



THE
LIGHTHOUSE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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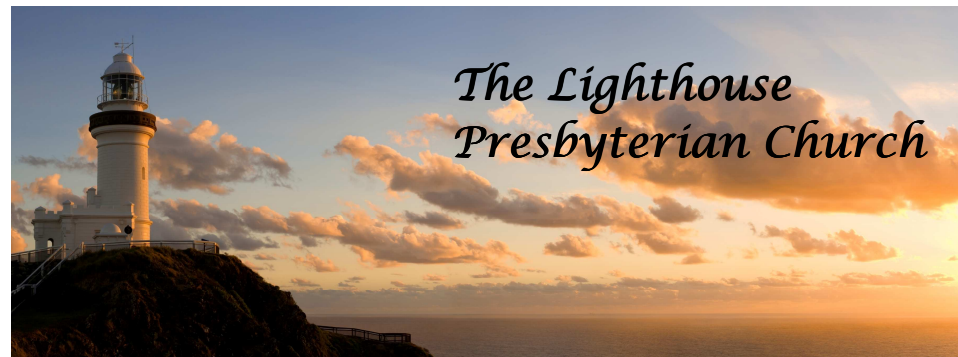
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The Lighthouse Presbyterian Church

303rd & Hedge Lane; Paola, KS 66071

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

DEVOTIONAL and PRAYER GUIDE

December 6th through December 13, 2009

“... Because the hand of our God is upon us.”

NEH 2:8

“... For the people had a mind to work.”

NEH 4:6

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To grow in Christ, becoming like Him.



DEDICATION

The Capital Campaign Prayer Committee dedicates this Devotional and Prayer Guide to our Church membership and to anyone who seeks a spiritual boost.

May God touch many hearts through these verses, devotional commentaries, and prayers.

2009 - 2012 PRAYER TEAM

Joel Ahlbrandt, Chairman
Kathy Berger
Helen Blakeman, Secretary
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Meredith Drummond
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Edith Johansen
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Theresa Morrison
John Rhea
Zola Stalnaker
Rose Anne Taylor
Bonnie Wood

Commitment Sunday continued



The Tabernacle was a rectangular tent. It contained two rooms separated by a heavy veil. The first, and larger room, was the sanctuary, or Holy Place, and the second and smaller room was the Most Holy Place (or Holy of Holies). This tent (tabernacle) stood in an open court. Into this open court priests and worshippers would come to offer sacrifices upon the altar. But only priests could enter the sanctuary, and only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies, and that only on one day of the year, the Great Day of Atonement. What is remarkable about the sanctuary and the Christian is that, according to 1 Peter 2:9 (But you are . . . a royal priesthood . . .), we may all enter the sanctuary now and “meet with God.”

All the materials needed for the Tabernacle were the voluntary gifts of the people, according to the divine direction: (Exodus 25:2) “Bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give.” The people were very poor. They had recently escaped from slavery, yet it is estimated that the materials of the Tabernacle amounted to the value of hundreds of thousands of dollars. The worship of God must be spiritual, yet He does sanction the erection of beautiful structures for such worship, and these should be provided by the *voluntary* gifts of the people.

In Acts 7:49 Luke quotes the prophet Isaiah, “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.” [Taking that into consideration,] what kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord.” Lighthouse Presbyterian Church needs to respond to that question in a divinely directed way. Let us pray for His guidance as we “make a sanctuary” for Him.

Prayer: We come to You, our Father and our God, asking that You would enable us in the ministry of constructing Your sanctuary, our facility. Help us know what will please You and minister to the needs of our congregation and community. Prompt our hearts to give freely for this ministry. In the strong Name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Joe Gillespie



Commitment Sunday, December 13, 2009

“Then have them make a sanctuary for me and I will dwell among them.”

Exodus 25:1-9

When studying the tabernacle, two special things come to our attention: one is its limited dimensions, and the other is its unusual purpose. The size was hardly larger than a single room in many of today’s homes. The purpose of this “Tent of Meeting” was to provide a place, not where fellow worshippers could meet, but where representatives (the priests) of the people could meet with God.

