

PRAYER MEETING (Seven:14) EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT
7.14PM

BOYS' BRIGADE - Tuesdays Anchors 5.30pm Juniors 6.30.p.m at
Madeley Rest Room (Church Street).Contact Wayne Trumpeter
07824 618061

COFFEE MORNINGS

EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY 10.30am in church

MONDAY NIGHTS AS ANNOUNCED:

Come and Praise! 7.30pm in church. Everyone welcome

MBC

16-30th August 2009



www.madeleybaptist.org.uk

He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart (Ps 91)

Sunday 16th August:

10.30am: Communion led by Edwin

6.30pm: Evening Service, led by Edwin entitled: "Shouldn't Christians focus more on saving souls and leave creation care to God?" This will be the first of 3 services based on a BMS resource 'Future Shape - caring for God's creation' Climate change, over-consumption and threats to our planet are all emerging as serious issues for governments and activists. But do these issues have any serious connection with the Christian faith?

Sunday 23rd August: 10.30am Morning Service Led by Edwin

6.30pm: Led by Edwin Is creation care a 'jubilee mission'? Who is affected? Should we be more concerned about helping the poor than about extinction of frogs and polar bears?

Sunday 30th August:

10.30am - Morning service led by the Diaconate

6.30pm - Evening Service led by the Diaconate

Wendy Kempson is planning to celebrate her 50th birthday with her church family on Saturday 12th September. Times and details will follow in the first news letter for September - if not before!!

Sunday 6th September at 10.30am - we will be welcoming Rev'd Ray Gill to our morning service.

I said: "God, I hurt" - and God said: "Yes, I know"

I said "I cry a lot" - and God said: "That's why I gave you tears"

I said: "But my loved one died!" - and God said: "So did mine"

I said: "It's such a great loss!" - and God said: "I saw mine nailed to the cross"

I said: "But your loved one lives!" - and God said: "So does yours!"

I said: "Where are they now?" - and God said: "My Son is by my side, and your loved one is in my arms - and I'm right here beside you child - and under the shadow on my wings you will be safe - I shall walk with you always"

POETS CORNER

Let Go and Let God

As Children Bring Their Broken Toys
With Tears For Us To Mend

I Brought My Broken Dreams To God,
Because He Is My Friend

But Then Instead Of Leaving Him
In Peace To Work Alone,

I Hung Around And Tried To Help,
With Ways That Were My Own

At Last, I Snatched Them Back Again
And Cried, "How Can You Be So
Slow?"

"My Child" He Said,
"What Could I Do?
You Never Did Let Go!"

Author Unknown

Madeley Baptist Church, High St, Madeley, TELFORD, Shropshire TF75AH
Tel: 01952588111 E-mail: church@madeleybaptist.org.uk
Website: www.madeleybaptist.org.uk
Minister: Rev'd Keith Osmund-Smith.
Study: 595942, Mob 07891 603644 osmunds@aol.com
Elders: Edwin Green: 277867, Edwin@ewgreen.org.uk
Paul Booth: 630113, pandm.glendale@btinternet.com
Deacons: Meena Ledger: 223820 george.meena@tiscali.co.uk
David Kempson: 414395 daykempson1@blueyonder.co.uk
Marjorie Booth: 630113 pandm.glendale@btinternet.com
Steve Rawlings: 881106 satarawlings@btopenworld.com
June Hill: 407587 junetony.hill@blueyonder.co.uk
Treasurer: Alan Jacob: 587635 alacobb@skv.com
Secretary: Jacque Osmund-Smith: 594332 josmundsmith@aol.com
Editor: Bette Higgs: 245443 grabett@blueyonder.co.uk 07936 709481 (Mob)
Co-Editor: Jennie Horrocks: jenniehorrocks@btinternet.com, 07722 894320 (Mob)
Lisa Rawlings - Church Coordinator: lrawlings@btinternet.com or info.coalportstation.com
Check out our website for lots more info and the Minister's blogspot.

'From "The Pastor's Pen" (aka Keith!)

ARE YOU LEAVES OR FRUIT?

Once, near the end of his ministry Jesus spent the entire night in prayer, and in the morning returned to the temple. "On the way he passed a fig tree. He was hungry, And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find anything thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves . . ." (see Mark 11:13).

It was really not the season for ripe figs; but in this orchard, one tree was already covered with leaves. It is the nature of the fig tree that before the leaves open, the growing fruit appears. Therefore, this tree, in full leaf, gave promise of well-developed fruit, but its appearance was deceptive.

In short, it was a hypocrite! Upon searching its branches, Jesus found "nothing but leaves . . ." (Mark 11:14). It looked so good, but it promised what it didn't deliver!

