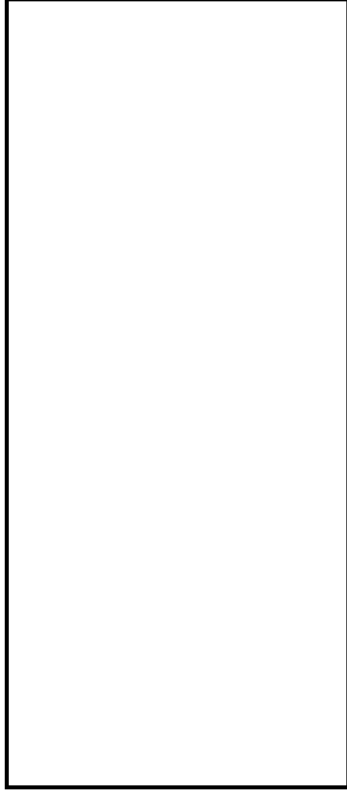




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THE CHIMES



Starkdale Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Newsletter July/August2022

**MESSAGE FROM
REV. G. CARL MOORE**

Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!

(Daniel 3:28 ESV)

In Daniel, we have been discussing the topic of faith and culture: i.e., the Christian's place in this world. Daniel, along with his three friends, serve as a model for us on how to live in a post-Christian world. In chapter 1, Daniel helped us to know where we must draw the proverbial line between cultural accommodation, on the one hand, and cultural capitulation, on the other. In chapter 2, the topic was about confidence and stability: i.e., where should we place our confidence and assurance. Now, in chapter 3, the topic is about trusting and obeying God.

Roughly, nine years have passed between the events that transpired between chapters 2 and 3. Chapter 2 ended with king Nebuchadnezzar acknowledging the God of Israel as the only true God, the "God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries" (Daniel 2:47). Nine years later, king Nebuchadnezzar was back to his old ways. In chapter 3 the king commands that a 90-foot-high golden image be erected in the king's image and worshiped in the king's honor. What happened? In chapter 2 the king had a strong conviction that Yahweh was the God of gods and Lord of kings. What was lacking? Matthew Henry explains that "Strong convictions often come short of sound conversion." That is what king Nebuchadnezzar lacked: i.e., a sound conversion. A sound conversion includes conviction, conviction of the truth, but it must include more, much more. It must also include trust and obedience to God. A saving faith, a sound conversion is a trusting and obedient faith.



Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Judy Wright | 20 Marlene Cox |
| 3 Christina Bube | 24 Cynthia Bordash |
| 7 Cindy McMasters | 24 Jeanne Morelli |
| 8 Jill Wickham | 27 Anna Ault |
| 17 Carolyn Glaub | 27 Darene Waszkiewicz |
| 19 Janice Whitaker | 28 Jamie Stewart |
| 20 Olivia Ault | 29 Doris Wickham |
| 20 Laura Chanoski | |

Anniversaries

- 15 Robert and Ella Jane Burns
29 Gerald and Joyce Palmer

JULY

Birthdays

3 Cathy Thoburn	19 Raegan Murison
4 Audrey Kerr	19 Kylee Paris
4 Barbara Wrkich	19 Robert Smith
5 Abigail Kinney	25 Tamam Alkaed
6 Toni Zajdowicz	25 Brandon Pendleton
7 Tom Brown	27 Andrew Stewart
8 Etta Pyle	28 Ava Aftanas
9 Joseph Reikai	28 Henry Vinco
11 Kim Criss	29 Franklin C. Merryman
14 Ella Jane Burns	30 Mary Alkaed
18 Brian Gambos	

Anniversaries

2 Bob and Cindy Sagrilla
13 Dale and Eleanor Hewett
29 Joseph and Debbie Grecco

We see this played out in Daniel 3:4-5. The king commands everyone at the sound of the music to fall down and prostrate, in worship, before the golden image. This image is a symbol of the mighty power of Babylon personified in Babylon's king. Like the Tower of Babel, king Nebuchadnezzar wants to ensure his name, making sure it remains great! Anyone who refuses to bow down in worship of the golden statue will suffer death in the fiery furnace. We all know what happens next. In Daniel 3:12, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship. The king gives these three young men another chance to recant as the king taunts them by mockingly saying, "who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?" (v 15). In response, Daniel's three friends answer this way:

O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up." (Daniel 3:16-18)

We all know the end of the story. God did in fact deliver them from the fiery furnace. Daniel's three friends did have faith, a conviction that God could in fact deliver them. But notice they also said, "if not," if God chose not to deliver them from certain death, then so be it; they said, "we do not serve your gods, nor will worship the gold image." This is amazing! They know God could deliver them, but they are not assuming He will. They are prepared for God not to deliver them. Yet, they still obeyed. Alistair says that "Faith is not believing in spite of evidences; rather, it is obeying in spite of the consequences." Beloved, this is saving faith; this is evidence of a sound faith: trusting and obeying God in spite of the consequences.

