



May 2009

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The Pastor Speaks

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Dear friends,

May is knocking at the door! Boy, have we been waiting for you! Come on in and stay awhile. After what seemed to me to be a long and cold winter, May finally arrives and wraps two warm arms around us. Card shops are busy placing Mother's Day cards in the display racks. Graduation invitations are now in the mail. It's May! Eighteen Mays ago I held Josiah and wondered what life would be like when he graduated from high school. I held him as a newborn in a hospital in Toledo, Ohio,

watched him go into the Mediapolis Elementary School for his first day of kindergarten, and will soon watch him graduate from Southeast Polk High School. The dreams are now faded memories and the reality of graduation is now front and center.

With LeAnn's help I have been putting together a video of Josiah's life. We have spent the past month looking through tear-filled eyes at old photo albums and videos. Time seems to have raced to this point, and it isn't giving any

indication of slowing down. I keep trying to hit the pause button, but it's not working. Looking at the pictures causes tears of thankfulness to cascade down my cheeks. I am thankful for God's gifts, presence and faithfulness over the years, and for the privilege and honor that three people in this world call me, "Dad."

Josiah is graduating, but "his" moment has caused me to reevaluate my own life. The images that portray his life are reminders that time has passed – Josiah has grown up.

PASTOR, P.2

In this issue



Get the latest Youth Group Information



Top Notchers Information



Read about all of the upcoming events and announcements

PASTOR, FROM P.1

**“Have I matured
in my faith? Is
my relationship
with Christ
growing deeper? “**

Each stage of his life captured in full color. But what about me? Have I grown over the years? Some of you are laughing at this point – to answer the question – Yes – physically, but more importantly, I want to know if I have grown in my spiritual life. Have I matured in my faith? Is my relationship with Christ growing deeper? Do I look forward to my alone time with God more than I did 18 years ago? Have I placed more of His Word in my heart?

The questions that all graduates answer a thousand times are, “What do you want to be?” “What are your plans?” These are questions about the future. They are questions that anticipate that growth and a level of maturity will take

place. Can you imagine if a high school graduate simply replied to the question about what they were going to do in the future with the statement, “Nothing, I am just going to keep doing.”

What about us as Christians? Does not the very idea of being a Christian imply that some type of growth is constantly taking place? Every child grows with parental expectations, and each child of God lives with spiritual growth expectations. God is referred to in the scriptures as our Father, a Father who longs to watch us grow into

mature Christians. It is part of our Christian DNA. We are supposed to grow in our faith. It is natural. If it wasn't, there wouldn't be any expectations. That's

why our current sermon series, *Maximizing Your Potential* is a reminder to me, and hopefully to all of us, that it is important to reflect on where we have been, where we are, and where we are going on our spiritual journey.

One day we will graduate, not from high school or college, but from this life. May the snapshots of our life reflect that we grew in our faith; that we were intentional about maturing as Christians. And may we hear Christ say to us, “Well done, thy good and faithful servant. Enter in!”

Growing with you,

Pastor John

Blanket Sunday



From something as simple as a blanket, amazing things can happen with your help. \$5.00 can purchase a blanket for warmth and protection to victims of disaster, seeds and tools to struggling farms and water and health to impoverished communities. For each \$5.00 donation the Missions Committee will hang a small blanket ornament on a display in the Narthex during the last two Sundays of May. Be generous. Envelopes will be provided at the Welcome Center or on the display table.

Top Notcher News

Mississippi Celebration Belle Cruise

The Top Notchers will cruise the Mississippi River on May 20th. Those who have made reservations should arrive at the church by 7:15 a.m. and park in the north parking lot. The motor coach will depart at 7:30 a.m. Rolls and juice will be served en route. You are welcome to bring your own coffee. We anticipate boarding the Celebration Belle by 10:30 a.m. for a fun-filled day! We have people from all over the area on this trip, which makes for a wonderful outreach ministry from our church. Presently all seats are taken. If you are still interested in cruising with us please contact Joan Nolin at 515-967-2773 to be placed on the waiting list. Sometimes last minute cancellations do occur.



Top Notchers Cruise
the Mississippi
Wednesday, May 20th

Who are the Top Notchers?


We are an active group comprised of 45-50 people who usually meet the second Tuesday of each month. We have guest speakers and entertainers, travel, and do service projects in the community. The group is open to all people in the community, ages 55 and over. New friends are always welcome. For further information, please call Joan Nolin, Director, 515-967-2773.

