
A Heart for Marriage



August
2010

New Sterling Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Stirling

I enjoy it so much when someone comes to me and says, “Will you please teach me about...?” and they go on to tell me of their situation and why they want to learn. I have had that happen on numerous occasions; two times very recently.

One request had to do with our marriages. I was asked if I would teach/facilitate a couple’s class addressing our marriages. I, of course, said yes. I said yes for two major reasons: 1st, the request. This is a real need in any church and when a person realizes the importance of a sound, growing marriage then I must respond. 2nd, marriage is at the heart of much of Jesus’ teaching. The marriage is used as an illustration of the relationship between God and his church. The marriage is used as an example of the kind of relationship we should have with our Lord. As I sacrifice my wants and my needs to ensure that my spouse is cared for, loved and nurtured; much of that is a foreshadow of my personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

So, beginning September 12 and continuing for 12 weeks, the CE Committee has agreed to provide a Sunday School Class entitled, *The Heart of Marriage*. We have chosen as a guide for our study the book, *The Marriage Miracle* by Bob and Cheryl Moeller.

The reason this book was chosen is simple: it speaks of the heart’s involvement in the marriage. For me, that speaks volumes. For if the heart is not involved in the marriage then no matter what steps one might take for improvement, they will fail. The writer of Proverbs knew this. He said, “above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” The heart is the initiator of the activities of our lives. The condition of our hearts determines the quality of our lives, in this case the marriage. And the heart can only find its true path in life as it submits and is softened (redeemed) by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Moellers acknowledge this when they say, “when it comes to our hearts, direction is destiny.” It is their intention in the book to help us determine the condition and direction of our hearts. The direction they promote is toward Jesus.



But it is not for us alone that we desire good marriages. Marriages also communicate to the world who we are and what we believe. Jesus used the marriage so many times as an illustration for his teaching. In light of this, we can see that our marriages continue as an illustration of the gospel. Most importantly how the gospel has affected us; how it has affected our marriages. The Moellers note that, the marriage “becomes a daily message we preach to a watching world that Christ loves you and me.” Wow, a heavy responsibility for all of us who have the pleasure of marriage.

One point I would like to make as I invite you to this class. This class is not intended solely for those whose marriage might need repair. This class is for anyone who desires their marriage to be what our Lord desires our marriage to be. Marriage is tough, challenging work and if we are not intentionally working to make it as our Lord desires then we are by default losing. It is that simple! So, please know this class would be good for a marriage regardless of the ‘condition.’

Some of you who might be interested in this class may have other responsibilities on Sunday morning and feel you can’t make this class. The CE

Committee is working to help you with that. They will be enlisting Sunday School teachers who can cover classes if you wish to be a part of this Marriage Class. Simply let Doug Gryder or Jill Winters know of your desire and they will try to make the way clear for you to join us. Also, if you can't make this class, we will offer this again in early 2011. Maybe one teacher can join their spouse for the class now and the other later. If we really want to do this we can make a way.

I hope between the different times we offer this class every married couple in our church can attend. It is important for your marriage, it is important to those who see our marriages and it is important to our church. Families are at the core of our ministries; that requires marriages. The marriage is a God ordained instrument of his ministry of reconciliation with a troubled world. As our hearts are softened and our marriages grow so also does our faith and our worship of our Lord.

How important is marriage to God? Consider this: the story of human redemption begins with a marriage; Jesus began his outward ministry with his attendance and miracle at a wedding and the Holy Scriptures close with the story of the great wedding supper of the Lamb when Christ returns to claim his bride and live with her for all eternity.

As it is this important to our Lord Jesus it should be the very same with us. Please join us, we'll even pay for the book.

