



June 2022

Restoration PRESSBYTERIAN

a bi-monthly publication of Restoration Presbyterian Church (PCA)

Our VISION

To be a church,
a community and a world
continually restored
by the grace of Christ.



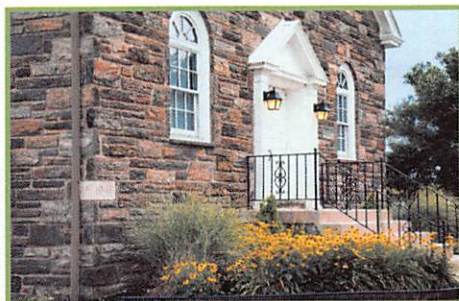
Our IDENTITY

We are strugglers, sufferers,
and sinners who share
in God's restoration
of all things -
our life with God, our
relationships, our community
and our world -
through the Gospel.



Our MISSION

To proclaim the Gospel
and serve in love
with the hope that God
will bring continual
restoration to our lives,
relationships, community
and world for His glory.



What Marvelous Love!

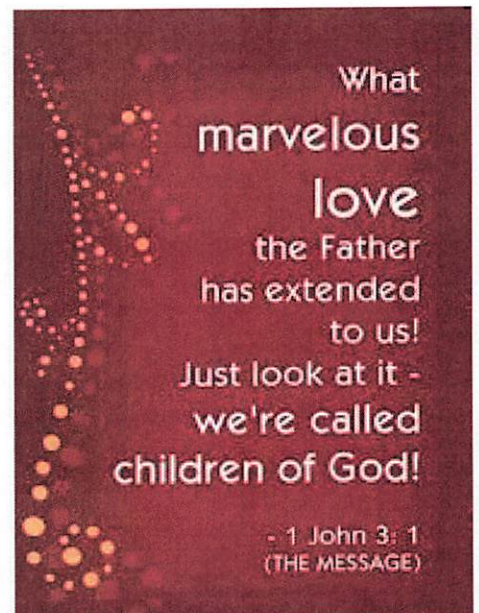
by Mark Durkovic

'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are.' 1 John 3:1a

What an amazing truth for the believer - God is our father and he has lavished his love on us. It is hard for me to fully comprehend and to live daily in this truth that God is my father and loves me unconditionally. Not just a little bit - but extravagantly. It brings to mind the picture of the father running to welcome home the prodigal son and the celebratory party with the fatted calf.

I find that I live most of my life much more like the other son - dutifully doing or trying to somehow earn or be worthy of the father's approval. How silly and unrealistic this is - could we ever hope to be worthy? It is ironic that in my own imperfect parenting - I am almost offended when my children communicate their fear of "disappointing" me - I so much want them to rest and know that I love them - how can they doubt this - and to know that this love is not dependent upon their performance. But no matter what I say or do I fail to give them this confidence.

How much more should we be confident and rest in God our Father's love - Who came in human form and took upon Himself all of our sin to redeem us, to clothe us in His righteousness and adopt us as sons and daughters both for this world and eternity to come. May we find a way to truly rest and live daily in this truth - let us celebrate with the Father his extravagant love for us and for our brothers and sisters in Christ!



Inside this issue

Blessing Box	5
Church Calendar	7
Community Calendar	7
Derivative Love	2
Getting to Know You	4
Francis Collins	5
Heart to Heart	3
Kid's Ministry	8
Service Opportunity	2
What Is Your Heart Posture?	4
What Marvelous Love!	1
Women's Ministry	6



City Team in Chester (on-site at 7th and Sproul Roads) has a garden program and they are looking for volunteers - either you or your plants! Please see Don Korb for more information.



