



EPC

A Global Movement of
Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

Hear, my son, your
father's instruction,
and forsake not your
mother's teaching, for
they are a graceful
garland for your
head and pendants
for your neck.
—Proverbs 1:8-9 (ESV)

June 2018

Number 1806



Good News

Father's Day: March 19?

The history of Father's Day is not quite as lengthy as Mother's Day. The earliest records of a day celebrating the importance of fatherhood date back only to the Middle Ages. In those times, Father's Day was a tradition observed in European countries where Catholicism was the dominant religion.

The church had designated March 19 as Saint Joseph's Day, in honor of Joseph—the earthly father figure in Jesus life—referring to him as *Nutritor Domini* ("Nourisher of the Lord"). When a day was selected to honor all fathers, Saint Joseph's Day was a natural choice. The tradition was brought to the new world by Spanish and Portuguese explorers, and in much of Latin America, March 19 is still observed as Father's Day.

Catholic traditions notwithstanding, Father's Day was not recognized as a civic celebration in the United States until the twentieth century. In Fairmount, West Virginia, Grace Golden Clayton was mourning the death of her father, and the region was still mourning the loss of 361 men— 250 of them fathers— in a mining disaster. At her suggestion, on July 5, 1908, Pastor Robert Thomas Webb preached a Sunday sermon specifically to honor these men, and fatherhood in general. That first Father's Day observance made very few ripples outside of the local church. It was not widely promoted by Clayton, and it was overshadowed in the press by reports of the July 4 celebration— including a hot air balloon demonstration. It was common practice to transcribe church sermons in the local paper, but the flashier stories took precedence, and that feature was omitted. The text of Pastor Webb's message was thus lost to history— and years passed before there was another Father's Day.



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FATHER'S DAY CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



At the most recent meeting of the Midwest Presbytery, I had the pleasure to hear an excellent sermon given by the now Rev. Michael Barnhart, who fulfilled his ordination exam preaching requirement by expositing Matthew 28:16-20. That passage contains Jesus' Great Commission in which he tells his disciples *"Go therefore and make disciples of all*

nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age."

Rev. Barnhart reminded the presbyters in attendance that it is important for us to heed Jesus' command to "go" into the communities where God has called us with the gospel. We must instruct and encourage our congregations to likewise embrace opportunities to "go" share Jesus outside the walls of our church buildings with neighbors, co-workers, family members— any and all with whom God places our people in relationships.

Rev. Barnhart shared with us his own struggles in fulfilling Jesus' mandate, recognizing that it can be challenging to strike up a conversation with a neighbor, or take part in community activities— because all of us have other valid ways to spend our limited time. He affirms that we all have our own families, work and priorities that require attention. But he says, we must also take time to "go" because Jesus commanded us— as sovereign Lord, who is worthy of worship, and is present to help us.

For those in Fountain County, one opportunity that exists to heed Jesus' command to "go" is by becoming a mentor through the TALKS Leadership Program. TALKS is an acronym that stands for **T**ransferring **A** Little **K**nowledge **S**ystematically. While not an explicitly Christian program, TALKS was founded by Dr. Harold D. Davis, an ordained minister who serves a church in Urbana Illinois. He believes strongly that boys and girls should have mentors who can share wisdom on critical issues, so that young people can learn skills and values that will help them though life today and guide them to future success.

Research shows that youth who have mentors receive multiple benefits. A sampling of these benefits:

- ◆ They are more likely to finish high school
- ◆ They develop better interpersonal relationships with peers and adults
- ◆ They have better self-confidence and behavior at school and home
- ◆ They avoid drugs and make better lifestyle choices.

Mentoring clearly has a positive impact on youth. But the question is— do I have the time to be a mentor?

TALKS is curriculum based, and does not demand a large weekly time investment from its participants. Mentors are assigned a group of three youths in one of the local schools and they meet together once a week for 30 minutes at the school. During this time the group will utilize the provided content, either reading through a lesson, discussing questions, or studying wise quotes from a variety of sources. Mentors are encouraged to share their own life experiences and wisdom to personalize the material and bond with their groups. While the weekly commitment is minimal, over time the cumulative effect is maximal.

