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When I said I'd be reading poolside in Florida, the friends we were visiting had to laugh. They know I'm not much of a poolside-sitter. But I did force myself to sit in the sun long enough to read a few pages from the Chronicles of Narnia, just because I said I would.

That's not to say I didn't finish *The Magician's Nephew*, because I did. Since we drove back from Tennessee on Sunday after Josie's birthday so we could be at Grace's senior night basketball game, I had time to visit Narnia on a plane to Florida and back. And, I now know why the wardrobe was able to serve as a portal to Narnia for Lucy, Peter, Susan, and Edmund, because the sixth book in the series is actually a prequel, telling how Narnia came to be.

Somehow over the years book number seven disappeared from our bookshelf, but I did find it in our church library, and I'm now reading *The Last Battle*. I can't recommend the series highly enough. For adults, even more than for children!

While Marilyn and our friends were sunning themselves poolside, I walked the beach. I do like the sounds of the surf, the birds that waddle along the shoreline and dive into the water, and the seashells. Who isn't fascinated by the variety of shells that litter the seashore?

I guess I shouldn't say they "litter" the seashore. They decorate it!

As I walked along, admiring the variety and beauty of the shells, I couldn't help but think of the fifth day of creation, when God brought forth life on the earth. After saying, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures," He saw that it was good. And when He said it was "good" I think He was saying more than it was simply adequate. I think He was admiring His handiwork. He was going far beyond what was needed to sustain us; He was preparing a place of beauty for those who would be made in His image to enjoy.

Indeed, the beauty of creation points to the beauty of our Creator, and His appreciation for that which is beautiful. So even if you're too antsy to sit for hours in the sun, do take to time to smell the roses, and admire the beauty that surrounds us.

God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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COMMUNION MEDITATION BY KIRK POLLEY

Your will, God. Nothing more, nothing less...nothing else!

Last Saturday, the Refuge Ranch Board of Directors gathered for a retreat where we discussed goals, ideas and plans for the future. One of the guiding forces for our discussions is the book *Pursuing God's Will Together* by Ruth Haley Barton. This book is written for Christian organizational leaders that are wanting to align their decision making with God's will.

In the first 3 chapters Barton focuses on the spiritual preparation of each individual leader. The idea is that leaders have to be aligned with God's will personally before they can start trying to decipher God's will corporately for an organization. The foundation for corporate discernment is individual discernment. It is in these chapters that Barton talks about the prayer for indifference. In short, through this prayer we follow the example of Jesus and say "Not my will, but yours be done." Barton puts it this way:

"In the context of spiritual discernment, indifference is a positive term signifying that I am indifferent to anything but God's will. This is interior freedom or a state of openness to God in which we are free from undue attachment to any particular outcome.... We ask God to bring us to a place where we want God's will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else."

So, what is God's will for us individually and what is His will for us corporately as a body of Christ? I think we can all agree that there are many answers to those questions. But all of those answers boil down to the fundamental fact that, as Paul puts it in 1 Timothy 2, God "wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." God wants each and every one of us reconciled to Him. And fortunately for us, God provided a way for that reconciliation. Paul continues, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people."

God's will for all of man is for us to be restored to our original state of perfection -- as we were before sin entered this world. But God doesn't just stop there. He doesn't just have this desire for all of His children to be saved but then leaves it up to us to figure out. He provides an answer. He provides **the** answer. The only way our relationship with God can be made right -- the only way it can be restored -- is through the death, burial, and resurrection of God's son Jesus Christ. Jesus paid our ransom -- He set us free from the bondage of sin -- so that we may be reconciled to God. Jesus' sacrifice of His body and blood is the pathway to God's will of all of us being saved. God loves us so much that He was willing to sacrifice His son for our sins. And Jesus loves us so much that He was willing to die to self and thus die on the cross.

So, as we commune this morning with these emblems, let us thank God that His will included a plan of reconciliation through Jesus. Let us thank Jesus that His prayer was "Not my will, but yours be done." And let us pray and live these words... Your will, God. Nothing more, nothing less...nothing else!