STUCK IN THE HOUSE

and unable to join us for our Sunday Worship service? It is live-streamed! Please check us out on Facebook:

www.fb.com/restorationpca

We would love to have you drop in! **You do NOT have to join Facebook to stream the service.**

Derivative Love

by Pastor Steve Wilson

1 John 4:19 – “We love Him because He first loved us.”

“From God’s other known attributes we may learn much about his love. We can know, for instance, that because God is self-existent, his love had no beginning; because he is eternal, his love can have no end; because he is infinite, it has no limit; because he is holy, it is the quintessence of all spotless purity; because he is immense, his love is an incomprehensibly vast, bottomless, shoreless sea before which we kneel in joyful silence and from which the loftiest eloquence retreats confused and abashed.” A. W. Tozer

Why is it so hard to love? Jesus said, in Luke 7:47, that the person who is forgiven much, loves much, but the person “who has been forgiven little, loves little.” Forgiveness is the key, or perhaps even more, a sense of being forgiven. Life is full of regrets. We so often wish that life was like our word processor on the computer and we could push a little “undo” button to take back what we have done or said. And yet, we are offended when our faults are pointed out by others. We desire to be forgiven, and yet we often have a hard time forgiving ourselves. It is painful to look at our own brokenness. We do not want grace. We want to be good.

I am convinced that the answer to this tension is found in the truth of 1 John 4:19. We can truly love others when we, ourselves, know that we are truly loved.



This is seen even on a purely human level. A child who is secure in the love of his/her family is usually a more easygoing, likeable sort of person than one who is insecure. The person who is insecure is fearful and fear causes us to become more self-consumed, and less thoughtful of others. And this is a large part of what love is: putting others ahead of ourselves, being more concerned for others’ well being than we are for our own. We all enjoy being around others who are like that.

However, we can take that up a notch when we bring God into the mix. The verse immediately preceding our verse for the day, 1 John 4:18, points out that “Perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.” “Fear has to do with punishment.” We know, in our hearts, that we have earned God’s judgment. We know we are guilty before one who knows all our secrets. We long to be forgiven, but we continue to sin. How can God possibly forgive me? I wouldn’t forgive me! The key, once again, is forgiveness. How does anyone get true and complete forgiveness from God? The answer is in understanding that we can love because He first loved us.

The Bible says that “very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans

Continued on page 6

Fire!

by Crystal Phipps

Fire...a useful source of heat and light. Used on a stove, a grill or a camp site, fire provides a way for us to prepare food to eat, to be nourished. Used in a wood or coal stove, or even a kerosene heater, fire provides us warmth in the cold weather. And the heat it produces can be used to dry our wet clothes. A small flame on a burning candle can provide just enough light for us to move around when the electricity goes out during a storm. That same small flicker on a candle is a powerful force to release our favorite fragrance into the air, bringing calmness and peace to our environment. However, when we neglect that small flame, or that burning fire is not controlled, it's fury leaves behind massive destruction in its wake. In an instant, everything we once held dear can be gone, beyond recognition.

Heart to Heart



In many ways, faith and the words used to express that faith, can operate, and produce the same effects as fire. "It only takes a spark to get a fire going" as the old camp song reminds us (*Pass It On*, by Kurt Kaiser). The rest of the verse goes on to explain how that spark grows, "And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing; That's how it is with God's Love, Once you've experienced it, You spread the love to everyone, You want to pass it on." We see this symbolized during our candlelight service at Christmas. We watch as one small flame from the center candle, spreads to other smaller candles. Within a matter of moments, the pitch-dark sanctuary is bright enough to see the smiling faces on our brothers and sisters across the room. Jesus tells us that faith as small as a mustard seed is enough to move mountains. That spark, or mustard seed of faith, has such a tremendous power. Words have power, too. Jesus is referred to in John 1 as the Word that was in the beginning who spoke and it was. God, the Father, through the Holy Spirit, inspired the WORDS of scripture...HIS WORD to us.

Speech is expressed in words. What we do with that spark of faith, and especially the words we use to express that faith have the power to bring warmth, growth, love, health, healing, joy and peace. Solomon writes in Proverbs, that "*pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*" (Proverbs 16:24). He also reminds us that "*a man is satisfied with good by the fruit of his words...*" (Proverbs 18:20) The psalmist writes, "*Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.*" (Psalm 119:105) We are even told that "*he who restrains his words has knowledge*". (Proverbs 17:27a) These are the kinds of words that

spark the fire of our faith, and express that faith, demonstrating a kind of love for one another that others notice and by which we all want to be surrounded.