At the conclusion of this past school year, I completed my second year as a TALKS mentor, serving a group of three boys at Attica Elementary. I wholeheartedly endorse this program for any adult who desires to work with youth and has availability to meet once a week during school hours. I have found serving as a TALKS mentor to be both a humbling and invigorating experience. Humbling because working with kids keeps you humble. You never know what they are going to ask, or what they are going to say. They will keep you on your toes for sure. Invigorating because even on the occasions when the sessions go off the rails, or the kids don't seem to be grasping (or caring about!) the concepts covered, you can be assured that your presence with them— your taking time to meet with them— affects them.

And you can be assured that though your mentoring you are taking steps to "go" as Jesus directs. I can attest that not every meeting with your mentoring group will include spiritual conversations or topics. I would advise that a person should not pursue becoming a mentor only with the goal of evangelism in mind. Those who do are likely setting themselves up for disappointment and frustration. However, approaching this endeavor with the goal of establishing an ongoing relationship, in which you earn the trust of your youth, may very well result in occasions to share the gospel. But first, one must "go" and then wait upon the Lord's timing for those possibilities.

Yours in Christ
Pastor Shawn

More information about the TALKS program is available at

www.capwi.org

General information:

TALKS Mentoring of Fountain County is administered by Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana which is a non-profit corporation. Kathy Walker is the

PONDERS CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

The Westminster Confession of Faith

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Chapter 9

Free Will

1) God has given man a will, which by nature is free, i.e., it is not forced or necessarily inclined toward good or evil. ¹

1. Mt 17.12, Jas 1.14, Dt 30.19, Jn 5.40, 7.17, Rv 22.17, Acts 7.51, Jas 4.7.

2) In his state of innocence man had complete freedom and the natural ability to will and to do what is good and pleasing to God. ² God also made man so that he could lose that freedom. ³

2. Eccl 7.29, Gn 1.26, see under figure 1 above, Col 3.10.
3. Gn 2.16-17, 3.6.

3) Man fell into a state of sin by his disobedience and so completely lost his ability to will any spiritual good involving salvation. ⁴ Consequently fallen man is by nature completely opposed to spiritual good, ⁵ is dead in sin, ⁶ and is unable by his own strength either to convert himself or to prepare himself for conversion. ⁷

4. Rom 5.6, 8.7, Jn 15.5.
5. Rom 3.9-10, 12, 23, 8.7.
6. Eph 2.1,5, Col 2.13.
7. Jn 6.44,65, 1 Cor 2.14, Eph 2.2-5, Ti 3.3-5, Rom 8.8.

4) When God converts a sinner and brings him into a state of grace, he frees him from his natural enslavement to sin. By God's grace

The Westminster Confession of Faith has been the doctrinal standard of the EPC since its beginning in 1981.

It is regrettable that many EPC members have never read the entire Confession, much like many US citizens have never read the US Constitution. Over the coming months, the entire Confession will be presented here in small bites, in the hope that it will become familiar to all. If there is interest, Pastor Shawn has offered to teach the WCF as a series, possibly as a Sunday School class, or a mid-week Bible Study.

alone, freely given, sinful man is enabled to will and to do what is spiritually good. ⁸ However, since the old sinful nature also remains, the believer cannot consistently or perfectly will to do what is good but also wills evil. ⁹

8. Col 1.13, Jn 8.34,36, Phil 2.13, Rom 6.18,22.
9. Gal 5.17, Rom 7.15,18-19,21-23, 1 Jn 1.8,10.

5) The will of man is perfectly free and permanently inclined to good alone only in the state of glory. ¹⁰

