



Newsletter Presbyterian Disciples Church September 2017



Church Chat-“Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience-Four Ways to Know God” John Swisher, Pulpit Supply Pastor

First of all, let me give you all a little preview of next month's article. I want to talk about the importance of the Protestant Reformation, since it will be celebrating its 500th anniversary on Halloween, otherwise known as Reformation Day. For it is 500 years since Martin Luther nailed his 99 Theses (arguments) to the door of a church in Wittenburg, Germany, as of October 31, 1517, calling for reform of unchurchly church practices. That changed the protestant church, and also brought on the Catholic Reformation. But if all this did was change the theology of the churches and arguments which arose following that event, it might not be reason enough to share it in an article for our local church-goers. But that wasn't all it changed, for in many ways, the Protestant Reformation and the Protestant Principle (the idea that the faith is subject to the interpretation of laypeople, and not just clergy or bishops) laid the foundations for the Enlightenment, the rise of scientific inquiry and critical thinking. But more of that next month.

So, what about this month? Since we're heading into another school year, I'd like to focus on knowledge, particularly how we know things. This is the classical study of epistemology in religion and philosophy, the study of how we know what we know. For scientific minds, in the empiricism school of philosophy, this has meant the use of our senses, confirmed by the senses of others, to get agreement on what is being observed. But for areas not so easily discerned through the use of our senses, how do we know what we know about God, or about what is truly the color red, or about who we are, where we came from, or what has ultimate meaning for us?

This is particularly of interest to religious communities, and particularly of interest to religious communities who follow a particular religious text like the Bible, the Qur'an, etc. I found this of interest in a conversation I had with one of our Volunteers at the prison where I also work. I was asking him about his AA work recently. He asked if I thought God was a drug. I said Marx had declared religion to be the “opiate of the masses” at one point, but I thought drugs and God could get confused by people seeking help. I said I thought that Augustine’s declaration “Our hearts are restless, until they find their rest in Thee” was reflecting the true satisfaction that God could give us, as opposed to temporary highs (and lows) of drug use. He said he thought of God as the only true drug, the only source of true serenity and well-being, and I said I thought I understood what he meant. He went on to say if God was the only true drug, our job in prison and other ministry was to give people the tools to find God, especially in the scripture. I asked if he'd ever heard of Wesley's Quadrilateral, the four ways of knowing God, first through Scripture, then Tradition, then Reason, and finally through Experience.

The following is a quote from the Asbury Commentary in an internet article about Wesley usually credited with the start of Methodism; “Wesley considered Scripture primary, but he recognized that other factors played *complementary* roles in matters of faith and practice. In particular, Wesley referred to *tradition, reason, and experience* as inextricably bound up with Scripture in our understanding of true Christianity.

Some may question whether tradition, reason, and experience represent genuine sources of religious authority. But for Wesley, with his Anglican background, there was no question about including tradition and reason. To these he added experience as complementary to the primary authority of Scripture, particularly in confirming, illuminating, and applying the truths of Scripture. Wesley did not intend to be innovative; he intended only to make explicit that which had always occurred in theology. Yet his inclusion of experience represents a unique contribution to the development of theological method in church history.”

Suffice to say, we know lots of ways to know lots of things, but perhaps the biggest contributions of modernity to our knowing things is to broaden the ways to know things, including our own experiences.



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Thank you to all the Youth that came and sang Vacation Bible School songs for our congregation. You all did a wonderful job and everyone enjoyed watching you.



Upcoming Community Events

Old Homes Tour 2017
09-09-2017 to 09-10-2017
Location: Historic Lexington

Patriot Walk
09-11-2017
Location: Downtown Lexington
Ceremony at War Memorial
NOON

Back to School Sock Hop
9-15-2017
The LEX
7-10pm

Civil War Ball
09-16-2017
Location: Linwood Lawn
6-10:00pm Costumed event includes dancing, food and libations

Apples, Arts & Antiques Apple Auction
09-21-2017
Location: The LEX
Bid on award winning apples and enjoy homemade chili and apple desserts.

Apples, Arts & Antiques Festival
09-23-2017
Location: Downtown Lexington

Kelly Miller Circus
10-15-2017
Location: The Bus Lot
Two shows 2:00pm and 5:00pm

Historic Preservation Day
10-21-2017

Haunted Cemetery Tour
10-28-2017
Location: Machpelah Cemetery
2-4:00pm and 7-9:00 pm

Halloween Boo Bash
10-28-2017
The Lex

The Leslie Bell Elementary School will hold their Fourth Annual FUNd Run Fundraiser on Friday, September 22nd. The students will raise money and will then participate in eight to ten different fun activities.