At the same time, words spoken without thought, neglecting to take into consideration others, can bring massive destruction to those around us, and in an instant, relationships, trust and respect are ruined beyond recognition. Proverbs 16 continues to remind us that "*a worthless man digs up evil and his words are like a scorching fire.*" (Proverbs 16:27). Ouch! I don't ever want my words to have the same effect as a scorching fire, do you? And I certainly don't think I'm worthless!!!! Since we are not worthless, neither are our words. Many of us have grown up with the message from Smokey the Bear about the

dangers of campfires and making sure the fire is out before we leave. He says, "only YOU can prevent forest fires." If we take the time to start the fire, we are responsible for putting it out. And like the campfire flame that is neglected so that the wind blows and starts a raging forest fire, or forgetting about the burning candle flame that gets too close to the curtain and burns a house down, the "*words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing*" (Proverbs 12:18)

Hmmm...seems to me that God has a lot to say about how powerful our words can be. He makes it very clear that He really wants us to choose our words carefully, to pay attention to what we say, and to use our words to bring healing, NOT destruction. As humans, created in God's image, we need community and communion

Continued on page 6



Thank you so much for helping to bless those in need in our community!



Please place items for donation on the shelves in the coat room.

Please Donate (examples):

Individually wrapped or boxed paper goods
single serve cereals
8 ounce bottles of water
regular size canned vegetables and fruit
individual fruit cups
peanut butter
jelly
canned meat and food
dried soup
ready to eat canned soup (pop-top)
small boxes of crackers

individual packages of crackers
small bags or boxes of rice, etc.
small boxes of feminine products
baby food and cereal
small package of diapers

Please DO NOT donate (examples):

dried beans, lentils
larger boxes of cereal
perishable fresh produce or fruit
fresh or frozen meat
bulk, unlabeled items

"Many love at their tongue's end, but the godly love at their fingers' end." Anonymous

Francis Collins, Christian AND Scientist

by Alan McCarrick

As a teacher in a local Christian school for 25 years, I noticed a tendency among some faculty, administration and parents to assume the science was not a career for Christians as "they were all atheists." During each year's awards assembly, it was my pleasure to first remind the audience of parents of the long history of Christians or at least religious folk in the sciences before giving out my awards for chemistry or physics.

During the last couple of pandemic years, behind the scenes the head of the whole National Institute of Health (NIH), Dr. Francis Collins, kept a very low public profile.

Francis Collins was first appointed to head what became known as The Human Genome Project in 1993 by then President Bill Clinton. His leadership of the HGP continued under the tenure of President George W. Bush. That project famously completed the first rough reading of the whole human DNA, followed by a refined reading in 2003. He stayed on with the project until 2008. In 2009, President Barack Obama nominated Collins as director of the NIH, and the Senate unanimously confirmed him. In 2017, President Donald Trump selected Collins to continue to serve, and in 2021, President Joe Biden did the same. In October of last year, Collins announced that he would retire as NIH director by the end of the year.



Francis grew up on a rural family farm with an intense enjoyment of the world around him, but no serious religious influence. His agnosticism grew to atheism through college, grad school and medical school. His hospital rounds in the south brought him into contact with many sick and dying patients exhibiting strong and supportive Christian faith which convinced him to reexamine those beliefs. Through readings of C.S. Lewis and others he was drawn first to the reasonableness of a god and then to Christianity. His clear and open faith testimony was often seen as disqualifying him for those important scientific positions, but his warm personality and ability quieted his critics. In November 2011, Collins was included on *The New Republic's* list of Washington's most powerful, and least famous people.

I've had the opportunity on two occasions to meet and briefly chat with Dr. Collins at American Scientific Affiliation meetings as well as hear him give the keynote addresses including playing his guitar and singing for us (what a treat). He founded Biologos (Biologos.org) as an organization designed to bring together Christian faith and current science. On their site you will find many podcasts with Francis chatting with such well knowns as N. T. Wright, Tim Keller and Jane Goodall. In 2006, his autobiographical book *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief* was published.