The Christian's life is a Pilgrim's life. And the Pilgrim's life is a life of "fiery trials." 1 Peter 4:12 says, "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you." Peter is alluding to Daniel 3; he is saying the life of a Christian is a life of fiery trials, and we should not be shocked but expect such trials to come our way. What both Peter and Daniel teach us is that God will not deliver us from the fiery trials of life, but God will deliver us through the fiery trials of life. Trusting and obeying God in spite of the consequences is trusting and obeying God to get us through the fiery trials of life. This is how we make progress on our journey in the Christian life. We like Daniel's three friends are formed by our trials, trials that ironically bring blessings that mold us and shape us into the glory-image of Christ. The temptation to bow our knee to the idols of our generation is just as enticing: the idols of status, the idols of our agendas, the idols of reputation, the idols of peer pressure, the idols of pleasure, etc.—these are just as tempting as any of the idols of antiquity. However, Christ has promised to be with us as He was with Daniel's three friends in the fiery furnace as he too delivers us through the fiery trials of life. Let us take heart in this dear Christian, knowing Christ will never leave or forsake us, that he will be with us to the end of the age!

In Christ,
Pastor Carl

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022



KOOKABURRA COAST AWESOME ADVENTURES IN GOD'S GLORY

Vacation Bible School was so much fun! Our 8 young adults were amazing and helped in every area of the Bible School adventures. We could not have done it without their enthusiasm and energy. The beautiful crafts, delicious lunches, Bible story time, and outdoor games were just great! Our teachers and helpers made this Vacation Bible School one of the best.

The Bible Lessons on Moses were just amazing and the kids learned so much. Thank you so much for all that helped, prayed, and supported this year's VBS!!

BARONS CLUB HONORS BOB KRAMER

A spontaneous request from a friend led to one of the Steubenville-Weirton area's best football coaching careers in recent history.

"My friend Pat Forte and I were talking after a softball game in the fall of 1974. He had just been hired to be the head coach at Wintersville Aquinas Elementary school. He was recruiting coaches, and said he only had two weeks before the season started, so I felt like I had to help him," Kramer says.

From there, Steubenville High School graduate Bob Kramer embarked on a highly successful 36-year career as a football coach.

Two years later, he became the Aquinas head coach for nine years and created a dynasty that won the Steubenville Parochial League Championship in four of his last five years. When the parochial schools combined to form the Junior Crusaders program, Kramer led those teams for six successful seasons.

Kramer moved up the ranks to the high school level when he became an assistant at Toronto High School, later making coaching stops as an assistant at Madonna High School and Catholic Central High School.

He says, "I learned from some great coaches, including Ron Paul, Greg Bahen, Rich Wilinski, Marc Bjelac, and Reno Saccoccia, but I never saw myself as a head high school coach."

Madonna thought differently and hired Kramer as head football coach in 1998, after his retirement from a 34-year career at Weirton Steel.

This humble man turned around the fortunes of a program that had experienced nine consecutive losing seasons. From 1998-2010, Kramer led Madonna to a 110-35 record, including 13 winning seasons. The Blue Dons were state runners-up in 2004 and 2008 and captured the West Virginia Class A State Championship in 2009.

"It's still stunning to me that we made the state finals, but we had great kids and parents," Kramer says. "Our success sparked interest from the community, which helped bring people together. I have so many memories and friends from my coaching days, and I especially enjoyed the time coaching with my son, Bob Jr. The Good Lord has been good to me. I appreciate everything he has done for me."

Kramer has two children and two grandchildren. He and his wife, Kathy, reside in Steubenville.

Submitted by Dianna Vandebourne



**PICNIC/WORSHIP SERVICE
SERBIAN PICNIC GROUNDS
IN WEIRTON
AUGUST 28, 2022
11:00 A.M.**

The menu includes the traditional lamb and chicken, and Wayne's famous hot dogs (provided). The drinks are also provided. Please bring a side dish.

If you need directions, please call the church office.





SYMPATHY

Our Sympathy is extended to the family of Donna Huff and her extended family in the death of her husband, Fred Huff, on April 13, 2022.

Our Sympathy is extended to the family of Kim and Jeff Criss and their extended family in the death of Kim's mother, Joan Copeland, on May 6, 2022.

Our Sympathy is extended to Philip and Vickey Makari and their extended family in the death of Vickey's mother, Eva Whalen, on Friday, May 6, 2022.

Our Sympathy is extended to Susan Glaub Williams, Jody and Carolyn Glaub, Jan Rainbolt, and their extended family in the recent death of Susan's husband, Donald Williams.

*thank
you*

I cannot thank my church family enough for all of your kindness support and prayers.

Fred's passing was so quick and unexpected, leaving us all numb.

We all know, God is in control of all things and He will lead us through this.

Donna, Terri, Fred, Jr, and Leslie

PINWHEEL OF HOPE TREE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONT



(Left) Kathy Kramer, Karen Hill, Rev. Ashley Steele, Rev. Carl Moore and Suzanne Brown

The Deacons have chosen the newly opened Urban Mission Shelter for Women and Children as the organization for April's Child Abuse and Prevention month. The congregation generously donated monetary gifts, puzzles, books, coloring books, crayons, markers, and games.

Thank you!