

THE NEW PORT REPORT

May, 2010

Missouri's own Mark Twain famously stated in a lecture once, "Everybody *complains* about the weather, but nobody *does* anything about it." The irony in that statement, of course, is that, with all due respect to conspiracy theorists and global warming alarmists, nobody *can* do anything about it.

I've come to accept my inability to change the weather, but my seeming inability to have an impact on things I think I should be able to change frustrates me. Do you ever feel that way? Do you ever look at the silliness, to put it mildly, of our leaders, and say to yourself, "we really need to do something"? Do you ever weep over the pain children, loved ones and friends go through because of bad decisions and difficult circumstances, and yet feel powerless to say or do anything to get through to them with real help? Do you ever look at what we have become as a people and wonder how we could have abandoned God so quickly? What can you do, really, to change any of these things?

If you've ever felt this way, I'd like to introduce you to a kindred spirit – the prophet Jeremiah. He often felt so overwhelmed that he would say things like this: "Why did I come from the womb to see toil and sorrow and spend my days in shame?" (Jer 20:18) He is known as the weeping prophet for all the disaster he foresaw and witnessed among God's people. And he was frustrated by his inability to bring about change.

But he was also frustrated by his inability to complain. After God called him to be a prophet and warn the people about what their ways would lead to, Jeremiah replied to God, "Ah, Lord, I do not know how to speak!" (Jer 1:6) Not only did he realize that he was powerless to change such overwhelming things, he also realized that he didn't even know how to talk about it correctly. In other words, not only could he not do anything to change the weather, he didn't even know how he should complain about it.

You see, the root of the issues of his day was that the people had abandoned God, and they had done this because their hearts were deceitful above all things and so desperately sick that they could not even understand the consequences of what they were doing (Jer 17:9). Change could only happen by changing hearts, and Jeremiah found that he was utterly unable to do that.

But God taught Jeremiah that it wasn't up to him to change hearts; God is the only one who can do that, and he promised that he would do that: "This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (Jer 31:33-34). God doesn't want us to feel that it is up to us to change what we see around us; he wants us to know that he will bring about the change, and he asks us to be faithful participants in what he's doing.

The life of Jeremiah displays this kind of faithful participation in God's work, despite the constant difficulty he experienced. Jeremiah *warned* the people, not with his own words or opinions, but with God's words. It's easy to not speak out when we see injustice and sin, but if we speak God's words rather than our own opinions, God will bring about the change he desires, and we can speak with boldness. Jeremiah also *wept* for the people. He didn't become callous in his warnings, but he connected his heart to the very people that were persecuting him. Finally, Jeremiah *waited* to see the Lord fulfill his promises. He waited for the coming destruction God had prophesied, not delighting in it or fearing it, but knowing that God would even use judgment as a way to restore his people through repentance to faith. He also waited for the deliverance from judgment that God promised, a deliverance that he would never see for his people with human eyes before he died, but a deliverance he knew God would bring about through a new covenant and a restored glory.

In the month of May, we will begin a new sermon series on the book of Jeremiah. For anyone who's seen trouble and felt unable to do anything about it, I invite you to learn from what the Lord taught Jeremiah. And by the way, there is one who can change the weather, just as there is one who can change the hardest of hearts. God wants us to know that he is the one who changes hearts; what he asks of us is to faithful participation in what he's doing.

I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

(Romans 1:16).



LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Please join the
New Port ladies
in their monthly Bible Study on
Wednesday, May 19th, at 7:00 p.m.
in the fellowship hall.
We are using the book
The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood.
We will be studying chapter 2 titled
"The Covenant—Legacy of the Promise."
Carol Kuhlmann will be our hostess for the evening.
There are handouts with each lesson,
so please come and share with us.

As I write this article, two true stories that have come to my attention in the last 24 hours are on my mind. The first is a prayer request from a friend for the family and friends of a 13-year-old girl who committed suicide because of problems in her home life. The second is that of a man who has been



serving God in amazing ways. He came from a terrible background, but came to know Christ in a Vacation Bible School.

Can we guarantee results from VBS (or Sunday School or Good News Club)? No. But reports like those make me want to try. Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed reminds us that God will bring a harvest among some as we faithfully sow His Word.

