

THE PATHFINDER

"Making disciples who make a difference."

August 2017

THE VIEW FROM THE MANSE

Session has decided to take our next step in ensuring the safety of our children by requiring background checks for folks who work with children and youth in our church, as well as Session and staff. This will bring us up to the standard that the Boy Scouts, youth sports organizations and many churches already require for their volunteers.

We are setting up this process through Lifeway who subcontracts with backgroundchecks.com. This allows us to get a pricing discount for churches. If you serve in a position that falls under this new requirement, we will notify you when you will need to complete your online form. This process only takes a few minutes to complete. If you don't have access to a computer, you can use one of the office computers. The cost of this will be covered by the church and the results will be reviewed only by the pastors. For more information on this program or the need for background checks, go to <http://www.lifeway.com/Article/composite-home-background-checks>. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to anyone on Session, Bryan or me.

Recently Walt Mueller wrote a blog entitled "Do You Control Your Phone or Does Your Phone Control You?...A Helpful Infographic." I encourage you to read it. You can find it at cpsy.org - click on "blog" and scroll down to the article. If you are a parent of teens, you might want to subscribe to Walt's blog. You will better understand what is happening in your kid's world and life.

Don't forget that on August 19, we will all need to start including the area code (ie. 518) when we make local calls. For more information on this go to <https://www.verizonwireless.com/support/area-code-overlay-518-faqs>.

Steve McLean, Pastor
(steve@argylepresbyterian.org)

FRIENDLY REFLECTIONS FROM A TRANSPLANT

Last Month, we spent time discussing what it is to be a friend. I saw some excellent gestures of friendship this past Sunday at the Lufkin Tractor pull. The Pull had been postponed by the weather and a lot of cleanup/tear-down had to happen right after the runs on Sunday night. The number of people who stayed (most without being asked) and helped to take things down was moving. We have such a wonderful community and I am glad to be a small (new) part of it.

I want to take a moment and consider one of the most beautiful pictures of friendship in literature; the friendship of David and Jonathan in the Old Testament. In 1 Samuel 18, we see “the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.” This takes place shortly after David killed Goliath with a sling and stone. David is poised to gather fame and a following as the new champion of Israel. He will become the next king and Jonathan, the prince, will never see the throne. This does not seem to matter to Jonathan. He is not bothered by being displaced. As a matter of fact, he makes a covenant with David and gives him his armor, sword, bow, and belt (vs.3-4). When Saul becomes jealous and begins to turn against David, Jonathan remains loyal to his covenant with the future king of Israel and he warns David of Saul’s intention to murder him. The Bible tells us that David and Jonathan wept openly in each other’s presence (1 Samuel 20:41). David sings a song over Jonathan’s death (2 Samuel 1:17ff). They see their commitment not just to one another, but also to each other’s families (20:42). So later in life, when David discovers that a descendent of Jonathan is in need he sends for him and brings him into the palace to eat at the king’s table for the rest of his life (2 Samuel 9).

What do we learn from this? I once had an elder tell me that he thought a man was rich who had one true friend for the course of his life (other than a spouse). We live in a culture that reads the story of David and Jonathan and we are tempted to be suspicious; does this say more about us than the story? Why is it that to say “I love you, man” is only in reference to a beer commercial? David is called a “man after God’s own heart” and it is clear that his friendship with Jonathan is one of the greatest things in his life. Is it possible that one of the things that God loves about David is his love for Jonathan? Do you have a friend like Jonathan? Are you a friend like Jonathan? Is this worth praying over? Perhaps, we should all pray that God would give us/make us a Jonathan?

Bryan Fitzgerald, Associate Pastor

(bryan@argylepresbyterian.org)

TRUSTEE TALK

Outside Painting

The balcony work that we did in preparation for the pew reupholstering is completed! Again, thank you to all who helped with this big project. You are very appreciated!!

Now we turn our attention to smaller, outside paint jobs at the manse, yellow house, and church. Plus, Marty and crew have begun refinishing the outside of the three, wooden exterior doors. The top half of the south, front door is done. It looks great. (The sun just bakes the finish off!) THANKS, guys.

Guy Savio, our stained-glass window expert, is replacing broken panes in the vestibule and Steve's office. As sort of a final project, he is having one of his students match the existing panes, at no additional cost to us. Hopefully, you will not even know which panes were replaced.

In early July, we noticed pieces of plaster from the north arch in the vestibule falling. We are exploring repair options. Old buildings move and unfortunately, old plaster deteriorates and crumbles. If you notice any areas that are crumbling, please make a Trustee aware, because you may be the first to discover it.

