These strange creatures with their long necks and bird-like movements always strike me as an ostrich trying to be a goat. These furry pack animals can be a little feisty and hard-headed but they have a certain gracefulness about them that I am sure only a llama or alpaca can have. The competition that sparked our combined interests was the 4-H Costume Contest. That's right I said costume contest. The children and their alpacas or llamas would emerge from their pens in matching themed costumes. And just like Halloween these kids were creative. There were ghosts, leprechauns, fairies, dinosaurs, bumblebees and even the statue of liberty with the alpaca as a majestic flying eagle. The children and their animals were judged on their originality, creativity, complexity and handling/behavior of the animal. The children also were asked to write a story about their costumes. The story had to give a context, a setting for the kids and the animal's costumes. Some of the stories were funny, others were just plain goofy, and others even were advertisements (maybe Snuggies should start using a llama as their mascot). That idea of writing stories struck me this week. My brother recently called me and recounted a story that our grandfather told him about our great-great grandmother trying to put out a fire on the roof of her house with a wet mop.

What I kept thinking about when he was telling me this was "what is my story"? What defines my life? What shapes it? If I was a costumed llama, what story would be read as I was walking around the ring? What stories will my grandchildren tell about me? What story defines me?

I was reading in Acts 26 where Paul is defending himself in Herod's court against false charges brought against him. Instead of laying out a defense with points and counterpoints like we see in courts today, Paul instead tells his story. He tells about how he persecuted Christians, throwing them in jail and condemning them to death. Then on the road to Damascus, Paul encountered a bright light and heard Jesus' voice, asking him to get up and serve and testify about the wonderful things God has done in Jesus. And Paul obeyed, crossing the countryside asking people to repent and turn toward God.

Paul's defense was his story. A story that told of what God has done in his life. A story that reflected the profound change that had occurred in Paul. God's story and Paul's story intersected.

The question I have for all of us is "where is God in your story?" In the stories that we tell of ourselves, those we love and even those we don't love, where do you see God working? Is God even present?

People say that we are defined by the stories we tell and the stories people tell about us. What story are you telling? Is it one of great sadness and injustice, or one of transformation and hope? Take the time this month and think about where your story and God's story intersect. Like the apostle Paul, reflect on how God has entered your story and made a difference.

Pastor Gray

We hold up in prayer:

**Kay Bostrum
Virginia Hatter
Ed Hawkins
Jean Jensen**

**Sally Michell
Keith Moore
Sarah Simms
Corey Thompson
Jo Wier**



**Bob & Phyllis McGinnis, Homebound
Lucile Moore, Homebound
Frances Prince, Homebound**

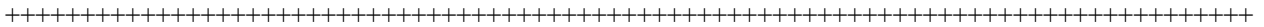
To my Hope Church Family,

A grateful note to say how very much I have appreciated your prayers, cards, calls, food and all the expressions of caring following my surgery. A special "thank you" to Pastor Gray for his visits and prayers.

I also want to express my gratitude to all who continue to remember my daughter, Kay, as she undergoes chemo and radiation. Your thoughtfulness means so much more than words can express.

Sincerely,

Jo Wier



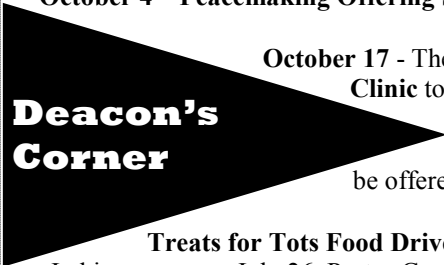
Mark your calendar for these upcoming events sponsored by the Deacons:

September 13 - To start out the fall, the Deacons are sponsoring a "**Pitch-in Luncheon/Ice Cream Social**". The Deacons will supply the meat, rolls, drinks and the ice cream. Please bring a dish to share. Never mind bringing a dessert....we'll have plenty of ICE CREAM to go around!

September 20 – A special **offering** will be taken for **Habitat for Humanity**. Prayerfully consider this mission opportunity.

October 4 – **Peacemaking Offering** Sunday. Prayerfully prepare yourself for this special Sunday.

October 17 - The Deacon's will be hosting the Visiting Nurses Service again for a **Flu-Shot Clinic** to be held at Hope Church. The Clinic will be held from 11am till 2pm. The Clinic is open to the public and pre-registration is not a requirement. Look for more information as to pricing and the various types of vaccinations that will be offered. Any questions, please contact Ken Thompson 839-1654



Treats for Tots Food Drive coming up in October

In his sermon on July 26, Pastor Gray told us that while he was in Guatemala, he felt overwhelmed by all of the need he saw there and asked himself, "What can I do about this mountain of need?" He went on to say that he has asked himself that same question more than once since then, just as many of us may have asked ourselves a similar question. During the last two weeks of October, we as individuals and as a congregation can do something about at least one very real need right here in Hendricks County, which is the need for better nutrition for many babies and young children. The Board of Deacons decided to support the "Treats for Tots" food drive which is being sponsored by the Hendricks County Food Pantry Coalition during the last two weeks of October. They will be collecting baby formula, baby food, and other kid-friendly food such as macaroni and cheese. Watch for more information in the October newsletter.

