

THE NEW PORT REPORT

June, 2010

Why Levi? Why would Jesus choose this man to be among his intimate group of twelve disciples? Jesus' choice of Levi, also known as Matthew, must have had those he'd already chosen – Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John – scratching their heads in bewilderment.

Very soon, at a dinner at Levi's house with those the Pharisee's called "tax collectors and sinners", Jesus would give them the answer: "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." (Mark 2:17)

Over the course of their time with Jesus, the rest of the disciples would begin to realize how "sick" with sin they were too, and how much they, like "tax collectors and sinners", needed the healing of the great physician. But still, having your sins forgiven by Jesus was one thing, but having Jesus select this man, Levi, to be among the twelve who would live together with Jesus and later become the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:20), was quite another matter altogether.

You see, Levi wasn't just one of *those* tax collectors who worked in collaboration with the Roman government, who made his living by collecting more in taxes from his fellow Israelites than the government would collect from him, who hung out with a group of people shunned by polite society. No, Levi wasn't just one of *those* tax collectors – he was *their* tax collector. He was the tax collector who had his tax booth "beside the sea" (Mark 2:13) where the other disciples fished to earn their living. You have to wonder how many times Simon, Andrew, James, and John – fisherman well-off enough to own their own boats – had stood before Levi in his tax booth and grudgingly handed over more taxes than they thought was reasonable. And now Jesus was inviting *him* to be a part of this small group that together would change the world.

Why Levi? Didn't Jesus know there would be tension? It turns out that Jesus knew exactly what he was doing, and he knows exactly how his church should be built. Jesus proclaimed the good news, the gospel, that in him any sinner could be

reconciled to God. And in his selection of Levi, Jesus also showed that reconciliation with God also brings about reconciliation with one another, with fishermen and their tax collector. The church is intended by Jesus to be a picture of the gospel, not a place where sin is ignored, but a place where sin is forgiven, a place where sinners are reconciled with their God and, through the forgiveness of Jesus, where sinners forgive their fellow-sinners and become reconciled to one another.

What would it be like if that boss you can't stand, or that neighbor that irritates you so much, or that driver that was crowding your rear bumper showed up at church on Sunday? What should it be like if they're already a part of your church? It's easy to remain aloof and detached from *those* people, even in church. But Jesus longs for us to show the world the gospel by first living the gospel out with each other. How do we do that? By forgiving the sins of others that Jesus has died to forgive, by repenting of our own sin before Jesus and before those we've sinned against, by coming alongside former "enemies" in order to love them and to reach out together with the gospel to a dying world that is desperate to see the love of God in Christ Jesus and in his church.

If we are not loving our enemies – even our "enemies" within the church – the core issue is that we are not understanding the love of God as we should: "We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19) If God loved us when we were his enemies by sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins (Romans 5:10), he will enable us to sacrifice our pride and love our enemies – we *can* love because he first loved us.

Who is the Levi in your life? Is there a grudge you're clinging to that's keeping you from experiencing God's love more fully? Is there a sin you've refused to forgive that hides a display of the gospel from a world desperately needing to see real love. Why Levi? Because Jesus comes to heal sinners and to restore them to himself and to each other. May New Port be such a place.

Bible Study



LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Please join the
New Port ladies
in their monthly Bible Study
on

Wednesday, June 16th, at 7:00 p.m.
in the fellowship hall.

We will be studying from the book
The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood.

The lesson is chapter 3,

“The Continuity—Legacy of Hope.”

Mary Ann Barrett will be our hostess for the evening. There are handouts with each lesson, so please come and share with us.



Planning for this year's Vacation Bible School is proceeding at full speed. Teachers are studying lessons, snack leaders are planning each day's goodies, music and craft people are preparing, and I, thanks to God's wonderful provision of a real job for Dan, am back to planning VBS instead of studying the Want Ads. . .

A Little Humor



A little girl went up to her mother one day while holding her stomach saying, "Mommy, my stomach hurts." Her mother replied, "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"

Later that day the Pastor came over for dinner. Soon after the meal he told the small family that he was sorry, but he wasn't feeling well and he'd have to leave early.

"What's wrong?" the little girl asked. The Pastor smiled and told her, "I have a terrible headache!" Cutely and kindly, the little girl looked said to him, "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"

In all this planning, don't forget one small item of preparation that every person in our church can do—be thinking and praying about some small person you might invite to Vacation Bible School. Perhaps that child is a neighbor or a member of your extended family. Perhaps you have contact with someone at work whose child is looking for summer activities. Watch for the flyers we will be putting out in June. More than one family is part of our church because of a contact made in Vacation Bible School. You never know whose heart God is preparing to hear the Word and experience its life-changing effects.