In His Service,
Pastor Tim

Encouragement for the Family – Twelve Words Can Change Your Home

There are 12 words that can change your home, says author Warren Weirsbe. The first three words are 'please' and 'thank you,' which can change the home atmosphere. Someone gave this advice: treat your guests as family, and your family as guests. Certainly using 'please' and 'thank you' often will help. The next 2 words are 'I'm sorry.' It's hard for parents to say, but if the children hear us say it often to each other and to them, they'll catch on that we're human. They'll learn to say them too. The next 3 words are 'I love you.' These words can never be overused. The last 5 words are "I am praying for you." Dr. Weirsbe said, "Our children knew we prayed for them. And they prayed for us as we shared prayer requests with them." Maybe these 12 words, 'please,' 'thank you,' 'I'm sorry,' 'I love you,' and 'I am praying for you,' will help to change things for the better at your home.

Harlan Mission Team



Left to right: Todd Goodman, Anna Donohoe, Chase Sharpe, Leann and Andy Hartness, Lori and Eddie Compton, Davey Winters, Judy Watson, Adam Donohoe, Frank and Davis Emery, Jacob McNeely and Tim Watson.

Coming this Fall – Strengthening our Christian Families

“How can I hope to lead my family and protect them when attacks on the family are stronger than ever?” William Farley, the author of *Gospel-Powered Parenting*, says the answer is the gospel.



We think of the gospel of Jesus Christ to be the wonderful news that Jesus Christ died for our sins and now we are reconciled with the Father therefore we live with the fact that eternity with him is ours. But, please know the gospel is that and so much more. The gospel affects every part of our lives everyday.

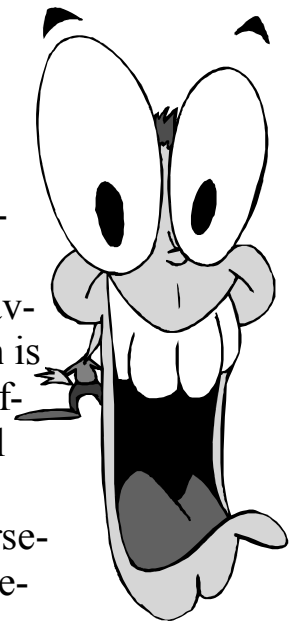
Families who claim the gospel and apply its teaching to their lives see enormous affects on the marriage and their love for their children. Farley states, “keeping the gospel at the forefront of every aspect of the family helps parents fear God, sensitizes them to sin, motivates them to enter their children’s world and causes them to reveal the beauty of the gospel to their children.”

“How can I hope to lead my family during these challenging times?” It is only by the direction and grace of our Lord and the gospel lived out daily. This will be the topic of our discussion for the adults this fall on Sunday evenings. Families are at the center of our ministries at New Sterling and everyone has a part to play: dads, moms, kids and grandparents. And yes, those who may not have children or are not married have a very important role to play for their own lives and the lives of their brothers and sisters here as they share the responsibilities of raising our children. Remember the question at each infant baptism that asks if you promise to help raise the child being baptized? Everyone typically stands saying yes you will do this. So, again we all have a role to play.

Please join us on Sunday evenings beginning Sept 19 for this very important discussion. It is for the well-being of our families and our church.



HAVE YOU HEARD???????



Andy, Leann, Bailey and Dylan Hartness vacationed in the mountains.....**Julie and Joseph Alghrary** are expecting a little girl!!!!!!.....**Ken, Jeanette, Kurtis, Kortney and Jared Hauck** traveled to Pennsylvania for July 4th week.....**Erin Elizabeth Waugh** is home from 4 weeks in Honduras.....**Andrea Clarke** completed Office Training Camp in Rhode Island. She is now home making final preparations for her wedding.....**Kim Brady, Esther and David Cruz, Dylan Deal, Cindy, Jacob and Madelyn McNeely** went horseback riding at Tanglewood.....**Karen Goodman** had a second hip replacement surgery in June.....**Betty Sides** had a stint placed recently.....**David Sides** spoke at Concord Presbyterian Church.....**Jesse Keller** is moving from Raleigh to West Jefferson.....**Stacy Mrazek** had surgery recently.....**Tra, Kendra, Jonah, Caleb and Benjamin Watson** are moving into a new house.....**Jeff and Jacob McNeely** went on a scuba diving trip to the Florida Keys with the scout group.....Those who attended Quest were: **Sara Donohoe, Lorin Donnelly, Garrett Deal, Jared Hauck, Madelyn McNeely, Bailey Hartness, Maggie Emery, Madison Winters, Madison Elliott, Maddie Campbell, Brianna Little and her friend Skyler.** Chaperones were **Cindy McNeely and Jessica Graham.** They all had a wonderful trip.....**Addie and Paisley Graham** attended dance camp.....



