

Meetinghouse Crier

May 2011

Volume 11 Issue 4

May at a Glance

- 5/1 - First Sunday Evening Worship Service 6:30 PM
- 5/5 - National Day Of Prayer at Giddings Park
- 5/8 - Mother's Day
- 5/30 - Memorial Day Festivities begin here!
- Chicken BBQ in early June

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Pastor's Note

Take Heart
I always wish I had the eloquence of those who encourage me, that I might similarly encourage you. Alas... I guess the next best thing is to give you the very words that encourage me, in hopes that they will do the same for you. For the last couple of years, I've been reading Spurgeon's Morning and Evening Devotional most days (that'll explain the frequent Spurgeon quotes, eh?). Today's gift from Spurgeon bears repeating, and there's no way in which I could re-express it to you with the same power with which he offers it.

"The path of the Christian is not always bright with sunshine; he has his seasons of darkness and of storm. It is true that God's Word says, 'Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace';¹ and it is a great truth that faith is calculated to give a man happiness below as well as bliss above. But life confirms that if the experience of the righteous is 'like the light of dawn, which shines

brighter and brighter until full day,'² sometimes that light is eclipsed. At certain periods, clouds cover the believer's sun, and he walks in darkness and sees no light.

"There are many who have rejoiced in the presence of God for a season; they have basked in the sunshine in the early stages of their Christian life; they have walked along the 'green pastures' by the side of the 'still waters.' But suddenly they find that the glorious sky is clouded; instead of the promised land they have to endure the wilderness; in place of sweet waters, they find troubled streams, bitter to their taste, and they say, 'Surely, if I were a child of God, this would not happen.' But do not say that if you are walking in darkness! The best of God's saints must drink the bitter potion; the dearest of His children must bear the cross. No Christian has enjoyed perpetual prosperity; no believer can always keep his heart in constant tune.

"Perhaps the Lord gave you in the beginning a smooth and unclouded path because you

were weak and timid. He moderated the wind on account of your weakness, but now that you are stronger in the spiritual life, you must enter upon the riper and rougher experience of God's full-grown children. We need winds and tempests to exercise our faith, to tear off the rotten branches of self-reliance and to root us more firmly in Christ."

Take heart, loved ones. Cloud cover passes. Wind does not last always. Eclipses are not the regular way of things, but are rare. But know that the rain washes clean. Know that the wind blows away chaff and dead wood, and the darkness just brings greater joy for the light. Take Heart in your trials.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you are involved in various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. But you must let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing". (James 1:2-4 ISV)

Pastor

¹Proverbs 3:17 ²Proverbs 4:18



Cemetery Committee Plant Sale

The Cemetery Committee will again this year be making and selling Memorial Planters at \$20 each. Please order by May 10. Call Elaine Crooke @ 860-822-

0718 (leave message) or 860-942-1127 (cell).

Planters may be picked up on... Sunday, May 22nd, immediately after service or by other



arrangements.

THREE TREES

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, 'Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty.

Then the second tree said, 'Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take Kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull.'

Finally the third tree said, 'I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest Tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill and look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me.'

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the first tree he said, 'This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter, 'and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree the woodsman said, 'This looks like a strong tree. I should be able to sell it to the shipyard.' The second tree was happy Because he knew he was on his way

to becoming a mighty ship.

When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the woodsmen said, 'I don't need anything special from my tree, I'll take this one,' and he cut it down

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for.

The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end.

The third tree was cut into large pieces, and left alone in the dark.

The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams.



Then one day, a man and woman came to the

barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the

baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and He stood and said 'Peace' and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat. Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, God will give you great gifts.

Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined. We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that His Ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best.

May God cradle you in the palm of His hand.

MT25:40b Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me.

MT25:45b Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of these least, ye did it not unto me.

Support For Storm Victims



Our Communion Offering this month will support the organization known as, "The Samaritan's Purse". We would like to ask members and friends of the Franklin Congregational Church to support this outreach on behalf of the survivors of the terrible storms in our Nation's Southern States. The Samaritan's Purse is a ministry of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. This fine organization provides all manner of support for disaster victims, and ministers the

Good News of Jesus Christ, while doing it. Our support for the Samaritan's Purse doesn't merely feed and nurture battered bodies and homes, but feeds and nurtures hearts and souls. If you make your contributions to the Church, noting the Samaritan's Purse in the memo line, or putting your cash contributions in the Communion



Offering envelope, we will then add it all together and send it off to Samaritan's Purse. May the Lord Bless You for your great generosity!

The Women of Franklin are on the Move!

Women's Study Report

Six weeks and counting... and the "digging in" continues!

The Franklin Women continue to bond together in the Word of God .

If you haven't partaken yet, don't worry. You can begin coming at any time, and there will be another study when this one ends.

Does God's Word apply to your life's situations? Can you really save 15% by switching to Geico???

If you'd like to join in, please

contact Lynda Chapman or Pastor Peter, or just show up on Monday Evening at 6!

Lynda Chapman: sunshine4Lyn@sbcglobal.net

Pastor Peter" pastorpeter@FranklinChurchCT.com



Please sign up for Church CleanUP



Don't miss the Fellowship Luncheon, Wednesday May 18th. We gather in the church parking lot @ 11:45am.

When I say that I am a Christian...

When I say that "I am a Christian",

I am not shouting that "I am clean livin'." I'm whispering "I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say "I am a Christian",

I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say "I am a Christian",

I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say "I am a Christian",

I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say "I am a Christian",

I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say "I am a Christian",

I still feel the sting of pain. Have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say "I am a Christian",

I'm not holier than thou, I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow!

Worship with the Saints of God, this Sunday



Please sign up for Coffee Hour



Franklin Congregational Church

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Pass it Along

FranklinChurchCT.com



The Franklin Congregational Church
will be open at noon everyday for
Prayer.



Come Check Us Out; hear messages,
teachings, get calendars... ENJOY!

WELCOME HOME, BRADLEY BOGUE! HOOAH!

Weekly Services:

- ADULT CHRISTIAN ED 8:45 AM
- CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM
- WOMEN'S STUDY, MON 6 - 8 PM
- BIBLE STUDY, WED. 7-8 PM
- CONTEMPORARY SERVICE,
- FIRST SUNDAY EVENINGS 6:30 PM

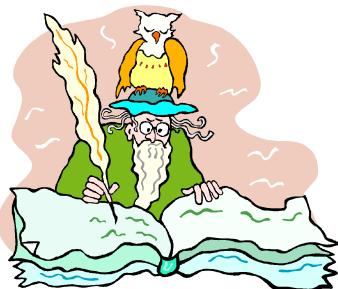
Rec Center Update... God Provides!!!

Through a seeming coincidence (what we call God sightings), Pastor met a guy who can give us 13 Saturdays of work, in return for learning some carpentry skills that he can then use on his own home.

What a wonderful way to reach our community!!!

Contributors Wanted:

If anyone has any materials they would like considered for entry into the **Meetinghouse Crier**, our newsletter, then please submit them to Pastor Peter at...
pastorpeter@FranklinChurchCT.com



(This is not him!!)