



Ashford Messenger

September 2018 | Newsletter of Ashford United Methodist Church
(Read the latest **Cross Connection** [here!](#))

Dates to Remember

- 9.9—8:30 Service Resumes
- 9.10—ACEC Fall Session Begins
- 9.25—Prayer Team Meeting
- 9.30—Fall Blood Drive

Announcements (all clickable links)

- Citizenship Classes
- Crossroads Book Study
- Fitness @ 4
- Help Our Youth
- Meals on Wheels
- Music Programs—Choir/Bells
- Music Programs—Praise Band
- Real Men Read
- School Volunteers
- Wednesday Morning Bible Study
- Welcoming Ambassadors

The Permanent Solution

Pastor Irv White

And it happened when He was in a certain city, that behold, a man who was full of leprosy saw Jesus; and he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Then He put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately the leprosy left him.—Luke 5:12-13 (NKJV)

There is nothing worse than discovering a leaky ballpoint pen in the pocket of your brand new white shirt or for your two-year-old child or grandchild to deliberately pour their cup of grape juice onto the light colored carpet in the living room of your home. Your first thought might be, "That will never come out!" In most cases, it does not. Bleach, nail polish remover, acetone, hair spray, cooking spray, WD-40, anti-bacterial gel—none of them work. Sometimes you have to throw away the shirt and call in a professional to change out the carpet.

The enemy would have us believe that sin is a permanent stain; but it isn't. There are no permanent stains for Kingdom citizens because there is a permanent solution that not only cleanses but can also help prevent them from coming back.

Continued on page 2...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

September 1	Helen Burbage
September 5	Carol Pieroni, Nya Reyes
September 7	Ruth Ann Lawrence
September 8	Marilyn Compton
September 9	Ed Wehnau
September 11	Giselle Ramirez, Amelia Viteri
September 13	Lorna Onono
September 16	Matthew Christie, Anne Kumaga
September 18	Dorothy Hastings-James
September 20	Gregory Payne
September 25	Nancy Engelhardt-Moore
September 30	Mariko Jordan
October 1	Ceci Corredor, Nick Nicolau
October 2	Fred Gentry

Missing from the list? Let us know and we'll recognize you next month!

In a Nutshell

A Sunday school teacher gave her second-graders a month to memorize Psalm 23. One little boy was excited about the task but just couldn't remember the whole chapter.

When the end of the month came and it was time for the children to recite the 23rd Psalm before the congregation, the nervous boy stepped up to the microphone and said, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know!"

The Permanent Solution *(cont'd.)*

Sin disrupts. For many of us, it places our lives on pause. However, there is good news. Your current predicament does not have to be your permanent position. There is hope.

God restores. The King of king's ability to restore is greater than sins ability to destroy. Jesus is the new plan of restoration and renewal. This new (and improved) plan calls for active faith. Change your mind, change your heart, and change your life. "Whosoever will may come and take the water of life freely." (Rev. 22:17).

Jesus saves. In the old covenant, the stains of life were permanent. Jesus came as the permanent stain remover. His blood shed on the cross became our "Scotch Guard of protection" and our assurance of the future and the hope the prophet Jeremiah speaks of.

There is no stain large enough, no mistake big enough, and no distance far enough away that Jesus cannot clean, correct, or bring home.

Steps to Volunteer in Our Schools!

To be a **Classroom Volunteer** at Ashford Elementary, Ray K. Daily, or Shadowbriar (Volunteers in Public Schools or VIPs), even if you have been a volunteer in the past; you must complete another background check and indicate which areas you would like to volunteer in. This can be done online and takes only a few minutes. Click on the VIPs logo to be taken directly to the application page.



Instructions to register as a "**Real Men Read**" **mentor** can be found [here](#).

Contact GJohnson100@hotmail.com with questions or for more information.

Back to School

It seems like it was yesterday when you could hear the last school bell ring letting you know that summer had officially begun. You trade in your backpacks full of books for suitcases full of swimsuits and sunglasses. The sun's been out and the weather has been hot. VBS and summer vacations have come and gone. But we've reached the time of year where it starts getting darker earlier, and the heat will turn into cool, crisp air... eventually! And all this can only mean one thing: school is back in session. Many of the young people are already back in classes, while some will start in the coming weeks. Moms and dads may be finished with school, but the thought of sending a child off to their first day of kindergarten, middle school, high school, or even college can be very frightening. Schools today are a battleground of temptations. Will they remember everything we've taught them about friends, relationships, drinking, etc.?

