



People of Faith



July 2011

“The Counter-Cultural Community”

Brian K. Smith is a theologian who teaches in New Zealand. I recall an essay he wrote several years ago. In his essay, he quoted Aristides, a second-century Christian philosopher, who described Christians to the Roman Emperor Hadrian this way:

“They love one another. They never fail to help widows; they save orphans from those who would hurt them. If they have something, they give freely to the man [and woman] who has nothing; if they see a stranger, they take him home, and are happy, as though he were a brother. They don’t consider themselves brothers in the usual sense, but brothers instead through the Spirit of God.”

Smith quoted those words to support his claim that “the ancient pagan world was attracted to the Christian faith not because it presents a better philosophy, or offered more fascinating religious mysteries, but because it demonstrated a new kind of community.”

A number of Christian voices are saying today that the church is set in the context of a pagan society, that we are surrounded by a culture awash in practices and lifestyles alien and inimical to the church. We in the church might do well to take a sober look at ourselves and ask some hard questions. What “pagan” practices have we imported into Sunday morning worship? What “alien” lifestyles have we baptized as OK for ourselves? What “inimical” practices from the culture have we substituted for Christian practices? What questionable values are our children being taught by the culture rather than the values of our faith? We might want to reflect on whether or not we look like the Kingdom of God or like the culture in which the church is set.

The more complicated question is if any of this is contributing to the decline of Protestant mainline churches in America? And what can we do about it? And what is the responsibility of each individual member of the church to free the church from its cultural captivity? Exactly how are we Christians “different” from everybody else? What is it that distinguishes us Christians from the “pagan” culture, and is it possible to sustain our distinctiveness?

A basic tenet of the Christian religion is that faith is a communal experience. The practical implication of this tenet is that we cannot stand up to the culture alone all by ourselves. We need a community of people who support us, love us, and encourage us in our Christian living. Our strength is in community. The power to resist those practices and values so contrary to our faith resides in a community of faithful people.

Smith said, “The point of our being followers of Jesus...is not that we turn in star performances as individuals, but that we are members of a community that lives differently.”

We do not live differently in order to thumb our noses at a pagan culture and its values. That’s what the pagans do to the church. No, we live differently in order to witness to the life of Christ and to the values of the Kingdom of God. Being faithful in our practices and lifestyles is a powerful attraction to people in our time who are seeking and searching for a way of life that gives meaning and purpose to life itself.

This counter-cultural community meets every Sunday morning here at Faith. Everyone is invited to meet with us.

Don

Lectionary Readings – July

July 3, 2011 [Green]

Ordinary Time/Third Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67

Psalms 45:10–17 or Psalm 72 (UMH 795)

Romans 7:15–25a; Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

July 10, 2011 [Green]

Ordinary Time/Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 25:19–34

Psalms 119:105–112 or Psalm 25 (UMH 756)

Romans 8:1–11; Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

July 17, 2011 [Green]

Ordinary Time/Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 28:10–19a; Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24

(UMH 854); Romans 8:12–25;

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

July 24, 2011 [Green]

Ordinary Time/Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 29:15–28

Psalms 105:1–11, 45b (UMH 828)

Romans 8:26–39; Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

July 31, 2011 [Green]

Ordinary Time/Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 32:22–31

Psalms 17:1–7, 15 (UMH 749)

Romans 9:1–5; Matthew 14:13–21



Faiths Special Mission



The United Methodist Women have selected as a new mission the 82nd Airborne team of John Chandler. As many of you know, Johnny Chandler's son was deployed to Afghanistan in late May. John's team consists of 12 members and was deployed with another team. The UMW is planning to ship care packages to John's group quarterly. We will have a box located in the large Sunday school room. Everyone is invited to participate. Some of the items most requested by our troops in Afghanistan are:

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|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Baby Wipes | Tooth Brushes | Mouthwash | Crackers |
| Febreze | Pringles | Beef Jerky | Travel Size Games |
| Deck of Cards | Cookies | Suntan Lotion | Hard Candy |
| Blue/Black Pens | Notebooks | Envelopes | Crossword Puzzles |
| Word Searches | Comic Books | Sudoku | Hand/Foot Warmers |
| Travel Size Packs Laundry Detergent | | Powdered Drinks, especially Gatorade | |

You can also help, by cutting out coupons for any of these items and placing them in my folder at Church.

If you have any other questions, please contact me. Thank you, Kathy Williams

Upcoming Events at Faith

- ❖ **July 10 – 16:** Salkehatchie Week will be held July 10-16. The youth and adult workers will join us for worship and a covered dish luncheon on Sunday, July 10. Don Beatty will prepare his delicious ham, and the congregation is asked to provide side dishes and desserts to feed approximately 65 campers. Please let us know what you plan to bring! The sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

And again this year, we need donations of BOTTLED WATER, SODAS, AND SNACKS for the work week. These items are greatly appreciated! Please place your donations in the church foyer anytime until July 10. Thank you for supporting this wonderful ministry!

Also, we need volunteers on Saturday, July 16, at 10:00 am to assist in cleaning Gilbert High School following Salkehatchie Week. If you can help, please let us know by signing the volunteer sign-up sheet in the church narthex. For directions to the school, contact Shelly Langston. Your help is much appreciated!