Everybody has an obligation to discover their abilities, and to develop and use these abilities to contribute to life. It's especially important to notice that we're to use our own unique gifts. We're expected to do what we were meant to do. We're not expected to do what others were meant to do. Jesus didn't expect that tree to produce apples or berries or pears. No, it was a fig tree. It was supposed to produce figs. We must find out what we were made to do.



Aesop tells of a group of animals who excelled in their abilities. These animals decided to start a school to share what they knew. An eagle was being trained to climb a tree like the squirrel. The squirrel was being trained to fly, and the duck was being trained to run. Regardless of their efforts in training, they all failed miserably. How much better it would have been to let the eagle fly, the squirrel climb, and the duck swim!

Some of us are just like that. We try to copy church leaders or important people, but we need to be who we are and do what we can do best. We won't be punished for failing to do what others do, but we will be punished for not doing what we can do. Being a parasite is immoral. Paul said, "If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Tim. 5:8).

We're parasites when we don't take advantage of opportunities and when we waste resources. There was once a man who longed to have a flower garden. Each year he would visit his neighbour, who had the most beautiful garden he had ever seen, and she would give him cuttings and seeds for his own garden. But when he returned home, he would hesitate saying, "But my neighbour's garden is so much lovelier than anything I could hope to grow; and she knows so much more about gardening, I could never grow a garden half so lovely as that. Why should I even try?"

One day, his neighbour stopped by his home and saw that not a single flower was growing anywhere around his house. "I've provided you with so much," she said, "and yet you have done nothing at all with what I have given you!" And so it is with each of us. The Lord gives us so much. We all have special talents and abilities and He expects us to develop them. In productivity we are partners with God. Paul said, "We are God's fellow workers . . ." (1 Cor. 3:9)

"The proof is in the pudding." "Talk is cheap." Leaves don't cut it. The fruit is what counts. So, does your tree have figs? Are you a productive person? Being responsible and contributing over the long term requires patience and persistence. Paul said, "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary" (Gal. 6:9).

Martin Luther King said, "We are challenged on every hand to work . . . to achieve excellence . . . (But) not all . . . are called to . . . professional jobs; even fewer rise to the heights of genius in the arts and sciences; many are called to be labourers in factories, fields and streets. But no work is insignificant. All labour that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance, and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.

If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote . . . He should sweep streets so well that . . . the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, "Here lived a great street sweeper . . ." And the Lord will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things . . ." (Matt. 25:21).

What's really important? One hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove or what kind of house I lived in, or how much I had in my bank account. It won't matter how many honours I've received or how many hats I have worn or what my clothes looked like! This is a startling reality. Ask yourself, "What am I doing right now that will matter in one hundred years?"

Jesus said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:19-21).

We've all heard this Scripture, but do we ever consider exactly what these treasures are? Paul explains a Christian's priorities to Timothy, "Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share" (1 Tim. 6:17-18).

According to this explanation, joy comes from being productive, from being kind, from doing good deeds, from being generous and sharing our truth.

These are the fruits that last!

First Pause for Thought contributed by Steve Higgins

'Light up your world'

Read: Ephesians 5:8-14 and Matthew 5:14

My daughter Julie and her friend Jenni were driving one evening from their college to a nearby town. Along the way, they passed through a community that had an eerie darkness to it, because of heavy flooding. It was strange – almost frightening to drive through that blacked out community. As they left the town behind, they noticed a light up ahead. It shone like a beacon. And when they reached it, they were pleasantly surprised to find that the only light in the darkness was a church. A House of Worship was lighting up their world.

This is exactly how people should see us – as Christians – a bright and inviting light in this world darkened by sin. Jesus brought us out of the darkness, and he said that we, as his followers are “the light of the world” (Matt 5.14) and now we are to ‘walk as children of light’ (Eph 5.8). It’s a huge challenge that should make us think seriously about how we live. Ask yourself “Am I light in anyone’s life? Are my life and words guiding people out of the darkness and into the light of Jesus?” It’s dark in the world – and we have the light. Are we lighting the way? *“Lord – let me be a shining light in all I say and do – may your great love be seen in me and lead someone to you”* Your life will either shed light, or cast shadow.



When a gift is not recognised.....

A young man was getting ready to graduate college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer’s showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was all he wanted. As Graduation Day approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car. Finally, on the morning of his graduation his father called him into his private study. His father told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and told him how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautiful wrapped gift box.

Curious, but somewhat disappointed the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible. Angrily, he raised his voice at his father and said, “With all your money you give me a Bible?” and stormed out of the house, leaving the holy book.

Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and wonderful family, but realized his father was very old, and thought perhaps he should go to him. He had not seen him since that graduation day. Before he could make arrangements, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away, and willed all of his possessions to his son. He needed to come home immediately and take care of things. When he arrived at his father’s house, so much sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search his father’s important papers and saw the still new Bible, just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. As he read, a car key dropped from an envelope taped behind the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer’s name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had so desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words... ‘PAID IN FULL’.