Many thanks to those who have already volunteered to help with Vacation Bible School. Please be prayerfully familiarizing yourself with the program. Just as a farmer prepares his soil and gets ready for the planting, you can be preparing your heart and mind for the lessons to be taught.

There are still a few openings for people to help with VBS. See me soon if you want to be a part of the team! There are even a few jobs that can be done by those who can't be present during VBS or can only come a day or two. And certainly everyone can pray.

Pat Breithaupt, 2010 VBS director



A Little Humor

Two local ministers were out near their churches, standing by the side of the road and holding up a sign that read, "The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!"

As they raised the sign so that each passing car could see it, they were met with derogatory comments: "Leave us alone you religious nuts!" yelled the first driver as he sped by.

Then, from around the curve, they heard screeching tires and a big splash.

"Do you think," said one clergyman to the other, "that we should just put up a sign that says 'Bridge Out' instead?"

True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:23-24)

Your word is truth. (John 17:17)

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

Scripture	Sermon Title	Date
Matt 28:11-20	<i>By Deception or Commission, How Will You Live?</i>	May 2 nd
TBD	Darrell Jung Preaching	May 9 th
Jeremiah 1:1-5	<i>Jeremiah: The Prophet and His Time (Lord's Supper)</i>	May 16 th
Jer 1:4-19	<i>Who is Qualified to Speak for the Lord?</i>	May 23 rd
Jer 2:1-37	<i>Has a People Changed Its Gods?</i>	May 30 th
Jer 3:1-18	<i>Will We Return to the Lord Our God?</i>	June 6 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 Apr 25th)</i>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Offering/Income YTD:	\$ 41,928	\$ 35,782	- \$ 6,146
Expenses YTD:	<u>\$ 43,275</u>	<u>\$ 33,664</u>	- \$ 9,611
Income – Expenses	- \$ 1,347	\$ 2,118	

Current Assets (not including New Port church property)

Cash Assets on Hand \$ 45,119 *

* This includes \$33,736 in Designated Funds (Building, Cemetery, Deacon's Emergency, Memorials, Seminary, and Speaker Funds).

Giving has picked up slightly after a couple of low-attendance weeks due to weather in Jan and Feb. Last month, the projected year end giving was \$25,000 less than budgeted; this month the projected deficit is \$20,000. We are still monitoring the budget and prioritizing expense areas that can be cut if needed.

Thank you for your sacrificial giving to the Lord and the work of his church.

*And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Philippians 4:19-20)*

New Port Presbyterian Church
 2745 New Port Road
 Washington, MO 63090

**Join us for the Spring Church Work Day
 Saturday, May 15th 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

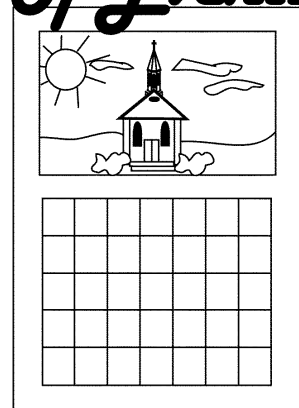
**Work is needed to install cement posts for security cables,
 as well as many inside and outside jobs.**

**Please let the deacons know if there are projects you'd like
 added to the list.**



- 2 Ruthie Jung's Baptism, 10:30 a.m.
- Swiss Evangelical Joining and Receiving, 6:00 p.m.
- 5 Good News Club End of Year Celebration, 2:45 p.m.
- 9 Darrell Jung Preaching, 10:30 a.m.
- 11 VBS Planning Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Diaconate Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Church Spring Work Day, 8:00 a.m.
- 16 Lord's Supper at Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.
- 19 Women's Monthly Study, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Session Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper, 6:30 p.m.
- 31 Memorial Day
- June* 5 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.

***Calendar
 Of Events***



Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|---------------|----|----------------|
| 3 | Noah Jung | 18 | Amy Jung |
| 4 | Brett Ruether | 20 | Hallie Giesike |
| 7 | Ruthie Jung | 26 | Darrel Barrett |
| 7 | Harry Sammons | 30 | Carol Kuhlmann |
| 10 | Jim Barrett | 31 | Jill Barrett |
| 10 | Darrell Jung | 31 | Ethan Todd |