Peacemaking Offering is usually held on World Communion Sunday but since we will be worshiping with the Second Baptist Church that day, we will take the Peacemaking offering on Sunday October 15th.



Sunday, October 1st we have invited Rev. Everett Hannon and the congregants of the Second Baptist Church to worship and fellowship with us. Please bring a dish or two to share with our Christian friends and family. Make sure you come to church and bring a friend so we can fill the pews. Please let the office know if you have any questions regarding this service.



If you are interested in some volunteer work, but don't know where to turn, you don't have to look far because we have lots of opportunities right here in our building. The Food Pantry is always looking for volunteers, especially to help them on Fridays. The food pantry has lots of programs and does some wonderful work for our community and it would be great to be more of a part of that. See Jan Wright if you are interested in volunteering at the Food Pantry.



Also, the Discovery Room Preschool uses volunteers as Granies, if anyone is interested in committing to 3 hours a day, two days a week, we could use your help. Please see Candy if you have any questions or want additional information.



International Day of Peace is Wednesday, September 21st.



Please remember to sign up for Worship duties for the months of September & October. It takes everyone working together to make service run smoothly. We hope that in between vacations and weekends away, you join us at worship and share your talents with your church and church family.

Lectionary Readings for September:

- 03 — Exodus; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Philippians 1:-21; Luke 14:25-33
- 10 – Exodus; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10
- 17 – Exodus; Psalm 79:1-9; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13
- 24 — Philippians ; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31



Board will meet after worship on Sunday, September 10th.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 – Jonna Spencer, Brittney Bayne
- 02 – Nicholas Shovald
- 03 – Randy Bryant, Kristy Evans, Ryan Waddell
- 06 – Townsend Saults
- 10 – Shae Wrisinger
- 11 – Kenneth Spencer
- 12 – Andy Morgan
- 14 – Robert Braden
- 19 – Tyne Morgan
- 25 – Sheri Jo Hager
- 26 – Scott Spencer
- 29 – Austin Chapman



Our Servicemen:
 Bobby Maze, Bo Maze, Derek Morgan, Eric Morgan, MJ Myers, Mark Brubeck, Aaron Bryant, Ryland Sims, Johnathan Lefholz, Brittany & Jimmy Register, Shily Peck

Please Pray for The Families of Those that Have Passed:
 Hayden Morgan, Clyde Ritchie, Pat Fisher, Robert Joe Butler, Alex Ayers, Michael J. Myers, Lucille Scott, Ed Schumacher, Melanie Corporon, TJ Combs, Larry Huffman, Jr., James Huffman, Charles Rockhold,

Discovery Room Preschool will begin classes on Tuesday, September 5th. There are 23 children enrolled. Class days are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11:30am for all the children and Wednesdays from 9am-1pm for the older children.



We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers

Please Keep These Individuals in Your Prayers:
 Mary Williams Doris Bradley, Anne Brubeck, Linda & John Marchetti, Bob Smith, Chris & Stephanie Christenson, Steve Sellers, Bill & LaVeda Cross, Roy Marchetti, Lela Bryant, Lois Coulter, Bev Waddell, Clyde Charles, Jan Wright, Cassius Cole & Family, Katie Thorp, Sharon Welch, Emilie Smith, Steve Harlow, Hurricane Victims, Fire Victims, Earthquake Victims

Confirmation Class will begin Sunday, September 17th following worship class. After this, all additional classes will be the First Sunday of the month. Please contact Pastor Swisher or the office for further information.

Discovery Room Preschool will participate in the Scarecrow Contest during the Apples, Arts, and Antiques Festival. Our scarecrow will be hung on a light pole on Main Street. Voting can be done at Dave's Country Mart and each vote costs one quarter.

We will also participate in our annual Avon Fundraiser to raise money for our preschool activities and supplies. Please see Candy Myers or any preschooler to help with the Fundraiser.



The Freedom Walk in honor of Patriot Day will be held Monday, September 11th at 11:55am. Line up for the walk will be at Bank Midwest, to conclude at the Veterans Memorial at 12:00 where a short ceremony will be conducted.



Lexington Homecoming is the week of September 18th with the parade going through town on Friday, September 22nd beginning at 11:30am and the football game that night.