If there is anything you would like to advertise in our newsletter please do not hesitate to ask Delinda Mauney or Taryn Setzer. It's a good way to get your product/ fundraiser/ event out to our church family.

News From the Women's Ministries

I recently read a daily devotional by Susanne Scheppmann from Proverbs 31 entitled **WHATEVER**. Do you know that whatever has been noted as the most annoying word in the English language by a poll conducted by Marist College in October of 2009. We hear it ringing in our ears as our teenagers roll their eyes and spout out “WHAT-ehv-err!”. Even younger children say it and unfortunately I have heard myself say it many times. It can be a hurtful word filled with dismissal of a person or a person's actions.

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” Phillipians 4:8-9 (NIV)

I cannot imagine Paul rolling his eyes or sarcastically saying “whatever” or using that tone to be hurtful. He determined *whatever* to be a word that encompassed all the good things we experience in this life. He used the term to direct us to consider all that is true, right, noble, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy and finished in admonishment to us with, “And the God of peace will be with you.”

Whatever should be a word to prompt us to search for the positive side of people and circumstances. The decision is up to us to determine what type of *whatever* we allow to inhabit our lives. Do we constantly complain? Or do we choose to engage encouragement? Lets all take the WHATEVER challenge today. Let's choose to believe and ponder on all that is a positive influence in our world—everything that proves itself to be true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable and anything that is excellent or praiseworthy. And the best WHATEVER is that the God of peace will be with us as we strive to experience the positive.

Application steps: Take a moment to make a list of things that are excellent and praiseworthy gifts from God, such as books, music, friends, church, etc. Purposefully reflect on how these things enrich your life. Ask God to help you replace the annoyances of life with the thoughts of whatever is lovely.

Reflections: What do I find exasperating in my life—what are my “WHAT-ehv-errs?”

Am I thankful for my whatevers that are admirable and excellent?

Do I complain more than I praise?

Would my family, friends and co-workers describe me as a positive person?

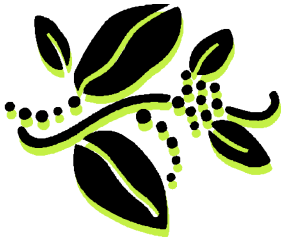
Power Verses:

Romans 12:2, “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Think you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (NIV)

Phillipians 1:27a, “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” (NIV)

(devotion taken from Proverbs 31 Ministry by Susanne Scheppmann)

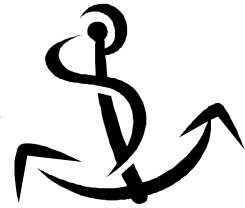
New Sterling Womens Ministry



For those who attended the movie night, it was a tremendous hit. The movie was great. Chondra had a wonderful message along with her comedian style. There was laughter and a lot of tears.

The women are excited to be making plans for the upcoming First Presbyterial Women's Ministries Retreat at Bonclarken November 5-6, 2010. The title for the conference this year is **HOLDING ON TO HOPE** featuring Nancy Guthrie. Nancy has written several books including Holding on to Hope, Hoping or Something Better and Hearing Jesus Speak into Your Sorrow. In addition to teaching at her church, Christ Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee, Nancy speaks nationally and internationally. However, she says her life is mostly about the ordinary aspects of being a wife, mother and follower of Jesus.

