

THE NEW PORT REPORT

March, 2010

One of the things I enjoy most about being a pastor is the chance to pour over a particular passage of Scripture each week in preparation for Sunday. I love looking at the original language of a passage, looking at the verse in its context and studying what other, more intelligent, people than I have to say about it. There is a problem though – I can't possibly fit everything into one sermon each week (although I bet some of you think I try!).

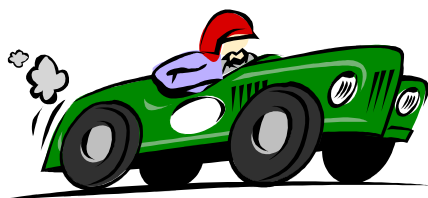
For example, when we looked at the parable of the talents in Matthew 25, several commentators were extremely insightful in describing the variety of gifts, talents and resources God has blessed each of us with, and in reflecting on how all those individual gifts should be used for the benefit of the entire church and, ultimately, for the glory of the giver of gifts – God himself. Remember in that passage how there were two different faithful servants? They didn't both receive the same amount of blessings; one received five talents and the other received two. But the one with two talents didn't complain or question why he wasn't given the same as the one with five; he went about being faithful with what he had because his hope was to please his master more than to prop up his own reputation.

One commentator gave an illustration of how we might do this too, how we might learn to focus, not on why we don't have what someone else has, but on how we might bring God glory with what we do have. He said it this way:

“Imagine the Lord designs and manufactures all

kinds of cars: a sports car that does 185 m.p.h., a muscular truck,

a spacious van, and an efficient family sedan. The maker will not berate the van for failing to go 120 m.p.h. He does not blame the sports car for poor gas mileage. Each car is pleasing when it performs the task that suits its design. When the sports car flies, when the van



carries seven passengers safely, when the truck hauls timber and boulders, when the sedan travels the miles efficiently, the designer is pleased. Raw power or productivity matters little. The Lord is pleased with us when we do what we can with the abilities he gives.”

What an excellent way to look at the differences God has designed in us in the church. How would we haul a load of rock if we were all sports cars? How would we fly around a dirt track at exhilarating speeds if we were all mini-vans? How would we bring a large family to grandma's house in comfort if we were all dump trucks? God has uniquely designed us to serve him and others and all while bringing joy to ourselves. What gives you joy when you do it? Can you do it to bring God glory and his people blessings?

I think the illustration is a good one, not only because it emphasizes our uniqueness, but also because it hints at our commonality. Each vehicle may be designed for specific aim, but each vehicle has this in common – they all need fuel to run. What is our common fuel? It is the Spirit of God that guides us in doing God's will according to God's word. Jesus said it this way about himself in John 4:34 – “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.” Jesus' “fuel” was to do God's will. How did he know God's will? From God's word. How was he energized to accomplish God's will? By God's Spirit. It is the same for us.

I imagine that many would like the illustration of different types of automobiles, but I also can see that many would use it as an excuse to be their own person instead of the person God wants them to be. We need to do both. We need be fueled by the will of God identified in the word of God (his commands and ways), but we need to fulfill those according to the unique design of God in the particular gifts and callings he has given each one of us. And may God's people be blessed in his church and beyond, when God receives glory when we live this way: by his will in our unique design.



*What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*



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

Scripture	Sermon Title	Date
Matt 26:1-16	<i>Worshipping God with All Your Heart, Mind and Strength</i>	March 7 th
Matt 26:17-25	<i>Is it I, Lord?</i>	March 14 th
Matt 26:26-56	<i>Real Strength (Lord's Supper)</i>	March 21 st
Matt 26:57-27:25	<i>He Came to His Own, and His Own Did Not Receive Him (Palm Sunday)</i>	March 28 th
TBD	Darrell Jung Preaching (Maundy Thursday, 6:30 p.m.)	April 1 st
Luke 16:19-31	<i>If Someone Should Rise from the Dead (Easter Sunday)</i>	April 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.

Church Financial Update

<i>2010 YTD (through Feb 14th)</i>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Offering/Income YTD:	\$ 17,264	\$ 12,582	- \$ 4,682
Expenses YTD:	<u>\$ 17,819</u>	\$ 15,756	- \$ 2,063
Income – Expenses	- \$ 555	- \$ 3,174	

Current Assets (not including New Port church property)

Cash Assets on Hand \$ 43,471 *

* This includes \$36,941 in Designated Funds (Building, Cemetery, Deacon's Emergency, Memorials, Seminary, and Speaker Funds).