In directing Moses to construct the Tabernacle, there is an introductory statement as to the purpose of the structure. The *purpose* is this (verse 8): “then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.”

Strictly speaking, “the Most High does not live in houses made by men.” (Acts 7:48), that is, He is not confined to them. Nevertheless, He does manifest Himself in a special way in these places. As people engage in worship, the presence of God becomes more real to them, and the place of worship is, for them, a “house of God” or a dwelling place of God. The sight of the sanctuary reminded the people that God did “dwell among them.”

Therefore, the Tabernacle furnished a permanent object lesson in Divine worship. It spoke of the abiding presence of God, of His holiness and grace, of the way by which He could be approached, of the demand for purity, and consecration, and of the necessity of mediation and sacrifice and intercession. How far this was understood by Israelites may be uncertain, but for the Christian it should be eagerly accepted and cherished.



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**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PRAYER
2009 - 2012**

Dear Heavenly Father,

We praise Your name, not only for all the blessings that we have received from You, but for the leadership that You have provided us.

You have poured out your love upon the Lighthouse Presbyterian Church family, and we respond by sharing that love in our communities and worldwide.

Our numbers are increasing, so we feel led by You to again have our own house of worship built on land You have miraculously provided. We desire that it may reflect Your love and protection upon those who seek sanctuary within its walls and be a beacon to those seeking You.

May this new church home be a place of beauty to glorify You and be a refuge for those who need a renewing of their lives. Through the outreach of this new place of worship, we would release to those we touch the love You show us daily.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Saturday, December 12, 2009

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”



Matthew 28:19

Jesus' "Great Commission" *commands* us to spread the Gospel yet few Christians obey, including me. One might argue that it was natural for the disciples and others who actually heard and saw Him to obey Him, while it's more challenging for 21st Century Christians who must "trust and obey through faith alone –2000+ years later.

I would disagree. I believe all *true* believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, so we're imbued with everything necessary to effectively spread God's good news. Why do we hesitate? What hinders our witness? We must realize that Satan hates witnesses of the Word, and uses all his tricks to foil us.

Knowing this fact alerts us. We are also assured that God has given us His Word and Spirit, so we should proceed confidently with our witness wherever opportunities arise. The Apostle Paul urged us to prepare ourselves with truth and knowledge and of being ready to answer all queries as they come. Certainly, if we memorize Scripture and study the Word daily, God will always provide us whatever we need to help bring others to Christ and eternal life through their belief in His sacrificial crucifixion, death, and resurrection to save us.

I pray each day for the desire to learn new lessons from the Word and to gain the passion to lead many brothers and sisters to salvation in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May He answer my prayers.

Prayer: Our Heavenly Father, fill us with knowledge of Your Word and passion to share it till every soul is saved.

In the precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

Joel Ahlbrandt



Friday, December 11, 2009

“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”

1 Corinthians 3:16

What an exhilarating thought: God lives within me. Think of that; He’s intrinsically a part of every one of my 100+ million cells, a part of my mind, a part of my heart, and everything that is “me”. Wow! Actually, I find that a bit daunting. Think about Jonah trying to hide from God, then realize how incredibly funny it was, considering that God was with Him every step of the way. But it’s much deeper than any of that.

Think of how intimate our relationship is with God, if we simply accept what Paul is saying in this verse. As maturing Christians, immersed in the Word, surrounded by Godly brothers and sisters at church services and in small groups, we are blessed beyond measure. Our God loves us so much and wants above all else to be *with* us! How great is that? Survey all other religions, and none can say their God created each one because He desired to love and provide for them.

God makes it so easy to love Him. He graces us with eternal life through His only Son’s sacrificial death and resurrection, a totally unearned and undeserved gift. One must ask “how could I *not* love God completely, fully yielding to His will and desires for me after all He has provided me?” The key is that we love God so much that our “self” is sublimated in favor of serving Him first, then allowing Him to bless us with all our needs. He’s so easy to find. When we need Him, we can talk to Him because He’s there within us. God is Great.

