



# People of Faith



## October 2011

### *“Church on Earth”*

The church is always in the crosshairs of people who delight in firing its criticisms at the church. People take aim at the church when the church speaks out on a social issue with which they disagree. Or people fire off their complaints when the church doesn't speak out. For many other people today, they think of the church as beneath their participation and support. Yet, for millions of others the church is their life preserver in a world drowning in negativity about everything from Congress to the weather. We have a big word for this last category of church critics. It's called nihilism, which means that there is no purpose to existence, that everything is so bad, including all the institutions that are supportive of human life, that the only solution is to destroy everything. While the nihilists believe nothing is worth saving, they are at the same time unable to offer any alternative that might cause life to flourish on this earth.

In such a context, I find it hopeful to hear the voices of others who look at life and the world from a whole different point of view. One such person for me is the late John Updike. Updike was a writer, not a clergyman. He confessed to being a regular churchgoer. He said: “I find that just to be human I really seem to need a dose of church... I need some sort of other worldly point of reference... A church is a little like a novel in that both are saying something that's very important about being human.”

“Something very important about being human” – Yes! Updike's words remind me of what the poet said when writing about the Wise Men following the Star. One of the reasons the Wise Men followed the Star was “to learn how to be human now.” The Gospel of Jesus Christ, entrusted to the church, is about how to become an authentic human being down here on earth. We look through Jesus to see what God is like, to be sure. But we also look at Jesus to see what a real human being looks like; and we discover in following Him how to be human. While on earth we are saved to be human because we cannot be gods. Someone said of Jesus: “He became like one of us that we might become like Him.”

The church is called to preach Christ, for Christ is the answer to the nihilists of our time. Truth, with a capital “T,” turns out to be the most real human being who ever lived, and not a proposition to which we may give intellectual consent. So from the beginning, when people looked at Jesus and listened to his teachings, the only way they could “explain” Him was to say God was in Him.

When the church begins to preach something other than Christ, then it deserves criticism. When the church preaches personal prosperity as a reward for being good, when the church preaches a “feel good” gospel, when the church offers entertainment to get people into the pews, when the church begins to look more like the culture and less like the Kingdom of God, then the church itself has lost its way.

Let's be clear and honest – preaching Christ has serious implications for the social issues of our time, whether they are hunger, poverty, war or anything else. But preaching Christ is also directed at the heart and mind of individual human beings. The Gospel is God's power for the transformation of human beings, to be re-created in the image of Him who became like us that we might become like Him. Therein is our hope of life.

And without the church, we would never have heard of that hope.

Don



## Faiths Special Mission



The United Methodist Women have selected as a new mission the 82<sup>nd</sup> 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 has been shipping 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:

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

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. Kathy Williams

God bless all those in service to our country, who have sacrificed a part of their life so that we may live ours.

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### *Monthly Thought*

#### *What difference do I make?*

*"Greater love has no one than this; that one man lay down his life for his friends."* John 15:13

A young man who had been raised an atheist was training to be an Olympic diver. The only religious influence in his life came from his outspoken Christian friend. The young diver never paid too much attention to his friend's sermons but had heard them often. One night, the diver went to the indoor pool at the college he attended. The lights were off, but the pool had big skylights and the moon was bright, there was plenty of light to practice. The diver climbed up the highest diving board, arms extended outward. It was then he saw his shadow; his shadow was in the shape of a cross. The man then felt as if someone was speaking to him. It was a voice he thought he recognized, and then the words of his Christian friend filled his mind. In his heart, he realized the truth, the truth that was missing in his life. Instead of diving, he knelt down and finally asked God to come into his life. As the young man rose to his feet high above the pool, a maintenance worker walked in and turned on the lights. The pool had been drained for repair.

How many desperate people cross our paths each day; people who are one step away from certain destruction; people whose life direction can be changed by the Light of God in and through our interaction with them. Many times because we are so busy or too focused with our earthly business we miss opportunities to participate in eternal business. When we reach out in love to meet a need, reach out to comfort a friend or stranger and encourage those with weary souls, we are never more like God than at that time, challenging those in darkness with His Light!! On your journey today, look for those people in despair and be to them, *God with skin on!*

Thank you Robie Robertson for this monthly thought.

If you would like to include your monthly thoughts you may contact me at [bhazard@sc.rr.com](mailto:bhazard@sc.rr.com).

Or on my Facebook page. <http://facebook.com/bard.hazard>.

You may also place your reflection in my mailbox, Bard Hazzard at Faith Church.





Date	Weekday	Event	Time
10-02	Sunday	Sunday School: Worship Service: [Green] Sacrament of the Lord's Supper - Food Offering for LICs	9:15 AM 10:30 AM
10-05	Wednesday	Supper Bible Study Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM
10-09	Sunday	Sunday School Worship Service: [Green]	9:15 AM 10:30 AM
10-11	Tuesday	Faith Edventure Trip	6:00 PM
10-12	Wednesday	Supper & Bible Study Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:00 PM 7:30 PM
10-16	Sunday	Sunday School Worship Service: Laity Sunday	9:15 AM 10:30 AM
10-19	Wednesday	Supper Bible Study Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM
10-23	Sunday	Sunday School: Worship Service: [Green]	9:15 AM 10:30 AM
10-26	Wednesday	Supper & Bible Study Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:00 PM 7:30 PM
10-28	Friday	Yard Sale Prep Work	5:30 PM
10-29	Saturday	Faith Community Yard Sale (Workers 6:00 AM – 2:00 PM)	8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
10-30	Sunday	Sunday School: Worship Service: [Green]	9:15 AM 10:30 AM

