

Faith in Action:
Jetmore Presbyterians Take the Plunge
From: Rhonda Stithem

There are days in our lives that we will always remember. For the 73 members of the United Presbyterian Church of Jetmore, one such special day was Baptism Sunday, Aug 18, 2013. Six believers were seeking membership. Their journey of faith began with a ten week Communicant Class led by Pastor Mark Durham. Moderator Rev. Jack Singer and four Ruling Elders were instrumental in planning a reverent two-part worship service.



As Jetmore Presbyterians helped their new members literally *take the plunge* in their faith, an effort was made to worship like the days of our

forefathers. In the early beginnings of many frontier churches, baptisms took place on a Sunday afternoon by a body of water. The preacher immersed new believers while members sang *Shall We Gather at the River*. The presence of the Holy Spirit was evident on this beautiful, sunny day. The public using the reservoir for recreation, stopped to experience this ceremony, view a sacrament and hear the words every Christian embraces, "I Baptize You In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." The day concluded with a bountiful, fellowship picnic and an inner joy for those who were blessed to bear witness.



On The Wind

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Giving Yourself a Gift This Christmas by: Jay Ayers

From his jail cell Paul wrote to the church in Philippi, and this is one of the things he told them: "Do all things without whining or moaning, so that in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, you will be the blameless and innocent children of God: you will shine among them as the light of the world." – *Philippians 2:14-15*

The command part of these two verses is plain enough: for all the different tasks that come your way, do them without complaining. It's a classic example of something that is simple but not easy: simple enough for anyone to understand, and yet our own resistance makes it not so easy to put into practice. Whenever we don't really like what we need to do, we do love to complain: and giving up the right to whine might seem like quite a sacrifice.

It would be a straightforward passage if we just stopped right there. Here is a command, written for us in the scriptures, and the preacher could just say: "This is God's command, my friends. It is for us to obey. Let us therefore set ourselves to do all things without whining or moaning." That might be enough. And yet Paul did go on to offer an explanation as to why we ought to do this. And it's a fascinating explanation.

At Christmas we celebrate that Jesus is the light of the world: he has come to illumine the hearts of us all, living as we do in the midst of so much darkness, so much of the time. Yet this 'light of the world' business doesn't stop with Jesus: he applied that same label to us, telling his followers, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). And then Paul offered this follow-up passage to tell us one way that we can put that into practice: in the midst of the darkness of this world – where people whine and moan all the time – you will shine as the light of the world *if you just stop complaining*.

So here's the gift you can give yourself this Christmas. You can decide to take these Bible verses seriously, and become the light of the world that Jesus intends for you to be. It won't cost time or money, but it will require you to give up whining and moaning. And when you do that, it will catch people by surprise: living without complaining turns out to be a rare enough thing that your life will shine like the light of the world.

Senior High Summer Camp

It was a great high school camp this year at Westminster Woods Camp! The weather was hot, but that did not stop everyone from having a great time. Instead of leaving on Friday, the high school campers leave on Sunday which makes the week even more fun.

Free time consisted of many of the same activities for other camps, but high school campers were given more options. For example: a basketball tournament, yoga, prayer time in the Old Chapel, paintball, and a girl's spa. The dining hall was a popular place to escape the heat and hang out with one another. Evening games were also adjusted for this age group. Campers participated in camp wide games such as midnight crossing, cream the counselor, and capture the flag.

One evening, in place of traditional chapel, there was an all music chapel. The band played the entire time and campers worshiped in song. In addition to singing, campers were encouraged to participate in a worship activity. There was a station with wood scraps and markers where they could write something that they wanted God to take over. At the end of the night, these scraps were all put together to make a cross that symbolized how brokenness can be made beautiful.

Visit www.westminsterwoodscamp.org for Winter Retreat dates and registration information

During the Presbytery Meeting on Nov.12, 2013, PSK welcomed Rev. Thomas Sutter and celebrated the ministry of Rev. Danny Daniel as his retirement date is December 31, 2013.

The Presbytery approved the 2014 per capita at \$28.00.

The First Presbyterian Church of Winfield has been blessed with 18 infant/child baptisms and two adults so far this year. The church's process is that at the time the Session approves the baptism, an Elder sponsor is appointed to each child or adult. This sponsor will assist in the service of baptism and will pray and stay in contact with that child or adult.

On Baptism Sunday during the Children's Time, the children of the congregation are given two small shells that will be presented to the infant or child being baptized. As the congregation sings "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry" the family comes forward to the Baptism Fount as do the younger children of the congregation. The children, with their shells, sit in the front pews, witness the baptism and are asked to place one shell in a small jar for the child and they also keep one. The jar of shells is to help the baptized child remember that he has others praying for him and the other shell is taken home by the other children as a reminder to them to pray for the baptized child.

Following the service of baptism, Pastor Angela will ask all Elders, Deacons, and the children to come forward for the *Laying on of Hands*. As the service closes, several children will lead Pastor Angela with the baptized infant or child thru the aisles of the sanctuary with the other children following, thereby introducing the newly baptized to the congregation.



Brotherhood pre-schoolers visited the pumpkin patch, had their faces painted and played *Pin the Tail on the Pumpkin!* Those attending the November 12th Presbytery meeting enjoyed worship at Brotherhood Church, building tours and a peek at the Pre-schoolers!