Holding on to Hope — None of us make it through life without suffering. It comes in different forms, at different times, but it inevitably comes. And when it does, we wonder if life will ever be good again. Over the weekend, we will look at the story of history's most significant sufferer—Job— a godly man who suffered greatly, questioned boldly, and emerged from his suffering with a life that was described as good. How did he do it? More importantly, how can we do it? Looking at Job's example, we will learn how we can respond to suffering we have experienced or will experience in the future in a way that will draw us closer to God rather than estrange us from Him. The three messages over the weekend will include:



- When Your World Falls Apart (Job 1-2)
- Questions We Ask When Life Hurts (Job 3-37)
- Hearing God Speak in Your Storms (Job 38-42)

Seminars:

Four seminars will be offered. You may choose two, one for each time designated on the schedule.

- Effective Personal Prayer and Bible Study—Jana Evans
- A Devoted Body; Health and Fitness—Karen Willis and Eliza Hardin
- Holding On... - In the workplace, as a busy mom, or as a caregiver—Elizabeth Burns
- Celebrating the birth of our Savior with Christmas Crafts—Nancy Myers

It is our hope we can have a great group going in November. You need to plan early though. We need to have reservations in by August 30. Therefore, you must have your money to Kitzi Emery NO LATER than July 26th. The cost is \$40 per person and checks are to be made payable to New Sterling Church and notate on the check "Fall Retreat". We will leave the church on Friday, November 5 at 1:00 and will stop for lunch in Hickory. Registration is at 4:30 p.m.

It will be a great weekend! Everybody come and Let's Go!!!!!!

Coming Events

August 1		HOMECOMING with Rev. Robert Hunter
August 2	9:30 am	Golden Christian Circle
August 7	9:00 am	Knit Wits
August 8	6:00 pm	Personnel Committee
August 9	10:00 am	Sterling Silvers
	7:00 pm	Evangelism/Membership Committee
August 10	7:00 pm	Treasure Keepers; Kim Brady, hostess; Kim Brady, facilitator; Meal: Delinda Mauney, Taryn Setzer
August 15		Session Study Group
August 16	7:00 pm	Knit Wits
August 17	7:00 pm	Mary/Martha Sunset; Judy Watson, facilitator; Jane Fulbright and Juanita Massey, hostesses. Meet in the parlor
August 18	9:30 am	Mary/Martha Sunrise; Virginia Brady, facilitator; Karen Goodman, hostess, Meet in the parlor
August 21	9:00 am	First Presbyterial. Meet at the church to leave by 7:45 am
August 22	12:45	Teacher Appreciation Lunch Newsletter Items Due
August 23	7:00 pm	Men's Study Group
August 29	11:00 am	Teacher Commitment Service
	7:00 pm	5th Sunday Sing—New Perth ARP Church
August 31	7:00 pm	Property/Maintenance Committee



“Do not forget your umbrella. I have to water the plants.”

God

Congratulations to..

*Matt and Andrea Wurzer
Who were united in marriage on
July 24, 2010*

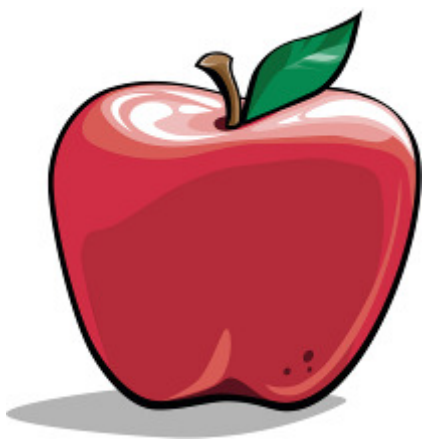


**Teachers
Appreciation Lunch**

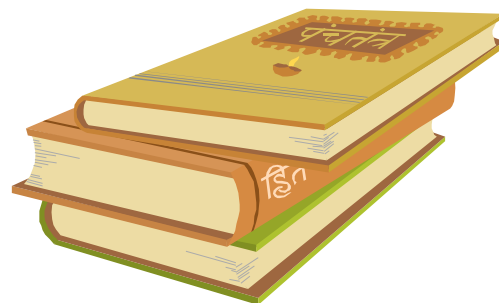
August 22, 2010

12:45pm

In the Fellowship Hall



**To all teachers and leaders..... a
call from your CE committee
representative will be coming to
you soon to see if you can at-
tend. Mark your calendar!!!!**



