

WMU News

By Gail Josey, WMU Director

In the twelfth chapter of 1 Corinthians there is mention that in the church there are gifts of the Spirit and one of them is “those able to help others”. Our WMU exemplifies that gift in their projects. In the month of September, we—along with other congregation members—collected school supplies for students who need help paying for those items. We gave two loaded backpacks and three extra bags of supplies to each of two schools, namely Meadowview Middle School and Franklin Elementary School.

Our second project for the month was gathering items for six Sunshine Baskets to be given to special ladies or couples in the church. Included were small useful items, sometimes in the color yellow, to brighten the recipient’s day. Our ladies want to edify Christ by caring for others.

My Sunday School teacher encouraged us with the following quote: “Every day is a good day to do something good for someone else”.

Have a blessed day!
Gail Josey



WMU preparing Sunshine Baskets.

WMU collected school supplies.



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The Body of Christ

By Dr. Darrell Tate, Senior Pastor

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” 1 Cor. 12:27

The vehicle God uses to reach the world with the good news of the gospel is the New Testament Church. The word “church” is the Greek word “ekklesia,” which means “a called out assembly.” The Holy Spirit calls people out of darkness to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Those who respond to the drawing power of the Holy Spirit and accept Christ as Lord and Savior become part of the church, the called out assembly. God has commissioned and organized His church to make disciples of all nations.

When Paul wrote to the Ephesian believers, he likened the church to a body with Christ as the head. Likewise, Paul drew the same comparison in his letters to Corinth, Colossie and to the Romans, each time comparing the organization and function of the church to that of the body. Just as the body consists of several individual parts, each part functions in harmony with the whole body as directed by the head; so it is with the church. The Bible says, in I Corinthians 12:18, *“But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.”* God has organized the members of the church to function in various roles by utilizing the spiritual gifts He has made available to each one.

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Hello Highland Park Family,

Attendance for the month of September was as follows:

Date	This Year	Last Year
9/4	256	181
9/11	257	228
9/18	243	200
9/25	262	185
Total	1018	794

Our attendance increased by 28.2% this year. What a great blessing to have this great increase! Please continue to invite people to Sunday School to hear God's word.

God Bless You!
Dean

Security in the Midst of Fears

By Jim Richland, Associate Pastor

This month many people will be celebrating Halloween. You will likely see scary decorations and costumes in the stores as well as frightening movies and shows on T.V. Setting aside your personal beliefs and convictions regarding this holiday, I believe it provides an important concept to the forefront of our minds: fear.

We've all experienced being afraid at some point in our lives, and there's no shortage of things going on in the world today that cause people to worry or be afraid. This often happens because we are facing an unknown. We don't know what the diagnosis may be; we don't know what the economy will be like next year; we don't know which way to go on that big decision we're facing. These unknowns cause us to fear what could happen.

While these emotions are common, as Christians we're called to respond to our fears in an uncommon way: rest in Christ. It is our faith in Christ Jesus that allows us to face circumstances that strike fear into the hearts of unbelievers with peace and security. This is because we know that while we may not be in control or know what's coming next, our heavenly Father does. We can rest because He is a good Father Who is always working on behalf of His children.

Solomon, one of the wisest men to have ever lived and who's name means "peace" said this, "Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge." (Proverbs 14:26). What a wonderful truth! When we keep a proper perspective of God it not only gives us peace, but that peace overflows into the lives of those around us.

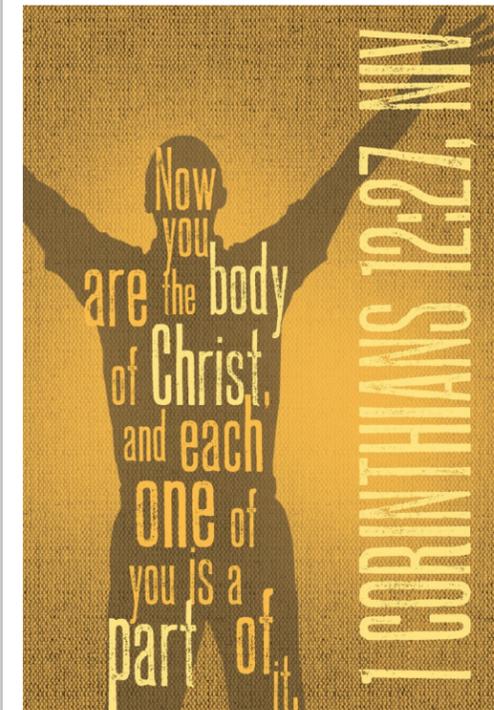
This month I hope you will remember that fear is common in this broken world we're in, but the supernatural peace of God in our lives stands out for all the world to see. I pray that you will rest in the peace God has for you and enjoy the beauty of this Fall season!