10. Eph 4.13, Heb 12.23, 1 Jn 3.2, Jude 24, Rv 22.3-4, 2 Chr 6.36, 1 Jn 1.8-10, 2.1-6, Ps 17.15.

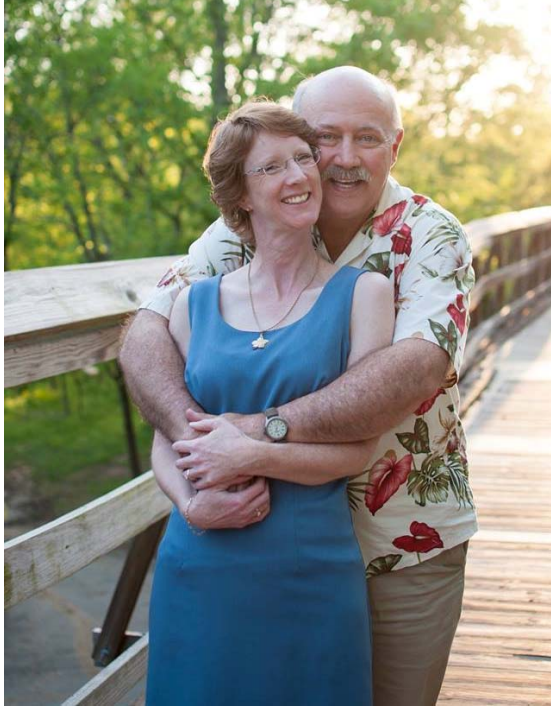
Next Month:

Chapter 10 — Effectual Calling ☩

PONDERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Program Director and is licensed to operate the TALKS Mentoring Program in Fountain County. The program is currently active at Attica Elementary School, Attica Junior High School, Covington Elementary School, Covington Middle School, Southeast Fountain Elementary School, and Fountain Central Junior High School.

For additional program information, please call Program Director, Kathy Walker at 765-793-4881 or contact by email at kwalker@capwi.org ☩



Congratulations, Kim & Ben!

In last month's *Good News*, we printed *Kim's Kaptions*, Kim Hecht's April newsletter, where she introduced us to Ben Box. She had moved to Columbia, South Carolina from California just before Easter, believing that Ben was holding the door God had opened for her future.

While it's true that a picture is worth a thousand words, these two pictures tell the story better than an entire book.



It generally is difficult for a printed picture to capture and convey the intensity of overflowing emotions— but once in a while, the happiness and excitement are so eloquent that they completely transcend the impediments of paper and ink.

We pray for God's blessings on Kim and Ben as they prepare for their next great adventure. ✝

FATHER'S DAY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In 1910, Sonora Smart Dodd, a member of Old Centenary Presbyterian Church, proposed the idea of a day to honor fathers, particularly her own— William Jackson Smart. He was a Civil War Veteran, and a single parent who raised Sonora and her five siblings. On June 19, Sonora organized a Father's Day celebration at the YMCA in Spokane, Washington.

In 1911, Jane Addams was turned down on her proposal for a Father's Day celebration for the city of Chicago.

In 1912, Pastor J. J. Berringer of the Irvington Methodist Church in Vancouver, Washington suggested a Father's Day celebration— mistakenly believing theirs was the first of its kind.

Harry C. Meek claimed that he had first come up with the idea for Father's Day in 1915. Meek worked to establish the third Sunday in June as Father's Day, promoting it as an official holiday. The Lions Club where he was a member named him the "Originator of Father's Day."

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson spoke at a Father's Day celebration in Spokane, Washington. In 1924, Calvin Coolidge suggested that the day be observed nationally, but stopped short of any official action— possibly because congress had already turned down two attempts to create the holiday.

Father's Day as a national observance finally began to get some traction in the 1930s, when a number of retailers began to recognize the potential benefits of



another reason for gift-giving— so the *Father's Day Council* was founded by the *New York Associated Men's Wear Retailers*. They worked together to consolidate and expand the holiday's commercial opportunities. Economics can sometimes succeed where sentiment falls short.

Thus did the third Sunday in June become an annual observance as Father's Day. But it was not until 1966 that there was anything 'official.' That year, President Lyndon Johnson signed the first presidential proclamation designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Six years later, President Richard Nixon signed the law congress had finally passed, making the observance and the date permanent.

So, if you're a Dad, now you know how the celebration of your day came to be what— and when— it is. Enjoy your new tie/socks/shaving cream/underwear/etc. that your children bring you as gifts. You rejoice because your children love you— and don't think about who actually paid for them. Just remember who really owns the gifts you bring to your heavenly father. God loves painting pictures like that for us. ✝



In search of a special treat for your Father's Day celebration? If your guest of honor is (or even if he's not) a fan of Cajun

Cooking, here's a real treat. It's a bit more work than the normal offerings you find in this space, but then Father's Day only comes once a year. And you might agree that the guy you're cooking for is worth it.

