

April Anniversaries:

*April 11th, 1952:
Don & Beverly Moody
Celebrating 65 years*

*April 12th, 1974:
Vicki & Chris Zimmerman
Celebrating 43 years*

*April 20th, 1957:
Bill & Rosella McQuain
Celebrating 60 years*

*April 29th, 1967:
Dale & Colleen Pollock
Celebrating 50 years*



Drs. Les and Cindy Morgan, Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Missionaries in Bangladesh, spoke about their ministry at the Duncan First Presbyterian church's family night dinner on Sunday, March 5. Dr. Les Morgan talked about geographical location, population growth, culture and the Presbyterian Church's affiliation with the Church of Bangladesh. Dr. Cindy Morgan discussed ministering to women and children, teaching nutrition and the nursing school needs. Asked about how the local church could help, they answered financial support, cards, letters and prayers and nursing student scholarships.

-Submitted by Sue Beall



STRESS

A lecturer, when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked, "How heavy is this glass of water?" Answers called out ranged from 20 to 500 grams. The lecturer replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it."

"If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

He continued, "And that's the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on." As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden."

"So, put the burden down. Don't carry it with you. You can pick it up tomorrow. Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment if you can." Relax; pick them up later after you've rested. Life is short. Enjoy it!

-Submitted by Jo Flanders

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And, of course, the same can be said for so many other things - no work, no sacrament, no church service can ever, in and of itself, save us from our sin or assure us of our salvation. Only Christ can save and the only assurance we have of our salvation is by being reminded of what He has done for us.

So, for Luther, the cross would come to play an increasingly vital role in his theology. For it is only through the cross, only by walking in the way of Christ, only through obedience to His path, can we ever expect to come to know the glory promised to us. Glory awaits all who cleave to Christ, but only when we follow Him all the way.

On the journey with you,
Mike



Youth Food Harvest

April 16th

20oz. Dish Soap and Toothbrushes Needed



Happy April Birthday!

Let's Pray Prayers of Joy for These People on Their Special Day!



Bill Dewey 04/03

Abby Green 04/08

Margo B. Jones 04/08

LaJuan Fleming 04/09

Charlie Coker 04/13

Rick Trent 04/20

Dan Flanders 04/21

Madison Caldwell 04/22

Cort Manaugh 04/30

If we missed your Birthday, please let us know.

A lunch honoring April Birthdays will be held at Jimmy's Egg at noon on Wednesday, April 19th. *Everyone is welcome.*

Please call or email your plans to attend to:

Eloise Hofman elbohof@cableone.net or 580-252-2476.

Presbyterian Women's
Birthday Luncheon
April 26th

Reservations Due April 9th \$5

Call the Church (580) 255-5769

or email fpcduncan@gmail.com

Carolyn Campbell's Program

BIRTHDAY LUNCH

The next birthday lunch will be held at Jimmy's Egg on April 19 at noon. Attendance at the birthday luncheons has declined. If you are in favor of continuing these luncheons please plan to join us in April.

-Submitted by Eloise Hofman

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They answer "Some say you are John the Baptist; others say Elijah, and still others, One of the prophets." Then Jesus asks them, "Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:28-29).

That is a good question and the

FPC Circle Members

will be studying this year. Circle Meets the second Thursday of each month at 1:30p.m. In the Fellowship Hall April 13th. Come Join Us in this Study!

Prayer Corner

Let us keep our family and friends in our prayers:

Kirsten Davis and Bentley Drake Davis, Kaitlin and Greyson Caldwell, The Robert E. Rice Family, Sue Beall, Patty Jennings, Cliffa Jean Belinski, Jean Ann Reed, Beverly Chalkboyer, Robin Glover & Emily Ritter

Let us remember those unable to attend worship service:

Janis Hruby, Colleen Winn, Jack Munn and Beverly Moody

We are Also in Prayer for:

Our Government and President, Our Pastor, Session, Diaconate & Drs. Leslie and Cindy Morgan, missionaries in Bangladesh



OFFICERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ELDERS

Class of 2017
Joan Drake
Mike Grantham

Class of 2018
Joanne Flanders
Bennie Drake

Class of 2019
Caron Hawkins
Vicki Zimmerman

DIACONATE

Class of 2017
Nancy Grantham
Mike Steil

Class of 2018
Margo Jones
Coy Elliot

Class of 2019
Glennis Wilson
Tim Burns

Treasurer –Bennie Drake

Asst. Treasurer –Mike Grantham



We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper on **April 2, 2017** during the worship service.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT FAW ENTRY IS

April 21, 2017



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Website: www.fpcduncan.com

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Treasurer
Bennie Drake 255-5769

Asst. Treasurer
Mike Grantham 255-5769

Secretary and Newsletter "Faith- At-Work"
Venessa Swanson 775-7468
email: fpcduncan@gmail.com



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Duncan, Oklahoma 73533-4646
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First Presbyterian Church
"FAITH - AT - WORK"

704 West Ash Avenue
Duncan, Oklahoma



Issue 4

April 2017

Dear Friends,

As we continue our year-long series of articles on the Reformation, I thought we might spend some time looking at the event - and, more specifically, the document - that set it in motion. When Martin Luther posted his famous 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg Castle, even he surely could not have imagined the result. Yet, for a work that literally changed the course of western history, Luther's 95 Theses has not been widely read by the average Protestant Christian. As one church historian remarks regarding Luther's Theses: "[it] is a text that everyone knows of, most refer to, but few actually read." My hope is that this article will pique your interest into reading this document for yourself, perhaps even for the first time.

Perhaps the first point to be made is that the *Ninety-Five Theses* was not written with the intention of setting off a rebellion that would split the church for generations to come. Luther notes in the opening lines that his work is a call for "discussion" about the direction of the church, particularly as it pertains to the doctrine of repentance and the then-prevalent practice of selling and buying indulgences (more on this in a minute). Nowhere in the 95 Theses is there even a hint that by 1517 Luther had come to deem to Roman Church as beyond reform. In fact, his Theses are precisely the evidence of the opposite: that Luther longed to see the church renewed by the gospel's teaching, particularly on this topic of salvation and how we can be assured of it.

On the other hand, there are already hints in these Theses of the fully formed Reformation theology that Luther would begin to develop over the course of the years preceding their publishing. For example, in theses 32 and 33, Luther argues that we are not saved or even assured of our salvation by indulgences. Indulgences, which the Church had begun issuing around the time of the Crusades, had become, by Luther's time, an item marketed to believers as a sure way of securing their forgiveness and being certain that their sins had been satisfied. For Luther, such a practice was not only misleading but spiritually dangerous because it was based on the false premise that it is the Church, which grants forgiveness rather than merely announcing it, and that it is our own activity, rather than Christ's by which our sins are covered and satisfied. In other words, indulgences, in Luther's view, came to replace the cross as both the means and the assurance of our salvation, allowing us to have the promise and assurance of glory without having to worry ourselves with the demands God continues to make upon the way we live our lives.

It was ultimately this burden that Luther's theology would seek to bear over the course of his career - what is true repentance and how can we be certain that our sins have been forgiven? While Luther was still in the bosom of Rome in 1517, already in his Theses, we can hear him making the clear argument that while a piece of paper might remind us of our salvation in Christ, it cannot in itself save us.

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