Families, we will be starting registration soon, which helps with a head count for snacks, craft materials, and student papers. Your timely response will make our job easier.

Finally, thanks for praying. We who are preparing need to do our homework, but we can only do so much. God alone can prepare hearts and I suspect He's planning just that!

Pat Breithaupt, 2010 VBS director

Student of the Month: Joshua Allyn

What are you looking forward to most this summer?

Swimming, play with water balloons, go on the slip-n-slide, jet skiing. I really, really want to go do Disneyworld! I kinda like going to Ben's t-ball games, but I really want to start playing soccer this summer. And I love my new dog, but I don't like taking care of him as much as I thought I would.

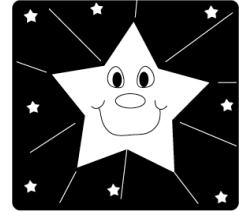
What grade will you be in? Kindergarten, at Truman Elementary in Pacific.

What is your least favorite food? Salad and squash.

What is your favorite food? Ravioli, pizza, macaroni and cheese.

How can people at church pray for you?

To get along well with my brother, have a good summer and kindergarten.



***ASCRIIBE TO THE LORD THE GLORY DUE HIS NAME; WORSHIP THE LORD IN THE SPLENDOR OF HIS HOLINESS.
(PSALM 29:2)***

Here are the upcoming sermon texts and titles for your meditation and preparation for worship:

<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Jer 2:1-3:5	<i>Bad Bride: Israel's Covenantal Adultery</i>	June 6 th
Jer 3:6-4:4	<i>Loving Husband: God Offers Restoration</i>	June 13 th
Jer 4:5-31	<i>Loving Watchman: God Warns of Judgment (Lord's Supper)</i>	June 20 th
Jer 5:1-31	<i>Loving Searcher: God Looks for Changed Hearts (Covenant Baptism)</i>	June 27 th
TBD	Guest Preacher: Brian Parr, MTW Scotland	July 4 th

Remember, each week's bulletin is posted on the church's website (www.newportpca.org) by Thursday or Friday.

Audio files of past sermons and the current monthly newsletter are also available there.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper "Adopt a Youth"

Wednesday, June 9th, 6:30 p.m.

Jet Skiing and Swimming at Mark Twain Lake

Saturday, June 19th

Pizza and Paradise (Frozen Custard)

Monday, June 28th, 6:00 p.m.

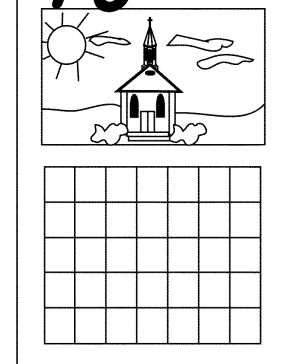
New Port Night at Skaterz

Tuesday, July 6th, 7:00 p.m.

All activities are open to youth going into 6th grade and above,
and to anyone interested in being a part of the lives of our young people
over the summer.

- June 1 East Central MO Right to Life Fundraiser at Applebee's, 5:00 p.m.
- 5 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.
- 6 Madeleine Allen's Graduation Party, 12:30 p.m.
- 6 Darrell Jung's Community Restoration Worship Service,
Hermann, 5:00 p.m.
- 9 Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper
Emphasizing our Youth, 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Diaconate Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Worship at New Haven Care Center, 2:30 p.m.
- 16 Women's Monthly Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Session Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Youth Jet Ski Trip to Mark Twain Lake, 9:00 a.m.
- 20 Lord's Supper at Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.
- 27 Baptism – Evan Wayne Scheer, 10:30 a.m.
- 28 – July 2 General Assembly
- 28 Youth Pizza and Ice Cream Night at Paradise, 6:00 p.m.
- July 4 Brian Parr, Missionary to Scotland, Preaching, 10:30 a.m.
- July 6 New Port Night at Skaterz, 7:00 p.m.

Calendar Of Events



June Birthdays

- 11 Tiffany Brinker
- 15 Risa Allen
- 20 Alex Shola
- 22 Jessie Steinhoff
- 26 Chris Rust

- July 3
Betty Klott
Patrick Shola