Next month there will be detailed information on pew removal. The dates for getting a pew, if you are on our list, are September 26, 28, and 30th. Unless someone changes their mind about getting a pew, they are all taken. If you want to be on a "wait list," please notify Tawni. Remember that we will definitely do our best, but there are no guarantees about our success in removing the pews intact.

RE-ENGAGE

Reconnect, Reignite or Resurrect Your Marriage

RE-ENGAGE is a marriage enrichment program developed by the Watermark Community Church in Dallas, TX. "Marriages in any condition can benefit, whether you are struggling to get along, your marriage is broken, or you simply want to grow closer together as a couple." For more information and testimonials about RE go to marriagehelp.org.

Kim & I along with Dean & Laurie McWhorter will be offering RE-ENGAGE here in Argyle this fall. There will be an introductory meeting on Wednesday, September 27 from 7-8:30 p.m. to find out what RE involves and to see a little bit about how it works. There is no obligation for those who attend this introductory meeting. For those interested in participating, we will meet on Wednesday nights throughout the fall and early winter, starting on October 4 for a total of 16 weeks.

This, obviously, is a significant commitment, but one which we believe will bring significant blessing to our marriages, our church and our communities. To register, contact the office, the McWhorters or the McLeans. Feel free to let other couples in and out of the church know about this opportunity.

Steve McLean

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Hello Ladies,

Happy Summer! As I write this I am looking out the window and I see green leaves swimming in the breeze and I can hear delightful sounds all around - breeze, lawn mowers, a kid playing basketball somewhere, birds chirping, neighbors going about their day.

I love summer. I try with all my might to keep our schedule light and lazy, and my children are often bored. Do you think they'll thank me one day? I often find them dressed in funny concoctions and talking to their little toys, or half-naked and muddy and perfectly happy in our un-manicured lawn. These are my favorite moments.

We all have our own ideas of bliss and I pray you are finding yourself in that happy place of contentment often this season. As I catch up with you all on Sunday mornings I hear of so many ways you're connecting with each other. I hear about ladies meeting up for Bible study, for ice cream, for conversation and spiritual guidance, for support and a shoulder to lean on. Any one of us could use more of this at any time. You are responding to the Christian calling by meeting together, sharing with one another, and bringing new friends into relationship where they can hear and see the work of Jesus in our lives.

This is Women's Ministry. Our formal ministry is on summer break, but we'll be back in the fall. In the meantime, keep on doing what you're doing ladies! Endeavor to rest, refuel, revel in God's creation, and reach out to one another.

Do you like to read? I just finished Tessa Afshar's Land of Silence. This fictional account brings to life the story of the woman with the 12-year issue of blood who reached out to touch Jesus' robe (Matthew 9:20-22). Afshar's beautiful writing and use of scripture will remind you of the depth of God's love and forgiveness. Does that sound cliché? Trust me. Read it.

I'll be excited to catch up with you in the fall at a few organized Women's Ministry events, but until then, have a great summer!

Your sister in Christ, Gabe Johnson

P.S. If this is not a blissful summer of contentment for you, don't worry. You are not alone! Reach out to your Christian friends and begin with fellowship.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF KINDERGARTENERS & THIRD GRADERS

Summer will soon come to an end and children will be heading to school. The Nursery and Children's Church programs will have their moving up day on Sunday, September 3. Please help your children get to the appropriate program for their ages. Here is the breakdown of our programs for kids during worship:

1. The Infant & Toddler Nurseries are for children from birth to their third birthday and are located next to the office in the hallway behind the organ. Jen Gonzales coordinates these nurseries.
2. The Preschool Nursery is for children age 3 through preschool. It is located downstairs in Room 1 and is coordinated by Jenn Bushway.
3. Children's Church is for kids in Kindergarten through 2nd grade. These children stay in worship until the Children's Message and then head downstairs to Room 5. Joh Benson leads this program. Please introduce yourself to Joh if your child is new to this program.

If your child is changing programs this year, please talk to them ahead of time and explain where they will be and what they will be doing. For those of you with a kindergartener being in worship for the first time, explain to them what we are doing in worship and why. If you have a third grader staying through the service for the first time, introduce them to the Kids' Page. It will help them pick out some of the themes in worship. Our goal is to introduce children a little at a time to the elements of worship. Thank you for your continued support of these important programs and for leading your kids into an increasing knowledge of Jesus Christ.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Although it is good to take a short summer break from our regular schedule, it's always exciting to begin planning for fall programs and activities. Our Adult Sunday School program will kick off September 10, after worship and fellowship, unless designated otherwise. Classes are typically over by 12:15.