New Sterling Women's Ministry

Chrismons

The New Sterling Women's Ministry is making Chrismons to replace broken ones and have new ones to use on the Fellowship Hall Christmas tree as fillers after the Sunday School classes decorate the tree

If you would like to purchase one in honor or memory of someone the cost is \$20.00 each. Please contact Jane Mayhew if you are interested in purchasing one.



FELLOWSHIP HALL USE;

Anyone interested in using the Fellowship Hall for anything other than church activities, please sign up on the calendar in the church office, especially for family gatherings or other activities. Thank you.



Sympathy is expressed to the family and friends of Judy Cashion in the passing of her father, Willis Jones.

Our sympathy is also expressed to the family of Dot Dagenhart who passed away on July 24, 2010

Let's Keep in Touch!!



**AM Mauney, Brenton T
PSC 41 Box 1788
APO, AE 09464**



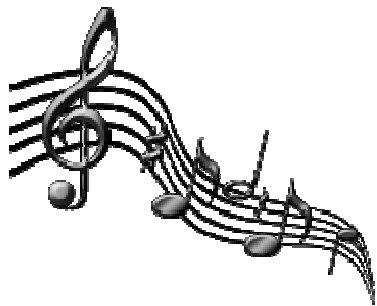
**ESN Clark, Andrea
510 East Washington Street
Lewisburg, West VA 24901**

**1SG Marvin Bennett
163rd ASMC, Joint Base
Balad,
APO, AE 09391**

**Robert Lewis Buchanan
PO Box 189
Polkton, NC 28135**

**Those attending college
away send us your
address to post in the
newsletter.....THANKS!!!!**

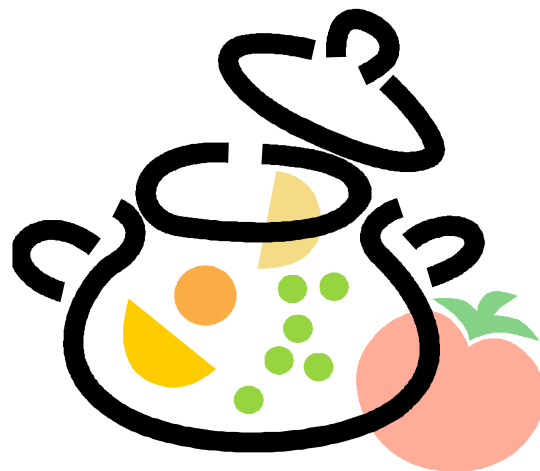
Attention!!!!!!!



**Sunday Family Nights
start back**

September 19 !!!!!!!

**Mark your
calendar and plan
to attend nights of
fellowship, food
and fun!!!!**



**Elders, Deacons,
Women's Ministry, Com-
mittees and Sunday
School classes start
planning your meal!!!!**

Comedy Corner



A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal: 'You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car.'

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, 'Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut.

The boy said, 'You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair...and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair.'

---- his father replied, *Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?*

TEACHER: Clyde , your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

CLYDE : No, sir. It's the same dog.

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

SIMON: No sir, I don't have to, my Mom is a good cook.





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- 8 Marilyn Teague**
- 10 Abbie Pope**
- 11 Kinslee Pope**
- 12 Jim Dagenhart**
- 18 Lucille Reese**
- 21 Amber Jarrett**
- 24 Florence Brookshire**
- 25 Lynn Jenkins**
- 26 Harriet Linderman**
- 27 James McClure**
- 30 Cienna Joyce**
- 30 Ava Jarrett**

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