If you don't have a dishwasher, the trouble level does go up a notch or two, because there will be a few bowls, pots, pans, and utensils to wash when you get done. And in any case, you can't put the iron skillet in the dishwasher.

ANDOUILLE, SHRIMP, & CHICKEN GUMBO

Ingredients

- ½ cup plus 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 8 ounces andouille sausage, cut into ½-inch pieces
- 1½ pounds boneless skinless chicken thighs, quartered
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 2 ribs celery, chopped (about 1 cup)
- 1 large onion, chopped (about 2 cups)
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped (about 1½ cups)
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons pickling spice
- 1½ pounds medium shrimp (21 to 25 count), peeled and deveined, tails removed
- ½ teaspoon gumbo filé
- Hot cooked white rice, for serving

Special equipment: a piece of cheesecloth and some kitchen twine

Directions

For efficiency and best results, do all of the ingredient cutting and chopping as the first step. The chopped celery, onion, and green pepper can all reside in the same bowl. Not so, the uncooked sausage and chicken— separate bowls for them, please.

Heat the ½ cup of vegetable oil in a cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat until very hot. Add the flour and whisk just until lumps are gone and roux is just beginning to brown. Reduce the heat to medium-low and continue to cook, stirring occasionally about 15 minutes. Your roux should be a deep brown color. Set aside.

Heat the remaining oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the sausage and cook, stirring occasionally, until the meat is lightly browned. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the sausage to a bowl. Sprinkle the cut-up chicken with salt and pepper. Brown chicken over medium heat in the sausage drippings. Transfer the chicken to the bowl with the sausage. Add the tomato paste to the pot and stir about a minute. The mixture should be smooth and slightly darkened (careful— it's easy to scorch in this step). Add the celery, onions, peppers and cayenne to the pot and continue to cook until the veggies are softened, about 10 minutes. Add the garlic and simmer briefly. When the garlic becomes aromatic, add the chicken broth and 2 cups water and bring back to a simmer. Slowly stir in the warm roux— a little at a time— until combined and the liquid is smooth. Tie the pickling spice in a cheesecloth pouch and add to the pot along with the chicken and sausage. Simmer all together about 45 minutes so the flavors can blend.

Stir in the shrimp and gumbo filé. Simmer until the shrimp are just cooked through (shrimp is done when it turns pink— don't overcook) and the gumbo has thickened, about 5 minutes. Discard the pickling spice packet. Taste and adjust the seasoning with additional salt and pepper. Serve the gumbo over rice. ☩

from Israel, and moved to Israel, and married there. We learned so much from Shamel. He would say "Now this happened in the Ottoman Empire from the 16th century to 19th century. Twenty minutes later he'd say, "Now when was the Ottoman Empire?" And we'd all look dumbfounded. Who knew we were going to have a test? He'd say, "This is how we teach our children, we tell them something and then ask them to repeat."

Shamel said we [in America] are going to lose our civil rights, our first and second amendment, if we don't get a "Backbone". Even now you are quiet about some things not wanting to offend.

Shamel, said "We were good citizens. We were told to get in the Ghetto and we did. We were told to get on the Train

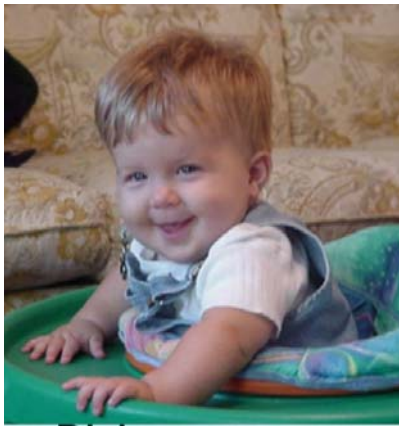
A Visit to the Holy Land

—JoAnn Koekenberg

I've been asked about my "trip of a Life time," so here goes: A very brief introduction to a 19 day trip.

We landed in Tel Aviv after a 9-hour flight. I didn't sleep on the plane. It was my first intercontinental flight, so tell me—who could sleep? Not me!