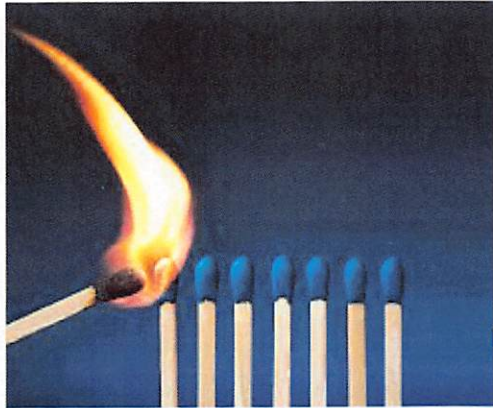
The church needs dedicated Christians in all walks of life be they masons, chemists or pastors who will excel at both their faith and their profession.

Fire!

Continued from page 3

with one another. That means we will engage in conversation...with words. So let us remember, that *“when words are many, sin is not lacking”* (Proverbs 10:19a). Each day is full of opportunities to talk, to use words. Will we use those opportunities to let our words be gracious? Or will we blabber on and on without thinking about who is listening, that what we are sharing is really just gossip, and is hurtful and reckless to the listener, therefore, destroying those around us like a scorching fire?

There are two simple facts when it comes to how we use our words: It only takes a spark...and only YOU can prevent forest fires!



“Our words are the evidence of the state of our hearts as surely as the taste of the water is an evidence of the state of the spring.”

J. C Ryle

Stefanie Weather

Continued from page 4

Stef really enjoyed Pastor Jacob’s word and how he tied his sermons into this world and made it relevant. She also appreciates Pastor Steve in that he is very down-to-earth and straightforward.

One of Stefanie’s favorite songs is “Not Lucky, I’m Loved” by Jonathan McReynolds. Her life resonates with this song in that she knows she is truly blessed and that luck has nothing to do with it. Her favorite Bible story would have to be Moses parting the Red Sea. “To me, it signifies the undeniable strength of God that people often forget and I often imagine how magnificent that would have been to experience it; to be able to see the creatures of the sea swimming along as people walked through the path.”

If you can catch Stefanie before she goes down to pick up Jeremiah on Sunday, introduce yourself and maybe tell her what your favorite travel destination is and why.

Derivative Love

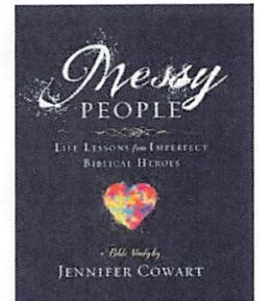
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5:7-8). “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). He calls us to believe in Him. If we truly believe that God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die in our place on the cross, if we are secure in His love for us, we will no longer fear judgment. We will no longer have to fear having enough for ourselves. We will be free to love others because we will have confidence that God is watching out for us. He didn’t even spare His own Son! What else compares with that?

Restoration’s Women’s Ministry is studying “Messy People.” Every life

gets messy at times. Sometimes those messes are literal, but sometimes they are intangible messes

such as illness, conflict, depression, abuse, bankruptcy, divorce, and job loss. These messes can be painful, hurting our hearts and our homes. But as we see in the Bible, God loves to use messy people! In this study, the author helps us dig into the lives of Biblical heroes who were messy people just like us BUT who were used by God in powerful ways. As we examine the messy stories of Rahab, the prodigal son, Josiah, Mary, David and Daniel, we will learn how God can use broken people, restore damaged hearts and relationships, and help us deal with the hard moments of life. Along the way we’ll discover that we don’t have to just endure messy lives but can actually learn to thrive with God’s guidance and help. In the hands of God, our messes can become His masterpieces.



Gloria Snyder’s group - by zoom, 6:30pm, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month **starting now!**



RESTORATION
Women's Ministry

Sherrie Strain’s group - in person, 6:30pm, on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month **starting Sept. 15!**

Church Calendar!