Other dates to remember:

- May 20th**-Celebration Belle "Big Band Cruise" on the Mississippi.
- June 9th**-Noon potluck in Family Life Center. "Butterflies in your backyard".
- July 16th**-Lunch in Pleasant Hill (place to be determined).
- August 11th**-Noon potluck/picnic at Dick & Sue Tomlin's and Duane Hunziker's homemade ice-cream.
- September 8th**-Sack lunch in Outdoor Fellowship Center. Guest Speaker from Habitat for Humanity.
- October 13th**-One-Day motor coach fall tour.
- November 10th**-Noon potluck in Family Life Center. "Iowa's Angel of Civil War".
- December 8th**-Christmas party in the church narthex at 1:30 pm. Finger foods and Christmas goodies to share along side the Top Notchers Talent Show.

Next Top Notcher Meeting:

June 9th
Noon Potluck in
the Family Life
Center



1-Melissa Hanson, Jaxson Millard	12-Marla Carr, Skip Conkling	21-Jennifer McElree, Norine Vleiger
2-Rod Losh	13-Carolyn McKeever	22-Cierra Hildebrand, Tyler Kruse, Kendrick Paul
3-Jane Burns, Virginia Silver	15-Ron Mutchler, Missy Kruse	23-Hannah Paul, Sydney Ruggless
4-Lexa Sandquist	16-Lori Anderson, Angel Downey	24-Bill Skoog, Nancy Fink, Kellie DeCamp
5-Joy Hesse, Ginger Prohaska, Ashley Gibson	17-Carrie Forristall	25-Joe Brinkman
7-Carolyn Mendenhall, Tricia Veldhuizen	18-Zachary Bennett, Stacey Lybarger	27-Joan Van Nordstrand, Don Gilson, Tanner Keuning
8-Rev.Dave Peterson	19-Addison Whipple	30-Connie Ruggless
9-Tanner Marvin	20-Jessica Brown, Bryan Clarkson	
10-Joyce Anderson		
11-Shelby Leinen		

1-Rich & Louise Hay	25-Casey & Emilie Hansen
4-Larry & Carolyn McKeever	26-Herbert & Helen Phillips
10-Rod & Norine Vlieger	28-Chris & Stacey Lybarger
15-Brad & Michelle Reichardt	29-Jerry & Marla Carr, Greg & Jean Hanson
20-Mike & Barb Cassler	



S U G U 0 9
SUMMER GAMES UNIVERSITY

SUMMER GAMES UNIVERSITY

HAS RELEASED THE DATES FOR THIS SUMMER'S CAMP. THEY ARE:

JULY 20-24TH

WE WILL AGAIN BE AT GRINNELL COLLEGE- UNBELIEVABLY GOOD FOOD! CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE AT:

WWW.SUMMERGAMESUNIVERISTY.ORG



WILDWOOD FOREST VBS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is coming!

Reserve the dates:
June 7-11, 2009
"Wildwood Forest"

Please pray for VBS now as we make decisions and continue to plan!

It is not too early to sign up to be on the Team!

Please contact Carrie Forristall

MAY 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<u>8:30 & 11:00 a.m.</u> Worship <u>9:45 a.m.</u> Sunday School <u>5:30 p.m.</u> Youth Group <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Bound4Him Concert		<u>6:30 p.m.</u> Trustees Meeting	<u>6:30 p.m.</u> Outreach/Nurture Meeting	<u>7:00 p.m.</u> United Methodist Women		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<u>8:30 & 11:00 a.m.</u> Worship <u>9:45 a.m.</u> Sunday School		<u>6:30 p.m.</u> Missions Meeting <u>7:00 p.m.</u> VBS Meeting	<u>6:30 p.m.</u> Finance Committee <u>8:05 p.m.</u> SPRC Meeting			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<u>8:30 & 11:00 a.m.</u> Worship <u>9:45 a.m.</u> Sunday School		<u>7:00 p.m.</u> Abigail Circle	<u>8:05 p.m.</u> Church Council	<u>9:30 a.m.</u> Martha Circle <u>1:30 p.m.</u> Searchers Circle		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<u>8:30 & 11:00 a.m.</u> Worship <u>9:45 a.m.</u> Sunday School	<u>Every Monday</u> <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Bell Choir Quilters	<u>Every Tuesday</u> <u>6:00 a.m.</u> Bible Study <u>5:30 p.m.</u> Weight Watchers	<u>Every Wednesday</u> <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir <u>8:00 p.m.</u> Praise Band			
31						
<u>8:30 & 11:00 a.m.</u> Worship <u>9:45 a.m.</u> Sunday School						