We were all tired, but somehow at the same time, full of energy. Our guide was Samuel (pronounced 'Shamel'). He was born in Ohio, went to college in Ohio, met a girl



↑ Josh Bixler, August 2000

Kyle and Kelly Bixler, along with Josh and Lauren, reside in Wilmore, KY, where Kyle works as a youth pastor at Great Commission Fellowship in Wilmore and a custodian at Asbury Theological Seminary. Kelly works full-time as an Administrative Assistant in the Doctor of Ministry office at Asbury Seminary, as well as continuing to operate her freelance proofreading business. Lauren is finishing up her high school freshman year and is excited to begin summer working as a volunteer at the Asbury Equine center— as she has done in previous summers. Josh, as you can see, is graduating high school and will attend

With gratitude to God
and to all who were
part of our journey,
we proudly announce the
High School Graduation of our son

JOSHUA WILLIAM BIXLER

class of 2018

Join us for a celebration
Saturday, May 26th 1-4pm
401 Wise Drive, Wilmore KY

— — — — —
please rsvp to Kelly by May 16th
at kelly.bixler@gmail.com



2018

Kyle and Kelly Bixler served our congregation as youth leaders beginning in 2000

Asbury University in the fall (his parents' alma mater). The Bixlers would like to give a warm greeting to Attica Presbyterian Church-- a place which holds many fond memories and many wonderful people. ✠

The Stated Meeting of Session was called to order at 7:00 PM on May 17, 2018 by the Moderator, Shawn Carafa, in the church basement.

The meeting was opened with devotions from Acts 2:22-41 and prayer by Shawn Carafa and the ruling elders present.

Members present: Moderator, Shawn Carafa; Ruling Elders: George Ellsworth, Jerry Watson Jr., Allen Baird, and Mark Mason constituting a quorum.

The agenda, and minutes of the April meeting were approved as distributed.

The Pastor's written report of last month's activities was received.

The 164th Midwest Presbytery Meeting will be held May 18-19 at Knox Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor, MI. Pastor Shawn and Mark Mason will attend as commissioners.

Next prayer meeting ☐ June 3rd, following a noon luncheon. Prayer Leader after worship service:

- June 3 George and Jane Ellsworth
- June 10 Jerry and Mary Watson
- June 17 Mark Mason and Jo Ann Koekenberg
- June 24 Allen and Elaine Baird

There were 29 communicants at the May 6 worship service. There was an average of 42 in attendance in worship the past month.

The Homeschool Mom's/Kids Group has been meeting weekly at local parks.



The Attica Garden Walk will be held June 16, 9 AM-4 PM. The church sanctuary will be open to view during the walk.

A VBS planning meeting took place May 3. The next meeting will be May 24. VBS is scheduled for July 28.

The Adult class finished Ray VanderLaan's *The Early Church* last Sunday.

The Men's Breakfast was held on May 12 for breakfast and devotions with six men in attendance. The next scheduled meeting is June 9.

Children's Sunday School continues to meet weekly in the church basement.

The May 6 lunch was hosted by Mark Mason.

On motion received Summary Financial Reports from Brenda Gates and George Ellsworth

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on June 3, to be served by Jerry Watson and Allen Baird.

On motion approved bids from Bone Dry Roofing to construct a bell tower roof for \$17,250 and to make repairs to the flat roof at the front of the church for \$5,037.50.

The next Regular Meeting of Session will be June 21, at 7:00 PM.

On motion the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 7:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark W. Mason, Clerk



Not "If...?" but "When...!"

—Elder George Ellsworth, Editor

Psalm 3 (ESV)

A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom

¹ O LORD, how many are my foes!

Many are rising against me;

² Many are saying of my soul,
there is no salvation for him in God. Selah

³ But you, O LORD, are a shield about me,
my glory, and the lifter of my head.

⁴ I cried aloud to the LORD,
and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah

⁵ I lay down and slept;
I woke again,
for the LORD sustained me.

⁶ I will not be afraid
of many thousands of people
who have set themselves against me all around.

⁷ Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God!
For you strike all my enemies on the cheek;
you break the teeth of the wicked.