Hope United Presbyterian Church Events for September, 2009

Tuesday, September 1 st	12:00pm	Presbyterian Women Kick-off
Sunday, September 6 th	10:30am	Worship w/ Communion
Tuesday, September 8 th	10:00am	"The Shack" Bible Study
Sunday, September 13 th	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Sunday Worship
	12:00pm	Pitch-in lunch/ice cream social
Tuesday, September 15 th	10:00am	"The Shack" Bible Study
	7:30pm	Church Federation Meeting
Saturday, September 19 th	6:30pm	Game Night-Chrismon Tree
Sunday, September 20 th	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship - Habitat Offering
	5:00pm	Youth Outing to Broad Ripple

**OCTOBER NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES DUE TO GLENDA**
glendat09@yahoo.com or put in red folder in office

Monday, September 21 st	6:00pm	Session Meeting
Tuesday, September 22 nd	10:00am	"The Shack" Bible Study
Sunday, September 27 th	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Sunday Worship

Christmas will come early this year during Game Night. We will decorate Chrismon ornaments that we will use during Advent on Saturday September 19th. Come and learn about the history of the Chrismon tree and decorations and have some fun creating a beautiful ornament for Advent this year.

"The Shack" Bible Study is here. Invite your friends and neighbors to come either on Tuesday mornings at 10am or Sunday mornings at 9:15am. We will engage topics about intriguing topics such as Trinity, Evil, and Theodicy. The last Tuesday of this month we will not be having the Bible Study due to Pastor Gray being out in Rochester for a Synod Meeting.

We will be continuing our Young Adult outings to Broad Ripple this month on Sunday, September 20th at 5:00pm. If you are a young adult, please join us for good food and community. If you know a young adult, invite them to attend. No cost to you!

Pastor Gray will be out of the office on Monday, September 28th and Tuesday, September 29th due to a trip to Rochester, Indiana for the Synod of Lincoln Trails' New Pastor Support Program.



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women (PW) will meet on Tuesday, September 1. There will be a pitch-in luncheon at noon followed by our regular meeting at 1:00 p.m. Our bible study will be "A Journey of Faith" from Joshua.

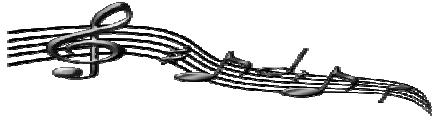
All Women of the church are invited to come and become a part of our fellowship.



SEPTEMBER

- 17-Ed Hawkins
- 17-Dionne Molsberry
- 26-Marilyn Modesitt





Meet our new Choir Director...Rebekah Lawson!

Choir will start soon and new members are always encouraged to join in this ministry. Call the church office if you are interested in knowing more details.

Rebekah Lawson began ministering through music at the tender age of three through age eighteen in groups like Children Around the World, Fishers of Men, and King's Kids/YWAM. She grew up traveling in South Carolina and Florida with her evangelistic parents, and was under the leadership of Benny Hinn at Orlando Christian Center. She finished her BA in Music from Anderson College in Anderson, SC and her Masters in Divinity at Anderson University School of Theology in Anderson, IN. While in college she sang with her school's black gospel ensemble, as well as the college choir and in seminary was the student director of her Seminary Chorus. She has several CD's out and is working on her 4th at this time. She was involved in an internship with Dana Russell, a local singing evangelist who has been ministering for 15 years, for 1-year. She also experienced a 2-year internship with a producer/music minister, Tim Pecorarow at Mount Zion Christian Fellowship, and She studied jazz vocals with Janice Jaffe. Rebekah has worked in the leadership of Haven of Hope, a hands on ministry to the marginalized teens and 20's. Currently she is ministering with her husband, Samuel Lawson, in Isaiah's Cry as Co-Director, Produced by Vessel 7 Productions, while teaching voice lessons and Guest preaching at several Churches and organizations. She has participated in a mentorship at Fairview Presbyterian Church with Pastor John Koppitch and Jennifer Loeb and lead and developed a once a month Naptown Disciples Meetings at Fairview Presbyterian Church for the 5th-8th Grade. Rebekah also developed and leads a youth program at the Scottish Society of Indianapolis. She was the Contemporary Music and Arts Director at Wabash First United Methodist Church, the Music Minister at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Sewickley, PA where her ordination process with the Presbyterian Church is being reviewed. Rebekah's main ministry is hands on with people who love to go out into the world and create change through relationships, by teaching by example, and loving people.

Scripture Readings and Focus of Sermons for September

September 6th

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

James 2:1-13, 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

Sermon Focus: Overcoming our sinful impulse towards favoritism and partiality by recognizing that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, created and sustained by God.

September 13th

Proverbs 1:20-33

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

Sermon Focus: In ignoring and talking over God's call on our lives, we decide we want faith on our terms, on our conditions. Yet God asks for your whole being, not a part, an integrated life of faith and service.

September 20th

James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

Sermon Focus: Envy and selfish ambition damage the Body of Christ and take us away from the wisdom of God. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, we can live the servant's life modeled perfectly by Christ to help strengthen the Body of Christ and see God's wisdom.

September 27th

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

Sermon Focus: God has gifted each of us with gifts and talents. We, as individuals and as a community, place stumbling blocks in front of the expression of these gifts and talents. We must recognize God's gifts in ourselves and in others, giving them the freedom to share these gifts to the world.

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Website: hopepresplainfield.org
Pastor: Gray Marshall



*Whatever is true, Whatever is
honorable, whatever is just, whatever
is pure...If there is anything worthy of
praise, **THINK ABOUT THESE
THINGS.***

Philippians 4:8 NRSV