With a few Sundays of harsh weather in the first seven weeks of the year, we saw much lower attendance than normal and, subsequently, significantly less giving than normal. We will continue to watch and see if this trend changes as weather warms and as attendance returns.

As it is written:

“He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little.”

(2 Corinthians 8:15)

Easter Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 29th ☐

Normal Schedule

Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.

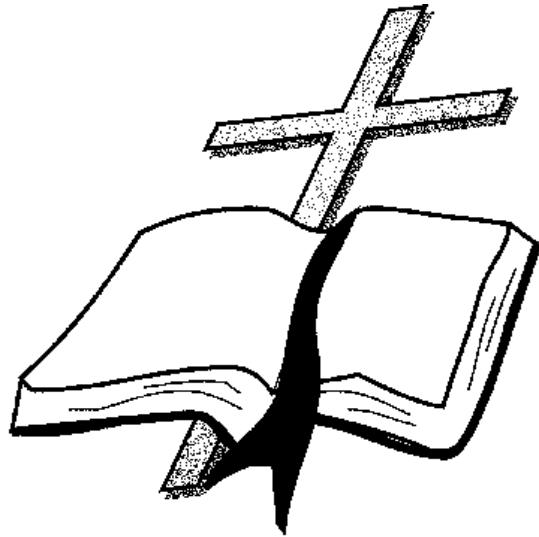
Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 1st ☐

Fellowship Meal and

Communion

6:30 p.m.



Easter Sunday, April 4th ☐

No Sunday School

Fellowship Breakfast, 9:00 a.m.

Easter Worship, 10:00 a.m.



LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

The New Port ladies are starting a new Bible Study using a book by Susan Hunt and Barbara Thompson.

The book is titled

The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood.

The study will cover the following:

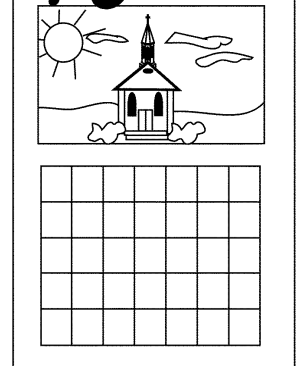
- *How does scripture define womanhood
- *How are we related to God
- *Living for God's Glory in relationships
- *Friendships with Christians and Non-Christians

Our first meeting of this new study will be ***Wednesday, March 17th, at 7:00 p.m.***

Ann Reed will be our hostess for the evening. We meet in the Church Fellowship Hall. Please join us in this new study.

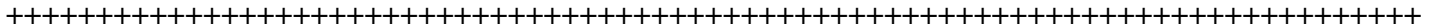
- 3 Good News Club at Campbellton, 2:30 p.m.
- 6 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.
- 10 Good News Club at Campbellton, 2:30 p.m.
- 10 Diaconate Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Worship at New Haven Care Center, 2:30 p.m.
- 17 Good News Club at Campbellton, 2:30 p.m.
- 17 Ladies' Monthly Study and Fellowship, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Session Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 24 Good News Club at Campbellton, 2:30 p.m.

Calendar Of Events



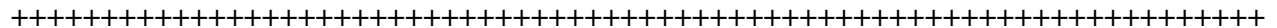
April

- 1 Maundy Thursday Meal and Worship, 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Easter Breakfast, 9:00 a.m.
- 4 Easter Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.



Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Dan Breithaupt | 15 Al Borcharding |
| 6 Terry Anderson II | 18 Jacob Barrett |
| 7 Joshua Allyn | 23 William Barrett |
| 7 Michael Ruether | 25 Louis Barrett |
| 9 Lucy Allyn | 25 Debbie Ruether |
| 10 Benjamin Allyn | 29 Kim Gordon |
| 12 Rob Allyn | 29 Kyle Scheer |



Don't Forget...



To Spring Forward
One Hour

Daylight Saving
Time Begins

Sunday, March 14th, 2010

A Little Humor...



With a very serious expression on his face, the boss asked one of his young employees, "Do you believe in life after death?"

Confidently, the young man replied, "I certainly do."

His boss said, "Well, good, that makes everything fine then. After you left work early yesterday to attend your aunt's funeral, she stopped in to see you."