Apples, Arts, and Antiques Festival will be held Saturday, September 23rd with the Apple auction being held on the 21st. They will once again have a scarecrow contest so get your imaginations out and join in the fun by making your own scarecrow to be exhibited up town. See Penny Grosso with the Chamber of Commerce for additional information.



To keep connected with the Northwest Area Disciples of Christ, please contact Rev. Bill Rose-Heim at br_h@nwareacc.org or (816) 632-2237.

The Wellington Community Fair will be held September 24th-October 1st with lots of fun activities for all ages.

To keep up to date on current events and to see what visitors are seeing when they check out our town on the internet, go to the following websites:
www.lexingtonmo.com
www.historiclexington.com
www.visitlexingtonmo.com
www.lafayettecountymmo.com

+Christian Symbol+

Deer

The deer symbolizes safety in God's care, as seen in David's praise of God for delivery from enemies: "[The Lord] makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he causes me to stand on the heights" (2 Samuel 22:34; Psalm 18:33, NIV). The deer also represents faithfulness and eager devotion: "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God" (Psalm 42:1, NIV).



Be Yourself in God

Rabbi Joseph Liebermann describes a dream where he dies and goes to stand before God's judgment seat. As he waits, the rabbi fears that the Lord will ask him, "Why weren't you a Moses ... or a David ... or a Solomon?" Instead, God surprises him by simply asking, "Why weren't you Rabbi Liebermann?"

When our lives are over, God won't ask us why we weren't a Mother Teresa or another saintly soul. He simply wants us to be who he created us to be.

"We are his workmanship," St. Paul writes in Ephesians 2:10. In Greek, workmanship means "a piece of art." You are God's masterpiece. Life isn't a game of comparison. It's a journey of discovery of how God has uniquely created you to perform specific tasks in this life.

Your life is God's canvas. Don't hinder the painting process!
—Mike Paulison

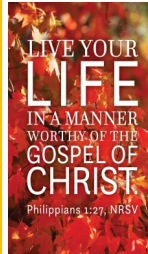
Beatitude in Action

After a renowned career in academia, priest and author Henri Nouwen devoted his final years to living in community with and caring for adults with severe developmental disabilities. A friend once asked Nouwen if it might make more sense to spend his remaining time writing.

"I am not giving up anything," Nouwen answered. "It is I, not Adam [the man he helped with the most basic needs], who gets the main benefit from our friendship."

Nouwen didn't merely read Jesus' beatitude "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy" (Matthew 5:7). He lived it.

—Based on I Am in Here by Elizabeth Bonker and Virginia Breen



Slow But Steady

There is progress in a Christian's life when he may not seem to be going ahead — like a canal boat in a lock, when it stands still but is rising all the time.

—D.L. Moody

A Taste of Heaven

When an admirer asked renowned pianist Vladimir Horowitz how he could play so beautifully, he's said to have replied that anyone could play the notes, but the true music lay in the pauses between them. The same can be said of life.

Rabbi Evan Moffic (Shalom for the Heart) writes, "It is in the pauses — the rests, the spaces in between — that meaning is made and that holiness is felt." Nowadays we keep so busy there's hardly a pause or space in our day.

"But that's not the way God created us [or] the world," Moffic continues. "God worked, then rested. God created, then paused. ... Thus, our Sabbath is the day when we can marvel at the beauty of the world God created. It is the day we enjoy what the ancient sages called 'a taste of heaven.' It is a day when we stop thinking about the what of life and remind ourselves of the why of life."



God's Left Hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."

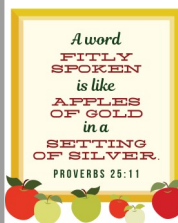


Names that Bear Witness

Nigerian couple Sam and Mary Ayeni gave their three girls names that reflect God's wondrous ways. The firstborn is named Marvelous to declare that God blessed the couple with a daughter as well as a much-needed job.

Next to arrive were conjoined twins Miracle and Testimony. "When I first saw them the way they were, I said it is a miracle that they are alive," recounts their mother. "When God did that miracle, I would surely give testimony." Indeed, God continued to work wonders.

The family was flown to Tennessee, where the twins were successfully separated just shy of their first birthday. Local groups, churches and countless individuals have supported the family with material goods, living space, groceries, friendship and prayer. As of this writing, the girls are making strong progress. One is nearly walking, and the other talks nonstop. Her favorite words, learned from big sister Marvelous, are "Amen!" and "Hallelujah!"