Prayer: Abba, awesome Father and provider, thank you for loving us above all else and for desiring intimacy with each of us unique creations. You continually shower Your grace upon us. We are overcome with undeserved but welcome blessings that fulfill our every need. Help us to love You as You love us. Help us to grow in our faith and to mature in Your Word, so we can serve you with joy and surrender. We do love You, and are so grateful that You have led us where we can build a church of Your desire from where we can reach out to everyone who needs You.

In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen

Bonnie Wood

Sunday, December 6, 2009

“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.”

Psalm 127:1

God’s Mysterious Ways

When I learned about the location and availability of a tract of land for our church building, I could hardly believe it! Could it really be true? In the fall of 2008, my husband and I were in Heatherwood, a subdivision in the City of Paola, inspecting the construction sites of several new homes. As I was looking at the adjoining vacant property beside the subdivision, I thought “wouldn’t a church look beautiful out here?” Then I surmised “this acreage is probably zoned ‘residential’” and pushed the thought aside.

God truly does work in mysterious ways! It wasn’t that I *prayed* about that tract of land, because I didn’t. It was just a “thought”. God gives us so many blessings and gifts, we sometimes forget that the Holy Spirit might take a single “thought” and receive it as a prayer. (And maybe pass it on!) Do we forget that God is the source of all good things and requests and that He hears our thoughts, as well as our prayers!? We should be thankful that God listens to our hearts, thoughts and prayers; and take time to “be still and know that I am God”, and thankfully express our gratitude and praise.

Prayer: Almighty God, as we prepare to build a structure and open doors for worship, help us open our hearts and minds to Your spirit. Enable us to envision a growing church that will *receive* Your Word and blessing, *respond* with Your guidance and direction, *respond* with Your guidance and direction, *renew* our mind and soul and *release* our energy as we strive to do Your will. Give us the spirit of wisdom, generosity and perseverance, and we pray that this church building will bring glory, honor and praise to You, Lord. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

Helen Blakeman





Monday, December 7, 2009

“Now, my son, the Lord be with you and may you have success and build the house of the Lord your God, as He said you would.”

1

Chronicles 22:11

The doors of our new church will be open to welcome anyone who wants to come in. We hope they will feel welcome and want to stay and join us. We hope they will feel God’s presence in the midst of our congregation, and feel the love we have for each other.

Besides all of that, we have two really wonderful pastors whose sermons are truly awesome, coming directly from the Bible and laced often with humor. We are fortunate to have Kirk and Brad leading us into our new Lighthouse Church building.

Prayer: We pray, Oh Jesus, your blessing will be on the new Lighthouse Church from the first stone to the last that is laid. We pray, Oh God, it will be a truly wonderful place for you in which to dwell. Come, Holy Spirit, come. Empower us this day to witness through Word, sign, and deed. May we stand on tip-toe, expecting the Grace and power of the Holy spirit.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

Zola Stalnaker

Thursday, December 10, 2009



“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21

I have the privilege of serving with Kenda Boehm and Carole Moore on Wednesday nights with Awanas in the pre-school room. I have for years volunteered, either on Sunday morning in Sunday School or Wednesday at Awanas from a sense of obligation because my children are young. Either through the excellent example of Kendra and Carole, or of God changing my heart, I see that there are many mission fields in God’s work. Not all of the work is glamorous and high profile, however I don’t believe I have ever had anything thrill me more than having one of those very precious kids tell me one of their Bible verses. There is nothing like seeing their sense of satisfaction and excitement when their name is called to come forward to receive another award because they have earned it by memorizing Scripture.

So, on the eve of the Capital Campaign, I wish to convey that I have received so much more than I bargained for when I give to God. He has such a surprising way of giving back to us. Out of obligation, I gave my time and in return I have received something to treasure.

Prayer: Father, I know You will take our gifts, great or small, and do great things with them. Help us to remember that you have done so much for us, that in return we can truly sacrifice our money and time for You.

In Jesus’ name. Amen

Meredith Drummond



Wednesday, December 9, 2009

“But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.”

2 Thessalonians 3:13

Busy, busy, it's incredible all of the things we all are responsible to do. Take care of the kids, catch up on that project at work, homework, take care of the dog, pay the bills, sports practices and games, clean the garage. There isn't enough time to get everything done, right? And once we get through one day, all of life's stuff is waiting for us again the next one.