In Christ,
Pastor Jim

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 **Krista Cox**
Rick Marion
- 2 **Ken Cox**
Carson Hill
Lynn Whitaker
- 3 **Deanna Henderson**
Dianne Key Emlinger
- 4 **Dave Kimble**
Jan Whitaker
- 5 **Cody Cook**
Jaime Edwards
- 7 **Glenn Boyd**
Maria Irwin
Karen Pruitt
- 8 **Matt Bost**
- 9 **Kait Silva**
Declan Weddle
Donnie Wilson
- 10 **Jessica Cooper**
- 11 **Asher Bowers**
Mary Lynn Sawyers
Vicky Williams
- 13 **Sherry Moore**
Lakien Vernon
- 15 **Essie Burroughs**
Evie Jensen
- 16 **Blake Shupe**
- 17 **Allen Creed**
Haley Parsons Hobbs
- 18 **Grace Hopkins**
Brenda Miller
- 19 **Alexis Atkins**
Sam Boles
- 20 **Thomas Hill**
- 21 **Jackson Bost**
- 22 **Tinsley Burcham**
Sandra Collins
Phillip Hopkins
- 23 **Norma Hunter**
Julie Parsons
Jane Utt
- 24 **Audra Chilton**
Mack Collins
Ann Cruise
- 25 **Frank Brinkley**
Sally Galyean
Leannah Hudson (Love)
Tanner Joyce
Hazel Wilkins
- 26 **John Pfothauer**
Brian Tyndall
- 27 **Greg O'Neal**
Caiden Soots
- 29 **Bud Fussell**
Joshua Tate
- 30 **Daniel Tate**
Silas Vogler

That the church is the "body of Christ" is more than simply a figure of speech. The church is the chief means by which Christ works today; it is an extension of Him. Our physical body is composed of many members: hands, feet, arms, legs, ears, eyes, etc. It is the distinctiveness of each member that enables the body to function correctly. The metaphor of the church as a body enables one to see how God intended the church to function. Just as each part of the body specializes in certain areas, God's people are to use their spiritual gifts—their specialty—to advance the Kingdom of God. Bill Hull in his book, *The Disciple Making Church*, says, "Whatever helps a person become prepared to grow in Christ, learn his or her gifts,



and begin to make a difference is discipling." Therefore, the organization of God's people for effective action includes enabling the body to discover and employ their God-given spiritual gifts.

In the Old Testament, Israel was God's chosen people, and the Jews were the human vehicle God used to declare His truth. In the New Testament, the church is God's chosen people and the saints are the vehicle God uses to declare His truth. Therefore, the Moses model of equipping used to organize the Hebrews for ministry can be applied to the church as well. Church members engage in ministries related to their spiritual gift because they are passionate about fulfilling God's call on their life. Likewise, the church member understands the task at hand and works with freedom and creativity as a part of the whole body.

A.H. Maslow identified five basic needs that motivate people: 1) to stay alive, 2) to be safe, 3) to be with others, 4) to be respected, and 5) to do work that corresponds to one's gifts and abilities. Being part of the body of Christ speaks to each of the motivational factors listed by Maslow. Instead of each member existing as an individual, independent entity, the church is a bonded, unified body dependent upon each other and upon God, organized to disciple the world. The church does not exist as a bag of marbles, cold, hard and independent, but as a bag of grapes squeezed together, each becoming part of the other working to invite all men to become worshippers of God.

One anonymous writer says there are four main bones in every organization. **The Wish-bones:** wishing somebody would do something about the problem. **The Jaw-bones:** doing all the talking but very little else. **The Knuckle-bones:** those who knock everything. **The Back-bones:** those who carry the brunt of the load and do most of the work. The illustration of the church as the body of Christ organized, commissioned, and equipped to function as God's vehicle to communicate His truth, speaks to the idea of each believer belonging to a new spiritual family that has a greater bond than that of a natural or national family. Find your place in the body of Christ; teaching, serving, encouraging, music, etc., and experience the purpose for which you were created!

Blessings,
Pastor Darrell