While we have a couple teacher slots to fill, we wanted to give you a preview of what to expect for a class lineup. In the first quarter, we will offer the following classes:

- Pre-worship class
- Bible study
- "Living Well, Dying Better"
- What the Bible Says About Money
- Parenting

You will have multiple chances to sign up for a class on the Fellowship in Worship forms and to hear more details as the start date approaches. We encourage you to plan your Sunday schedule accordingly.

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

Sunday School is a great opportunity to do those things on a regular basis.

The Adult SS Planning Team

PRIMETIMERS SCHEDULE

(Plus 50's Ministry)

The purpose of the PrimeTimers is to provide programs for plus 50 adults that are ministry focused, study focused or fellowship focused. PrimeTimers' events are open to anyone who is at least 50 years old and their spouses. Feel free to invite friends from outside the church. Please mark your calendars for...

- Camp Santanoni Trip on Wednesday, September 6 at 8 a.m. We will be traveling by van (\$5/person) to Camp Santanoni, one of the Adirondack Great Camps locate in Newcomb, NY. Once we arrive, we will take a 5-mile horse and wagon ride through the woods to the camp where we will enjoy a picnic lunch and explore the camp. Please bring a picnic lunch. This trip is limited to 18 people and you can sign up through the office or on the Fellowship in Worship forms.

The PrimeTimers' Planning Team

(Jan Cole, Paul & Faith McWhorter, Steve McLean, Betty & Bob Reynolds, Larry Reid, Alyce Linscott & Ed Dennis)

MISSIONS CORNER

Here are some things going on in the lives of our missionaries.

- Pray for Andrew Brunson's release from jail in Turkey.
- Please continue to pray for Luke and Marjan Aubrey and their unborn daughter, Grace. Marjan has been on bed rest and in and out of the hospital as they try to delay Grace's birth. Marjan was 29 weeks pregnant on July 15. Please, also, pray that immigration officials will allow Luke to stay in the Netherlands until Marjan is able to return to Papua New Guinea.
- In the last year Fred and Claudia Tahan have been able to provide child protection training for over 500 people in Albania. Fred and Claudia did this kind of training as social workers in New Jersey and this expertise has opened up doors for the gospel in Albania. Do you have experience or training that you could use to open up doors for the gospel?
- Zack and Katie Prater recently received religious worker visas and moved to Montreal, Canada to begin serving in the Plateau Church. Pray for their adjustment to a new ministry, city, country and language.
- We have a number of people serving with Young Life this month. Please pray for good health and that our service would lead to kids coming to know Jesus.
 - Jackie Steidle on Work Crew at Saranac.
 - Audrey Saunders on Summer Staff at Rockbridge.
 - Beth Depew, Janelle Fosmire, Sandy Foster, Sandy Hoffis, Carol Longdaue, Kim and Steve Mclean doing childcare for Young Lives Camp at Lake Champion.

The Missions' Prayer Group

(Linda Clark, Bob Black, Steve & Kim McLean)

HELP THE FIRE COMPANY AT THE FAIR!

The Argyle Fire Department needs volunteers! Not to fight fires but to work at the BBQ Booth at the Washington County Fair (8/21-27). This is their biggest fund raiser of the year and they need our help so they can help us when we need them. One shift, one day, all week- the schedule is very flexible and so are the jobs. So, come and have fun supporting the Argyle Fire Dept and enjoy a day at the Fair. To volunteer, contact Sandy Hoffis (222-8704).

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your continued support of God's mission through InterVarsity at RPI and Russell Sage College. Because of your faithful partnership we have seen 12 small groups formed to be a witnessing community in various parts of campuses. We witnessed 4 of our friends give their life to Jesus, and dozens more ask questions and begin to take steps toward Jesus! Thank you so much, your dedication to this ministry continues to encourage me. Blessings to you!

In His Service, Niki Campbell

DIAPER DROP

How many of you enjoyed a Women's Retreat?

Maybe you took part in the All Daughters' Banquet?

How about the Couple's Valentine Dinner?

These are just a few of the many events that Gabe Johnson has worked hard to plan and make possible as our Women's Ministry Director. We thought a nice way to show our appreciation would be a "diaper drop" for the new baby. Gabe and Carl have most of what they need but we all know that babies need to be changed...a lot! We will have a box to donate disposable diapers for the Johnsons on Sunday, August 6 & 13 by the tower door.