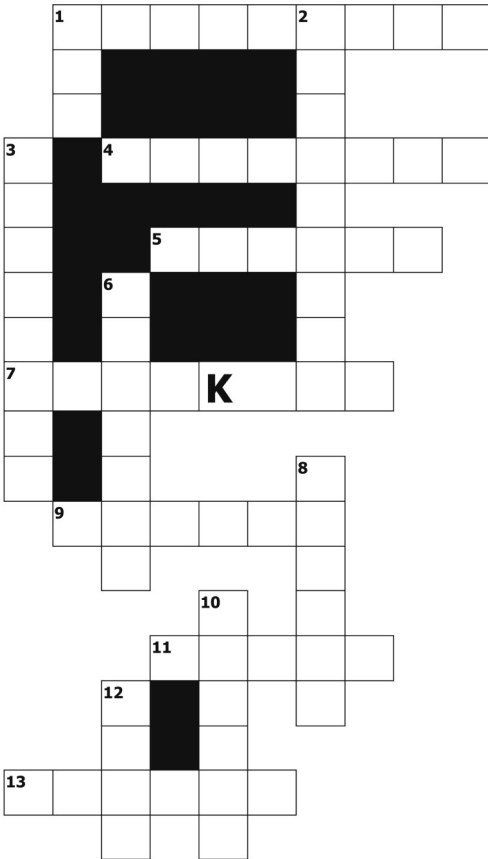
Why God Watches

An English bishop recalled a childhood visit to an elderly woman, who showed him a framed text that read "Thou God seest me."

The woman told him, "When you're older, people will tell you that God is always watching you to see when you do wrong, in order to punish you. I don't want you to think of it that way. Instead, take the text home and remember all your life that God loves you so much he can't take his eyes off you."

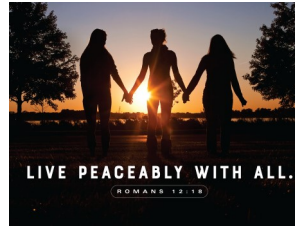
Puzzle!

Use the clues to complete this crossword about women in the Bible.



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. (across) Cousin of Mary (Luke 1:36) | 7. Mother of Esau (Genesis 25:21, 25) |
| 1. (down) Mother of Abel (Genesis 4:1-2) | 8. The wife Jacob loved (Genesis 29:20) |
| 2. Mother of Solomon (2 Samuel 12:24) | 9. Sister of Mary (John 11:1) |
| 3. Moses' wife (Exodus 2:21) | 10. Sewed clothes (Acts 9:39) |
| 4. Lied about her giving to the church (Acts 5:1) | 11. Hosea's wife (Hosea 1:3) |
| 5. Saved her people from destruction in Persia (also a Bible book name) | 12. Sat at Jesus' feet in conversation (Luke 10:39) |
| 6. A judge in Israel (Judges 4) | 13. Sister of Moses and Aaron (Exodus 15:20) |

Answers: 1. (across) Elizabeth, 1. (down) Eve, 2. Bathsheba, 3. Zipporah, 4. Sapphira, 5. Esther, 6. Deborah, 7. Rebekah, 8. Rachel, 9. Martha, 10. Dorcas, 11. Gomer, 12. Mary, 13. Miriam



A Sign of What's To Come
When God is about to do something great, he starts with a difficulty.

When he is about to do something truly magnificent, he starts with an impossibility.
—Armin Gesswein



The Providence of God
The seed was sown long months ago,
And through the winter's cold and snow,
We trusted that God's care would bring
The green and tender blade in spring,
Which cherished by the sun and rain
Of summer, now has yielded grain
In autumn, when the reaper leaves
His cot to cut and bind the sheaves ...

So God's great mercies thus abound;
His love still brings the seasons round;
His blessings fill our happy fields,
And all our land its increase yields:
So if we serve him as we should,
Our Lord will give us all things good;
And he who doth the ravens feed
Much more will give us all we need!
—Author unknown



In Balance
Knowing God without knowing our wretchedness leads to pride. Knowing our wretchedness without knowing God leads to despair. Knowing Christ gives the balance.
—Blaise Pascal

Four Perspectives
Because different writers penned each Gospel, the four books offer unique angles and insights. Although the overall message is the same, the human authors' backgrounds and perspectives shine through every account.