It's no wonder we're often exhausted and operating life at the end of our rope.

Paul encouraged his church in Thessalonica through the closing lines of his letter “. . . and as for you brothers, never grow tired of doing what is right.” These words may seem trivial when we consider the amount of pressure that we're often under. We often think, “When will I just get to rest?” However, consider the author of these words, traveling thousands of miles on foot spreading the gospel, only to be thrown in prison, pummeled with rocks and left for dead—all for desiring and pursuing ‘good’. He had every right to be tired, but he had met Jesus, His Savior, who had sacrificed His life for the good of mankind. So, Paul was willing, even to death, to follow Jesus' example.

Be challenged in doing good. Accept the burden that comes with sacrifice. . . and trust that Jesus, Who loves us, will provide our needs.

Prayer: Jesus, provide as I surrender myself to Your calling. Help me to accept challenges with grace and confidence. Help me to never grow tired of doing good. Amen

Ryan DeBok

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

“You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house. . .” 1 Peter 2:5



“As they reached the place where the road started down from the Mount of Olives, all of His followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen

Some of the Pharisees among the crowd said ‘Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that.’

Jesus replied, ‘If they kept quiet the stones along the road would burst into cheers’.” Luke 19:37, 39 & 40

We can be like the stones along the road, cheering our Savior. We are living stones, a unique construction with Christ as our cornerstone. As we work together to build a place of worship, we also work to **grow in Christ, becoming like Him**.

We are the “living stones” of 1 Peter 2:5. We want our faith to continue to grow, as we work together to have a building to share with others where we can worship and grow, help others **receive** the Word and **respond** to it. There we can continue to **renew** our commitment while developing a deeper faith.

We need to remember that the beginning of faith is believing in God's character; He is Whom He says He is. From this point we can **release** our belief in God's promises.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You have promised that wherever two or three are gathered in Your name, You will be with them. With faith we gather together and release our cares to You. As living stones who continually sing Your praises, we ask You to bless our endeavor and be a very real presence in our campaign.

In Your most holy name, Amen

Theresa Morrison



“Friend of Lighthouse” Prayer

Jesus,

We thank you that You’ve planted us all here in Paola, KS to do Your work, to announce Your fame, to love one another, and to live out life together with people in our community. Now help us to engage fully in this work as we set out to build a church to fulfill these purposes. Give us Your heart. Make Your desires ours.

We ask that You make us servants, laying down our lives for a greater cause than ourselves. Help us to ask for nothing self-seeking in return as we lend our hearts, souls, minds, and strength to Your work, but may we be rewarded richly by You as You renew our minds, our hearts, our souls, and our strengths. May the laying down of our lives be done in secret and may You reward your servants in even richer things than those offered by man.

We ask that You help us to give our money sacrificially to build your kingdom. We ask that You give us insight into our possessions, and that in laying down our possessions that we would become like you in Your sacrifice. We ask that You would gently remind us that You know our needs and You are our provider. Help us to seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness, and trust that in You we will never lack anything that we need.

“Friend of Lighthouse” Prayer continued



We ask that we would become like You in Your humility. We ask that we would learn to do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but that in humility we would consider others better than ourselves. Give us a greater cause than our selfish desires. Help us desire greater things: the salvation of friends, the pursuit of community with one another, and life that You bring.

We ask that we would become like You in Your wisdom. Help gifted men and women to be filled with Your Holy Spirit, bringing them wisdom and discernment in the details of this project. We desire to grow like You in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men.

We ask that You keep our tongues from foolish talk, bitterness and envy. We desire that our words about one another would be uplifting and encouraging to our entire church community. We ask that you allow us to extend Your beautiful grace to others as we recognize their imperfection, and ask that others would extend us the same grace as our own flaws enter the equation. We also ask that You help us accept one another’s rebuke and correction, knowing that wise correction brings us life.

We pray that this project causes our relationship with You to mature, making us more like You . . . that the discovery of our weaknesses through the challenges ahead would have a greater understanding of Your perfect strength.

For Your kingdom King Jesus, Amen