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Sunday Worship Service 9:15 AM
Bible School 10:45 AM

STATISTICS

Worship	2/2	100
Offering		\$9,255.06
Worship	2/9	114
Offering		\$2599.49
Worship	2/16	103
Offering		\$5,190.49

SERVING THIS SUNDAY-2/23/20

Greeters	Brad Stirmell
Visitors' Stand	Rich & Karen Mann
Communion Meditation	Kirk Polley
Ushers	Jonathan Sperry
	Gary Gredzieleski
	Rick Polley
	Bob Williamson
	Kent Ballard
	Will Bartels
	Jake Divjak
WORSHIP NURSERY	
Toddlers.....	Kristin Polley
	Cooper Formea
Infants.....	Shannon Higgins
	Rebecca Smith
	Jake Divjak
Sunday School	
Toddlers.....	Rhonda Luzio
Infants.....	Kelly Donaldson
	Elizabeth Wright

Let Us Pray For...

- Carolyn Brown and family at the passing of her mother.
- Dixie's nephew having a cancerous growth removed from his neck and having tests to determine treatment.
- A retired teacher friend of Chris Luzio starting aggressive treatment for breast cancer.
- A friend of Judy Marlow recovering from cancer surgery.
- The family of Joey Sandhaas who passed away from complications from the flu.



Grace Hunley is in need of shoes! Her Student Council is putting on a mental health display called "Walk in Our Shoes" and she is in charge of collecting shoes of any size, color and style. After being used for the display, they will be donated to charity.

If you have too many shoes cluttering your closet, please bring them to the church by Sunday, March 1st, and she will put them to good use.



A special thanks to my church family, for all the calls, prayers and thoughts, and to Dixie for bringing me home. It's good to be home again. In Christian love, Judy

The Hidden Word

II TIMOTHY 3:16-17

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

TITUS 2:12b-13

"...live sensibly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus."

PHILEMON 10-11

"I appeal to you for my child, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment, Onesimus, who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me."



It's hard to believe in 4 months our group will be building a house for a family in Mexico! We are blessed to be able to help another family in the Acuna area. There is still time and plenty of room if you would like to join the trip!

For the 15 people who have committed to the build, the most critical item right now is to make sure your passport is in order. They will definitely check them at the border coming back into the United States. Also, for those attending, I have a breakdown of the costs, flights, etc., for you to examine on Sunday. Please see me to get your copy!



Some of our High School kids had a great time playing games and visiting with Jim and Mary a couple weeks ago. A few of the other residents also came down to relax and spend time with the kids.

At these two tables, there was some serious dice throwing going on as I heard Yatzee yelled a couple of times. Afterwards, the youth group enjoyed pizza at the Hendricks.

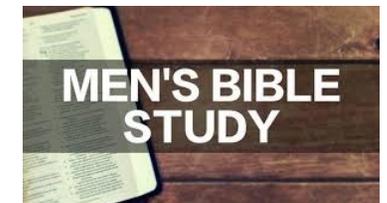


4th & 5th Grade

I'm looking forward to spending some time with our 4th and 5th graders at this conference. It is good for them to see 400-500 other kids their age having fun while worshipping our Lord. We are past the early registration window, but there is still plenty of room in our van and at the conference if your child would like to attend.

We are leaving at 4:30 on Friday the 28th from CCC. We will be stopping for a quick bite to eat along the way, traditionally it has been Wendy's in Lincoln for some burgers and Frosties. YUM!!! After the conference, we will be staying with Mark Zimmerman so please bring a sleeping bag and pillow along with other essentials.

During our breaktime on Saturday, it looks like we will be going to SkyZone! Please bring those special socks they require if you have a pair and parents be sure to complete a waiver online for the Bloomington location. We will be getting back to CCC at 4:30pm on Saturday the 29th. What a fun schedule!! It is going to be an awesome weekend!!



The Thursday evening bible study will be meeting at 7:00pm this week to discuss new material for the Spring. This is a great time to get involved if you missed out on the Galatians study. Please bring any material or ideas you might have for our next study with you on Thursday.