PEW PROJECT

Finalizing the Layout

New Holland has sent plans for the layout of our new pews. The area in the center, rear of the sanctuary for the relocated sound booth meets our needs. Two additional spaces for wheelchairs will be indicated on the finalized plans. Once we sign off and return the plans, no changes can be made. New Holland begins constructing our new pews. They will be delivered and installed the second week of October.

Progress continues on the Pew Fund. We have a little under \$9000 to raise of our \$25,000 goal. Thank you to all of you who have contributed. It truly does take a community, that is God's family.

GRIEF AND LOSS SEMINAR

Over the course of our lives, we all experience multiple losses. These may include the loss of a pet, divorce, a geographical move, job change, traumatic accident, death of loved ones, to name only a few. The Grief and Loss Seminar is designed to minister to those who have experienced any type of loss or crisis.

This is a half-day DVD program featuring H. Norman Wright, a professional grief counselor and participant in the GriefShare program we use. Throughout the course of the DVD program, you will have the opportunity to participate in exercises and mini-brainstorming sessions that will give you tools to use as you learn to process the losses you experience.

This seminar is scheduled for Saturday, September 2nd, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at APC. You do not have to attend APC in order to participate. There is a \$10 program fee for materials and childcare, if needed, is provided. You may register by calling (638-8072) or emailing the office (tonya@argylepresbyterian.org). Please indicate if you need childcare.

The Grief Care Team

GRIEFSHARE

GriefShare is a nondenominational, thirteen-week support group for people grieving the loss of someone close to them. This video and discussion program features experts who understand what you are experiencing. They offer comfort, encouragement, and some strategies for grief recovery during this most difficult time. During group discussion, you can interact with other participants who have experienced loss— learning and sharing together.

We have personally found this program to be very helpful with recent loss and for working through unresolved grief from older or cumulative losses.

Our next thirteen-week GriefShare session will begin Wednesday, 9/13/17, from 7 – 8:30p.m. Each video is a stand-alone topic. If you need to miss one, it will not adversely impact the overall benefit of the program. Childcare will be provided. The workbook cost is \$10, if you choose to use it. You may register by calling (638-8072) or emailing the office (tonya@argylepresbyterian.org). Please indicate if you need childcare. You do not have to attend APC in order to participate.

We hope you will consider joining us for this GriefShare program, starting Wednesday, 9/13, at APC.

Eileen Jackson and Phyllis Snell, co-facilitators

AUGUST SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEERS

Infant /Todler Nursery

Jenn Gonzales
Aug 6 – Mary Beth Jones,
Delia Wohlleben
Aug 13 – Liz & Ali
McQueen
Aug 20 – Michele Bromley,
Nina Daley
Aug 27 – Karen Lohret,
Rich Monroe

Food Pantry – *Saturday, 10 a.m.*

Aug 5 – Jenn & Becca Bushway
Aug 12 – Bri Knowlton, Beth Cook
Aug 19 – Jenna Depew, Emily Wood
Aug 26 – Walt & Monique Fethke, Judy Liddle

Open Door Soup Kitchen – *Lunch- Tuesday, August 8th*

Jan Cole, Marion Miller

Open Door Soup Kitchen – *Lunch- Tuesday, August 22nd*

John & Joann Bemis

Open Door Soup Kitchen – *Dinner-Friday, August 18th*

Mary Ellen Bain, Tanya MacNeil, Donna Wohlleben

Greeters

Aug 6 – Marty & Elna Butterfield
Aug 13 – Burch Family
Aug 20 – Dick & Peggy Ayers
Aug 27 – Betty Reynolds,
Walt & Monique Fethke

Preschool Nursery

Jenn Bushway
Aug 6 – Isabelle MacNeil
Aug 13 – Joey Bushway
Aug 20 – Brooke Daley
Aug 27 – Rachael MacNeil

Children's Church

Joh Benson
Aug 6 – Judy Liddle
Aug 13 – Claudia Connolly
Aug 20 – Matt Randles
Aug 27 – Marcia Monroe

Food Pantry

Item of the Month

Tooth brushes (single packs),
Men's and Women's deoderant

Ushers

Aug 6 – Duane, Jen & Caleb Flower,
Alyce Linscott
Aug 13 – Lohret Family
Aug 20 – Mark & Donna Wohlleben,
Andy & Beth Cook
Aug 27 – Mary Beth Jones, Colleen Coulter,
Gayle Smith, Ken Bain