⁸ Salvation belongs to the LORD;
your blessing be on your people! Selah

David wrote this psalm when he was in fear for his life. His son Absalom had raised an army, usurped his father's throne, and David had fled into the wilderness. The psalm begins with David's lament over the apparent hopelessness of his current circumstances. We can infer that he is remembering the words delivered by the Prophet Nathan (II Samuel 12: "...Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house..."), after David's sin with Bathsheba was exposed. He knows he is still reaping what he has sown.

ISRAEL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

and we did. We were told to take off our clothes and we did. Were told to go to the gas chamber and we did. Not anymore! We do what we think is best for us and we don't give a [bleep] what anyone thinks. We do not have illegal aliens in our country. You are a resident, or you are a guest. That's it, and that's it. We do not want war but if we must we will fight.

Shamel was a great guide, very funny, and a knowledgeable Biblical scholar. I believe he was a Messianic Jew, but we would not discuss our faith—only what was in the Bible.

I strongly suggest everyone make the trip. Just don't wait until you're 82.

[This is the first report of Carol and JoAnn's trip to the Holy Land. If you would like to read more, encourage them to write. We will publish as much as we have room to print. —ed.]

But by verse three, David has started remembering some other things.

- ◆ He is the anointed king of Israel
- ◆ He is a man after God's own heart
- ◆ The words of Nathan, following David's confession, included the pronouncement of God's forgiveness. *"The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die..."* (Sam 12:13)

David, as a student of the scriptures, would also have had cause to remember what Moses recorded in Deuteronomy.

¹ "And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you, ² and return to the LORD your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, ³ then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. —Deuteronomy 30:1-3 (ESV)

(*"...all these things, the blessing and the curse..."* refers to the proclamations detailed in Deuteronomy 28.)

This passage is a complex literary construct, so careful reading is required. The second word in verse one is "when," and it is the operative word for all of verses one and two. It may be helpful to parse these verses with a touch of interpretation, so the meaning is clear in English:

"And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you..."

'When,' not 'if.' This is prophecy. 'These things' will come. possibly more times than the major fulfilment in calling the people back from the diaspora.

and [when] you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you...

It's the same sentence. The 'when' is still operative.

and [when you] return to the LORD your God, you and your children...

You **are** going to return.

and [when you] obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul

This is not conditional; it is going to happen. You may (or may not) have some limited influence over the timing, but you can't stop it. 'Return' and 'obey' are predestined.

When all of these things happen, then the curse will be crushed by the return of the blessing.

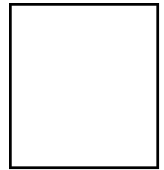
In verse three of David's psalm, the tone changes from lament to praise, and then to thanksgiving, petition, and acknowledgement of God's sovereignty.

No matter how bad things look from our perspective, 'Hopeless' is not a word in God's vocabulary. It's just that sometimes we have to walk through the valley of the shadow of death before we are ready to look again to our God. **When** we do, we find that He still has the light on for us.

◆

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Attica, Indiana 47918*

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**THE GREATEST THING A MAN CAN DO FOR HIS HEAVENLY FATHER IS TO BE
KIND TO SOME OF HIS OTHER CHILDREN.—HENRY DRUMMOND (1851-1897)**

«Index»

**BIRTHDAYS FOR
JUNE**

DOB	Name
6/06	Danielle R. Tanner
6/12	Carol Morrison
6/18	Brad Wilson
6/22	Chris Booth
6/24	Jane Ellsworth

**ANNIVERSARIES FOR
JUNE**

Anniversary Date	Number	Celebrating Couple
6/05/10	8	Mr. & Mrs. Brad Wilson
6/08/02	16	Mr. & Mrs. Shawn Carafa
6/15/91	27	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Smyth
6/22/58	60	Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Booth
6/23/51	67	Mr. & Mrs. James Knight



Sunday:
 Sunday School 9:00 am
 Fellowship Coffee 10:00 am
 Morning Worship 10:30 am

Every First Sunday
 Fellowship Dinner and 12:00 Noon
 Congregational Prayer

**Weekly Small Group Meetings—
 Call for Schedules and locations**

Note: Please send Birthday or Anniversary corrections to the editor, in writing—by e-mail if possible.