- ❖ **Faith Nursery needs** - A few items needed are Nerf balls, DVD/VCR player and TV. New toys are always welcome. Contact Brooke Michael at brookem80@hotmail.com.
- ❖ **LICS** – Is still in need of food for the food pantry and in need of volunteers. Most needed items: Oatmeal, Grits, Cereal, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Ravioli/ Spaghetti O's, Beef Stew, Sloppy Joes, BBQ, Pork-n-Beans, Spaghetti and Spaghetti sauce, Pinto/Navy Beans and Collards and Turnips. Contact Brad Levi.

Monthly Thought

As we prepare to celebrate the 4th of July, it's worth pausing for a moment to ask:

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, and two had their sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

Who were these men? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they all signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

These men Stood Tall in the face of adversity and Committed themselves to an Idea, and pledged:

For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

They gave you and me a free and independent America. Some of us take these liberties too much for granted. We shouldn't. If you and I don't care about them and take care of them, they could vanish. So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Remember: Freedom is never free!

If you would like to include your monthly thoughts you may contact me at bhazzard@sc.rr.com. You may also place your reflection in my mailbox, Bard Hazzard at church.

Volunteers at Faith - July

Acolyte—Alex Funchess

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|--|--|---|
| Altar Flowers 7-03 7-10 7-17 Bill Hazzard 7-24 7-31 | Lay Readers 7-03 Pat White 7-10 Andrea Stark 7-17 Bard Hazzard 7-24 Shelly Langston 7-31 Cliff Whisnant | Offering Tellers 7-03 Nancy Taylor & Diane Hamilton 7-10 Kathy Beatty & Robie Robertson 7-17 Bob Hamilton & Cheryl Fraylick 7-24 Don Rozier & Wayne Richardson 7-31 Joy Strange & Kathy Williams |
| Teachers - Sunday School 7-03 Pat White 7-10 Sandra Hazzard 7-17 Pat White 7-24 Sandra Hazzard 7-31 Pat White | Nursery during Worship 7-03 Brooke Michael 7-10 Pat White 7-17 Abby Strange 7-24 Faye Weimer 7-31 Joy Strange | Ushers 7-03 EZ & Shelly Langston 7-10 Angela & Marty Funchess 7-17 Sandra & Bard Hazzard 7-24 Ray Burgess & Pat White 7-31 Don Beatty & John Chandler |
| Greeters - Worship 7-03 Wanda Himelick & John Chandler 7-10 Robie & Judy Robertson 7-17 Wanda Himelick & John Chandler 7-24 Kathy Williams & Rudie Burgess 7-31 Sandra & Bard Hazzard | | |

Congratulations & Happy Birthday to

July 2 Ron Miller
 July 5 Don Rozier
 July 12 Cheryl Fraylick
 July 22 Alice Linder
 July 31 Brooke Michael

July 5 Doris Fraylick
 July 6 David King
 July 20 Donna Hazzard
 July 27 Mike Jordan



Altar Flowers - If you would like to provide fresh flowers for the Sanctuary on a particular Sunday, please sign up on the Flower Calendar located on the bulletin board near the kitchen. If you would like to include an announcement in the bulletin, please call or email the church office with the information by Wednesday before the Sunday you provide flowers.



| Date | Weekday | Event | Time |
|------|-----------|--|---------------------------------|
| 7-03 | Sunday | Sunday School Worship Service: [Green] Sacrament of the Lord's Supper - Food Offering for LICs | 9:15 AM 10:30 AM |
| 7-08 | Wednesday | Adult Choir Rehearsal | 7:30 PM |
| 7-10 | Sunday | Sunday School: [Green] Worship Service: Welcome Salkehatchie: Covered Dish Luncheon | 9:15 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM |
| 7-15 | Wednesday | Adult Choir Rehearsal | 6:30 PM |
| 7-16 | Saturday | Gilbert High School Clean Up | 10:00 AM |
| 7-17 | Sunday | Sunday School Worship Service: [Green] | 9:15 AM 10:30 AM |
| 7-22 | Wednesday | Adult Choir Rehearsal | 6:30 PM |
| 7-24 | Sunday | Sunday School Worship Service: [Green] ***Special Congregational Meeting*** | 9:15 AM 10:30 AM 6:00 PM |
| 7-29 | Wednesday | Adult Choir Rehearsal | 6:30 PM |
| 7-31 | Sunday | Sunday School: Worship Service: [Green] | 9:15 AM 10:30 AM |

❖ **VERY IMPORTANT: July 24th Meeting at Faith, 6:00 pm.**
The Congregation is requested to PLEASE attend this meeting.



Faith United Methodist Church
 5151 Sunset Boulevard
 Lexington, SC 29072
 (803) 356-5585
 Rev. Don Britt, Pastor

Giving the Lord More of My Time; Word Search

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and click its first letter then its last letter to highlight it. After you have found all the words, click the leftover letters in the correct order to form the *mystery answer*. This will be reveled in the August's Newsletter.

Calling, Commitment, Communing
 Corinthians, Encourage, Evangelize
 Faithful, Fellowship, Friends, Greeting
 Help others, Home studies, Joyful
 Leadership, Light shine, Lord, Matthew
 Minister, More time, Obey, Offering
 Scriptures, Send cards, Serving, Sing
 Solider, Studying, Tithe, Unity, Vineyard
 Worship

The Mystery answer for June:

Revelation

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