These verses by an unknown writer remind us of each Gospel's characteristics:

Matthew — Messiah, Israel's King, sets forth, by Israel slain;
but God decreed that Israel's loss should be the Gentiles' gain.

Mark tells us how in patient love this earth has once been trod by One Who, in a Servant's form, was yet the Son of God.

Luke, the physician, writes of a more skilled Physician still
Who gave himself, as Son of Man, to save us from all ill.

John, the beloved of Jesus, sees in him the Father's Son, the everlasting Word made flesh, yet with the Father One.



“God’s World”
O world, I cannot hold thee close enough!
Thy winds, thy wide grey skies!
Thy mists, that roll and rise!
Thy woods, this autumn day, that ache and sag
And all but cry with color! That gaunt crag
To crush! To lift the lean of that black bluff!
World, World, I cannot get thee close enough!
—Edna St. Vincent Millay





APPLE OF HIS EYE

Start each school day by remembering God's loving care for you.

Directions: Starting at the K by the stem and going clockwise, circle each word. Then place the words in the blanks to complete Psalm 17:8.



" _____
 _____;

 _____."

PSALM 17:8, NIV

Answer: "Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings." Psalm 17:8, NIV

APPLE SNACKS



These healthy chips make a yummy back-to-school snack.

What you need:

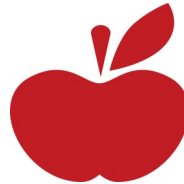
- 4 apples, cored and cut into 1/8" rings
- Large bowl
- Spoon
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- Baking sheets (sprayed)

What you do:

1. Place apple slices in the bowl. Add cinnamon and sugar. Stir so apples are coated evenly with the mixture.
2. Place apple slices on the sprayed baking sheets in a single layer.
3. Bake at 200 degrees for two to three hours, until chips are dry but still slightly soft.



"Charlotte is always willing to substitute on very short notice."

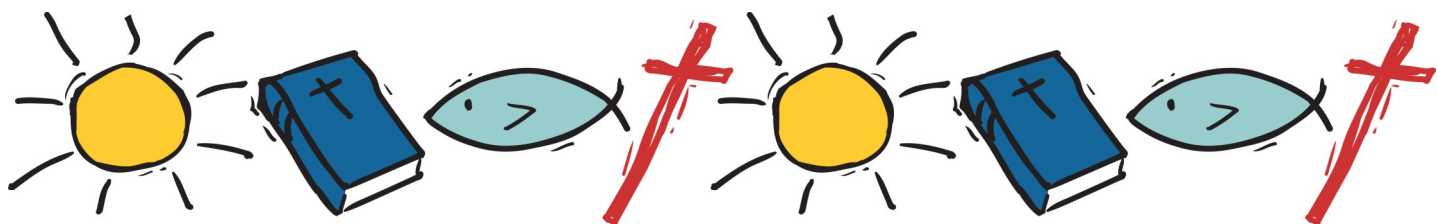


Bible Quiz

In memorable language in Revelation, God tells the church in Laodicea, "I am about to spit you out of my mouth," because it is metaphorically _____ (fill in the blank).

- A. too hot
- B. too cold
- C. tasteless
- D. lukewarm

Answer: See Revelation 3:16



September 2017

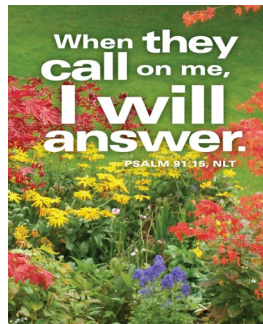
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1 9-11 Food Pantry	2
3	4 Labor Day	5 Discovery Room Pre- school Starts	6	7	8 9-11 Food Pantry	9 Old Homes Tour
10 Board Mtg Old Homes Tour	11 9am Food Drop	12 6:30pm Ministe- rial Alliance Mtg	13	14	15 1-3 Food Pantry	16 2-4 Fellowship Hall Reserved
17 12pm Confir- mation Class Begins	18	19	20	21	22 9-11 Food Pantry LHS Home- coming Parade	23 Apples, Arts & Antiques Festival
24	25	26	27	28	29 9-11 Food Pantry	30 Youth Activity



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Rev. John Swisher

Worship Service 10:45am - 12:00pm
Childrens Church 11:00am-12:00pm
All Are Welcome



Minister- Rev. John Swisher
Organist-
Secretary- Candy Myers
Treasurer-John Morgan
Custodian- MJ Myers
Children's Church-Brittney Bayne