

APC Connections

Volume 7, Issue 10

August 2015

Upcoming Events

- Aug. 2-16— Communion Sermon Series
- Aug. 5—Food for St. James volunteers
- Aug. 9—12:15 PM Session meets
- Aug. 10—Kerra preaches at Richmond Hill, 5:30 PM; Community dinner following
- Aug. 23—Rev. Sandy Goehring preaches; 5¢-A-Meal/4th Sunday Fellowship.
- Aug. 29—Session Retreat at church, 10—2:30 PM
- Aug. 30—Ordination & Installation of Elders

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2
Ushers/Greeters Birthdays	3

Pastor's Page

Friends,

A view point is nothing more than a view from a point. That's something that one of my favorite writers, Richard Rohr, likes to say. What he means by it is that we each have a point of view that's dependent on our own experiences. I grew up white and female in a small paper-mill town on the Maryland – West Virginia border. I attended a state college, went to a Presbyterian seminary, and became a pastor of smallish congregations that were once the backbone of our denomination, but now not so much. All those experiences and plenty of others have given me an understanding of the world – MY understanding of the world. I am grounded by where I've been to become the person that I am. And yet, one of my desires is to be able to truly hear other points of view. If my way is the only right way, or even worse, if, because of my interactions with the world, I choose to belong only to those groups that affirm my own thoughts and opinions to the rejection of all others, I will miss out on the wondrous diversity that God has created. There are people whose lives are very different from mine who have things to teach me and help me understand. It's not just about treasuring my own traditions – but allowing them to grow and change. Thomas Merton, another spiritual writer that I like, says that if your five-years-ago self doesn't think that your current self is a bit of a heretic, you might not be growing spiritually!

Too often religion is portrayed exactly opposite from that. It is about finding your tribe and sticking with it – no matter how out of date or out of touch the viewpoint becomes. We are taught so much about "right belief" that we forget what a wise teacher our own experience can be. Jesus seemed to innately understand this – though it can't be simply boiled down to a doctrinal truth or a politically correct polity statement. It's

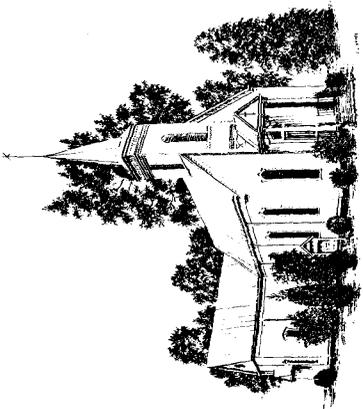
(Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

messy, so we don't often go there.

Jesus, though, was like an early optometrist - always changing the lenses, and turning our typical blindness into sight. Consider that for a moment:

- He helped the poor see that they were spiritually rich;
- He showed the rich young ruler that his possessions were keeping him stuck in a legalistic rut;
- He gave the paralyzed man courage to pick up his mat and walk;
- He allowed a "sinful woman" to anoint him for his Passion even when his host wanted her gone;
- He shared living water with a Samaritan woman, breaking all kinds of taboos;
- He touched the untouchable, critiqued the scholars, and dismissed the power of both church and state;
- And he confused and bewildered his disciples at every turn – keeping them on the lookout for honest to God spiritual truth.

We forget just how often Jesus could upend someone's point of view. It was almost as though that was a calling – to change that perspective – to help us question our assumptions and live into a broader reality. What would Jesus want me to see? About myself? About the judgments I make without even thinking? About the person who is SOOOO different? I know his word would bring healing and hope – what about mine?

Today, try out a different pair of glasses, Jesus-lenses, and imagine the world as Christ sees it.
Peace, Pastor Kerra

Mark Your Calendars for these September Events

 <p>RALLY DAY Breakfast September 13 at 9:15 a.m.</p>	<p>Presbyterian Women PW Circle meetings resumes Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 11:00 a.m. for study and lunch.</p> 	
	 <p>Choir Practice Resumes Sept. 9</p>	 <p>Join us at Sunday School Sunday School resumes Sept. 20. More details to come next month!</p>



If you were in church on June 21, you may have caught Larry Sthresley's reference to "WE WILL SPEAK OUT". For those who are interested, we hope to organize an informational session in the coming months. Meanwhile, if you'd like to learn more, you can read about it at <http://www.wewillspeakout.org/about/>

Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP & CLEANUP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
8/2/15	J. Aderhold	D. & P. Dunn	L. Allison, D. Coddington, K. Cole, J. Aderhold	J. Aderhold, K. Pugh	D. Dunn	Coddington
8/9/15	K. Pugh	K. & L. Hasbrouck	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>			Allison
8/16/15	D. Coddington	D. Coddington, G. Young				Young
8/23/15	K. Cole	K. & R. Cole				Cole
8/30/15	K. Bloom	J. Aderhold, K. Dorgan				
9/6/15	M. Lumpkin	J. Tate, G. Young	K. Basilio, T. Blair, S. Carneal, L. Herring	S. Henderson, C. Schutte		Basilio



Happy Birthday to: August

- 5 Carly Phillips
- 9 Clyde Johnson
- 10 Roger Cole
- 18 Ron Bryan
- 24 Ella Mae Simpson

Many thanks to our stalwart finger food crew who carried dinner over to the Free Clinic at St. James the Less on June 24. On a hot summer day, Linda Allison, Kathy Basilio, Karen Dorgan, Suzanne Huff, Emily Pepper, Caroline Schutte, and Julie Tate found time to fix and carry. Thank you, Ginger Young



Reminder: On Wednesday, August 5 we will be providing dinner for the volunteers. If you can help, contact Ginger Young. **Drop off time is before 5:30.**