# Volunteers at Faith – October

**Acolyte** – Gable Funchess

**Sign Changer** – Cheryl Fraylick

<b>Altar Flowers</b> <b>10-02</b> Pat White <b>10-09</b> <b>10-16</b> Donna Hazzard <b>10-23</b> <b>10-30</b>	<b>Lay Readers</b> <b>10-02</b> Shelly Lanston <b>10-09</b> Cliff Whisnant <b>10-16</b> Kathy Williams <b>10-23</b> Diane Hamilton <b>10-30</b> Kathy Beatty	<b>Offering Tellers</b> <b>10-02</b> Don Rozier & Wayne Richardson <b>10-09</b> Joy Strange & Kathy Williams <b>10-16</b> Nancy Taylor & Diane Hamilton <b>10-23</b> Kathy Beatty & Cheryl Fraylick <b>10-30</b> Bob Hamilton & Robie Robertson
<b>Teachers - Sunday School</b> <b>10-02</b> Sandra Hazzard <b>10-09</b> Pat White <b>10-16</b> Sandy Hazzard <b>10-23</b> Pat White <b>10-30</b> Sandy Hazzard	<b>Nursery during Worship</b> <b>10-02</b> Faye Weimer <b>10-09</b> Joy Strange <b>10-16</b> Brooke Michael <b>10-23</b> Pat White <b>10-30</b> Abby Strange	<b>Ushers</b> <b>10-02</b> Ray Burgess & Alex Funchess <b>10-09</b> Don Beatty & John Chandler <b>10-16</b> Wanda Himelick & Trevor Michael <b>10-23</b> EZ & Shelly Langston <b>10-30</b> Alex & Marty Funchess
<b>Greeters - Worship</b> <b>10-02</b> Robie & Judy Robertson <b>10-09</b> Wanda Himerlick & John Chandler <b>10-16</b> Richard & Faye Weimer <b>10-23</b> Kathy Williams & Rudie Burgess <b>10-30</b> Bill & Donna Hazzard	<b>Wednesday Night Chefs</b> <b>10-05</b> Joy Strange <b>10-12</b> Charge Conf – No Meal <b>10-19</b> Kathy Williams <b>10-25</b> Trevor Michael	<b>Wednesday Bible Study Leader</b> <b>10-05</b> Don Britt <b>10-12</b> Don Britt <b>10-19</b> Don Britt <b>10-25</b> Don Britt

## A October Happy Birthday to

**10-01** Myrna Lopez  
**10-01** Don Andrews  
**10-03** Bonnie Jones  
**10-04** Christina King  
**10-07** Brandon Jordan  
**10-08** Robert Hamilton

**10-12** Sarah King  
**10-13** Erica Morgan  
**10-19** Tracy Smith  
**10-20** Cerese Long  
**10-21** Bill Hazzard



**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 Wednesday before the Sunday you provide flowers.

## Lectionary Readings – October

**October 2, 2011 [Green]**

**Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20; Psalm 19 (UMH 750)  
 Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33–46

**October 9, 2011 [Green]**

**Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost**

Exodus 32:1–14; Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23 (UMH 829);  
 Philippians 4:1–9; Matthew 22:1–14

**October 16, 2011 [Green]**

**Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

Exodus 33:12–23; Psalm 99 (UMH 819)  
 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10; Matthew 22:15–22;  
 Luke 16:19-31

**October 23, 2011 [Green]**

**Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 34:1–12; Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17 (UMH 789)  
 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8; Matthew 22:34–46

**October 30, 2011 [Green]**

**Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost**

Joshua 3:7–17; Psalm 107:1–7, 33–37 (UMH 830)  
 1 Thessalonians 2:9–13; Matthew 23:1–12



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 Rev. Don Britt, Pastor

### *Kings of Judah; 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 November Newsletter.

Ahaz, Alliance, Battle, Covenant, Divine authority, Hereditary, High places, Honor, Idolatry, Jehoiachin, Jehoshaphat, Jehovah's law, Jerusalem, Moral corruption, Northern kingdom, Rehoboam, Reign, Royal, Saul, Southern kingdom, Successor, True worshipping, Unfaithful kings, Wrath

T	A	H	P	A	H	S	O	H	E	J	B	H	M	J
R	O	S	S	E	C	C	U	S	D	Z	A	O	E	E
J	E	H	O	V	A	H	S	L	A	W	T	N	L	H
T	N	A	N	E	V	O	C	H	N	U	T	O	A	O
E	C	N	A	I	L	L	A	O	T	N	L	R	S	I
S	E	C	A	L	P	H	G	I	H	A	E	N	U	A
H	E	R	E	D	I	T	A	R	Y	I	R	T	R	C
Y	R	T	A	L	O	D	I	O	G	E	I	W	E	H
M	A	O	B	O	H	E	R	N	O	A	E	S	J	I
M	O	R	A	L	C	O	R	R	U	P	T	I	O	N
M	O	D	G	N	I	K	N	R	E	H	T	R	O	N
S	G	N	I	K	L	U	F	H	T	I	A	F	N	U
G	N	I	P	P	I	H	S	R	O	W	E	Y	R	T
S	O	U	T	H	E	R	N	K	I	N	G	D	O	M

The Mystery answer for September:  
*Root of Evil*