Message to the kids/teens: This is a new year. A time to start fresh and start over. It is easy to get sucked into all the temptations that can be found on a college or high school campus. Satan is prowling like a lion ready to devour you (1 Peter 5:8). But, remember who you are. Remember that you wear the name of Christ proudly. Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 11:1 to "imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." Remember that our attitude and our personality should always imitate Christ's attitude. There will be times when it will be hard to do

the right thing; times when you find yourselves "between a rock and a hard place," but just remember, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31). Remember that you have a family of Christians that are here for you whenever you need them. Do not be afraid to admit when you need help.

Message to the parents: It is impossible to know everything that goes on while your child is at school. But the best thing you can do is give them a daily reminder of the Lord they serve. Pray with your children each morning before school. Read scriptures with them about temptations and how to overcome them. Write a scripture on a piece of paper or a napkin and put it in their lunchbox. If their mind is constantly on the Lord, guess who will be on their mind when a problem arises.

Message to the congregation: It is not just the parent's responsibility to raise these children in the "training and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). As a flock of God's people, we are to look after each other. We are to all set an example in "word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12). Let us all take the responsibility to make sure that everyone continues to grow spiritually. It takes a village to raise a child. Whether you want to admit it or not, every child in this congregation is your own. Remember what it was like to be young? Do whatever you can to help these students succeed.

A MOSES FUNNY

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned at Sunday school...

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

Source: mikeysFunnies.com



Belief Is

Susan Budensiek

Today, “belief” is associated with “thinking”, meaning that if I say I believe something, I am acknowledging that it is real, it exists. Abraham shows us that in ancient times, when someone “believed”—as Abraham believed God—it was of ‘life and death’ seriousness. Abraham staked everything on his belief that God would do exactly as He said He would. This is the faith (belief) that saves, as Paul teaches (Ephesians 2:8). This is the faith (belief) that James teaches (James 2:14-17) is not separate from action – both require the other. A more modern example of this principle is the following story I read a few months ago.

“The Great Blondin, probably the Evel Knievel of his day, was notorious for his incredible, death-defying acts. On one occasion, he strung a tightrope across the Niagara Falls. As a crowd gathered, he stood before them and said, “How many of you believe that I, the Great Blondin, can walk across this tightrope to the other side?”

They all said, “We believe! We believe!” So he walked across the tightrope and came back again. The people applauded, thrilled by his death-defying feat. Then he said, “How many of you believe that I, the Great Blondin, can not only walk back across that

tightrope, but this time do it while I push a wheelbarrow?”

“We believe!” they yelled louder, wanting to see him do this. Then he said, “How many of you really believe it?”

“Oh, we really believe it!” they shouted back. One man was yelling a little bit louder than all the others, so the Great Blondin pointed to him and said, “Then get in the wheelbarrow.” The man quickly disappeared.

That’s how a lot of people are today. We’ll say, “I believe! I believe!” But how many are truly willing to get into God’s wheelbarrow, so to speak? Some people have a pseudofaith but not real belief as the Bible would require. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance that we know what true faith is. The book of James points out there is such a thing as a phony or dead faith. And any declaration of faith that does not result in a changed life and good works is a false declaration. It is faith alone that justifies. But faith that justifies can never be alone.”

Article Source: Faithwriters.com

The Beginnings of Sunday School

Englishman Robert Raikes, born in 1735, was a Christian layman who was pained to see unschooled children working six days a week in factories or mines. On Sundays, children roamed the streets, often getting into trouble. Most didn’t know how to read or write and knew nothing about Christ or the church.

As Raikes labored to reform England’s prison system, he noticed that many children were imprisoned, stirring him to action on their behalf. He arranged for halls and homes to be used for educational purposes on Sundays, the one day children didn’t have to work. He found

volunteers to teach reading, writing and math, as well as the Bible and Christian beliefs.

The first Sunday school class was held in July 1780. Amazingly, by 1788 some 250,000 children were attending such schools. This occurred despite some people’s opposition to the education of lower-class children.

Countless boys and girls have attended Sunday school classes since then, thanks to Raikes, who brought Christ’s light and love to children around the world.