(LS: live-streamed)

Every Sunday: Worship Service, 10:15am, LS

JUNE

- 1 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom
- 8 ... Leadership Training Class, 5:30pm, church
- 8 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, church
- 14 ... Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm, zoom, Gloria Snyder
- 15 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom
- 22 ... Leadership Training Class, 5:30pm, church
- 22 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, church
- 24 ... Community Family Game Night 6:30-8:30pm, church
- 28 ... Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm, zoom, Gloria Snyder
- 29 ... Coffee Break - Women's Day on the River
- 29 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom

JULY

- 6 ... Leadership Training Class, 5:30pm, church
- 6 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, church
- 9 ... Parents' Night Out, 5:00pm to 8:00pm, church
- 12 ... Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm, zoom, Gloria Snyder
- 13 ... Coffee Break - Women's Movie Day, 10am, church
- 13 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom
- 17 ... Fellowship Lunch, following Worship service
- 20 ... Leadership Training Class, 5:30pm, church
- 20 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, church
- 26 ... Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm, zoom, Gloria Snyder
- 27 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom
- 29 ... Community Family Game Night, 6:30-8:30pm, church



Community Calendar!

Please see or call Beth McCarrick for information regarding any of these events.

June 13, 11:30am - 1:30pm

Women's Connection Luncheon
Iron Hill Restaurant, Wilmington, DE
Christine Fabris (Iris & Callisto's Apiary):
"Beekeeping in Urban Wilmington" - she will have a variety of honey for sale following the luncheon.

Annie Friedrichs: "How Perfect Love Overcomes Inadequacy" - her story of being consumed with fear and self-centeredness.
\$25 per person

June 23, 10:00am

Brandywine Summit Camp Meeting
Marie Monville, author of "One Light Still Shines" and former wife of the Amish schoolhouse shooter, will share her story of forgiveness, healing and restoration after the 2016 tragedy.

July 15-17

Brandywine Summit Camp Meeting
"Ignite" Young Adult Weekend
Featuring numerous concerts and activities geared toward young adults.

July 23

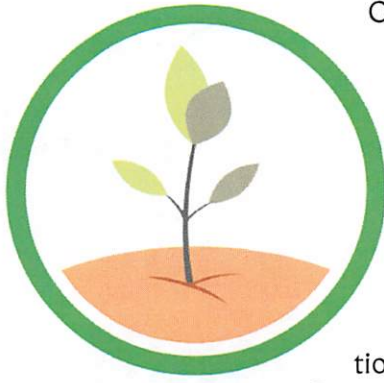
Brandywine Summit Camp Meeting
5:30pm - Covered Dish Supper
7:00pm - Rockdale Boys Concert (a Bluegrass-style band with a gospel emphasis) - The evening is to honor Chester Heights Camp Meeting 150th anniversary.



Fellowship Lunch
Sunday, July 17
following Worship service

Church Picnic
Sunday, August 28
1:00pm to 4:00pm

WATCH FOR MORE INFO!



Our Kid's Ministry is sponsoring three special events in June and July ! *These times are GREAT opportunities to which you can invite your family and friends to participate AND introduce them to Restoration at the same time!*

July 9: Parent's Night Out, 5pm to 8pm

Restoration PCA is offering a FREE child care opportunity to parents, families, and guardians with children ages 2-12. Quarterly, we will be providing a chance for you, you and your spouse, or you and your partner to plan an evening away while our serving and caring staff host the kids. It will be a time for food, crafts, and games in a safe environment. All of our staff and volunteers have child protection training and are PA background checked. **Registration is required, no walk-ins.** Go to www.restorationpca.org/night-out.

June 24 AND July 29: Community Family Game Night, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Enjoy an evening out FOR ALL AGES on the last Friday of every month with games, an ice cream bar and prizes! Please see or call our Kids Ministry Director, Rachel Lamb, or visit www.restorationpca.org/gamenight.

RESTORATION
KIDS MINISTRY

Invite A Friend

Bring someone you care about
one step closer to Christ.



RESTORATION

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

2655 Chichester Avenue
Upper Chichester, PA 19061
www.restorationpca.org
610-485-2644

**Need more information?
Please check
www.restorationpca.org
for all the details!**