How many times do we miss God’s blessings because they are not packaged as we expected?

I received this via email on my birthday morning and thought I could share it with my friends at Madeley! (Bette)

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck.

One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water..

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments.

But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream.

‘I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house.’

The old woman smiled, ‘Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot’s side? That’s because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.’

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it’s the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding.

You’ve just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

SO, to all of my crackpot friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path!

Note from Bette – should we perhaps be all ‘cracked pots’ with the Joy of Jesus leaking from our sides and ‘watering’ everyone we meet!



**COVENANT SUNDAY –
Walking together, watching over each other**

10.30.a.m. Sunday 20th September 2009

By now most people who come here to Madeley baptist Church know that the Covenant Service on the above date here at Aeon Chapel is reckoned to be one of the most important services of the year.

For several months now we have been asked to keep this date clear of all other commitments - of whatever kind - so that on this one day of the year all of us can be together both in the service, including Communion, and in a shared lunch afterwards.

The prophet Jeremiah describes being in covenant as “writing God’s ways on our hearts” but notwithstanding that you may still be wondering why this service is so important. So I have reproduced below an account from our Service Book, ‘Gathering for Worship’ which goes some way to explaining it.

‘At the time of the Reformation, stress was laid upon the church being the community of the new covenant. Confident in the unconditional gracious gift of God’s covenant in Christ, Baptists along with other radical separatists nevertheless believed themselves called to make covenant with God as an act of obedience. Alongside this ‘vertical dimension’ of covenant, between God and his people, early Baptists also found a horizontal dimension. Often under the pressure of persecution, members of a local church made a covenant between themselves in which they promised ‘to walk with each other and watch over each other’.

Baptist understanding of church is deeply rooted in the belief that God makes covenant with each congregation. The local church lives its life under the rule of Christ, who is the covenant mediator. God takes the initiative in covenant making – believers are gathered together by Christ and have their being in Christ.

Being bound together in communion by the work of the Holy Spirit has radical implications for our commitment to each other and for the nature of our sharing today. Covenanting together is an opportunity for worshippers to express commitment to God and to express their commitment and care for each other through fellowship.

We are therefore invited, as an act of obedience, to acknowledge God’s gift of covenant life by responding in generous costly love for one another and for his world. So, if you have not already marked this day in your diary – please do so now.

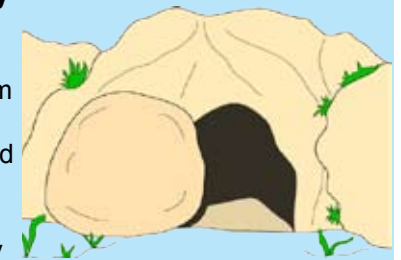
Keith

This second pause for thought has been contributed by Steve Higgins – thank you very much Steve – 2 pauses for thought, indeed.

‘The Tomb is Empty’

‘I am the Resurrection and the Life’

Nine year old Philip had Down’s Syndrome. In Sunday school, the other children made fun of him because he was different. On the Sunday before Easter, the teacher gave each child a plastic egg and asked them to look for symbols of new life such as seeds and leaves and then place them inside the egg. The idea was to open their eggs on Easter Day and discuss what they had found.



The children gathered flowers, butterflies, and rocks. But when the teacher opened Philip’s egg, it was empty – one child said: “That’s not fair! He didn’t do it right!” Philip tugged the teacher’s sleeve and said: “I did do it right – it’s empty, because the tomb is empty. That’s why we have new life”. The class gasped and from then on, he became part of the group.

Philip’s family knew his time would be short; too many problems for one small body. That summer, he died. As the class of eight year olds faced the reality, they marched up to the altar – but not with flowers. Together with their teacher, they each placed an empty plastic egg on their friend’s tiny casket.

Jesus said: *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me though he may die, he shall live”.*

Max Lucado says; “The cross is rich with God’s gifts....As you feel the timber.....trace the braid of the crown...Finger the point of the spike.....Pause and listen. Perchance, you’ll hear him whisper: “I did it just for you”. So, are you willing to live for him?”

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE DISAPPEARED

The International Day of the Disappeared on 30th August is a United Nations recognised annual commemoration day for individuals who have gone missing in armed conflicts or other situations of violence and whose fate is unresolved.

A reminder that hundreds of thousands of families across the world and around the corner are still unaware of the fate of loved ones. You might consider commemorating this day in your church services. The British Red Cross have more information and some simple suggestions as to how this can be done (such as an empty chair in the sanctuary which can be used as a focus for prayer). For more information and some simple ideas please contact Penny Thompson at the British Red Cross on 01905 450400 or E-mail: PennyThompson@redcross.org.uk.