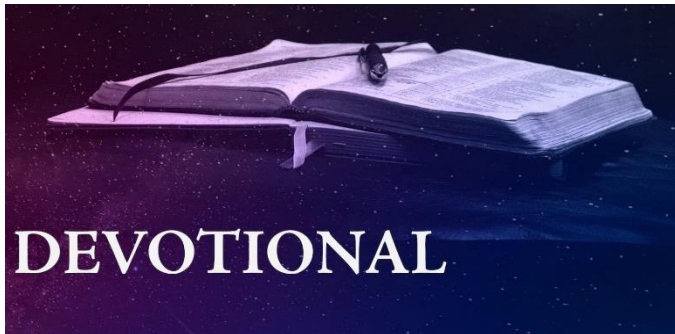


June 9, 2019

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Pastor David Gardner

Alyce McKenzie, teacher of preaching at Southern Methodist University writes:

“Last summer I was asked to talk with a group of college students about what it means to be ‘called,’ since a number of them were sensing a call to full-time ministry of one kind or another.

Here is the gist of what I shared with them:

I do a lot of guest preaching. And I got tired of just saying good morning. A few years back, the pastor introduced me, and I stood up and said, ‘Good morning. I am here this morning because your pastor invited me to be here. But the main reason I’m here is because I don’t have anywhere better to be.’

I meant that as a compliment, but I could see by their faces that they thought I was insulting them and their church. But actually, I was speaking the truth! I didn’t have any place better to be than that church. I didn’t have anything better to do than preach the good news as I have been called to do.

All Christians share a common vocation to be a disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ. Within that common vocation we have different callings. Some are called to ordained ministry, but by no means all. Every calling we live out in faithful response to God’s claim on our lives has meaning and also entails sacrifice. Every calling boils down to specific, often tedious tasks, whether it is tutoring children, writing, composing music, building a school in a country far from home, or scrubbing toilets in a school close to home.

In Romans 8:28, (We are confident that God is able to orchestrate everything to work toward something good *and beautiful* when we love Him and accept His invitation to live according to His plan.) Paul reassures the Roman church that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. But in the midst of these scenes and sacrifices in which we live out our callings, it is only human to wonder things like: Isn’t there someplace better I could be? Couldn’t I be making more money doing something else? Is this really making a difference? Does anyone really appreciate what I’m doing?

When we are living into a difficult calling, we need to be able to discern the difference between good advice and good news.

I felt a call to be a pastor as a teenager. I was sitting in 11th-grade European history class daydreaming. I experienced the assurance that this was what God wanted me to do with my life. I spent the next several years trying to find anything else in the world to do but be a pastor. Since I didn’t really want to do it, I was especially grateful whenever an acquaintance, friend, or stranger gave me some sensible advice or pointed out some realistic obstacles.

‘There aren't many women in ministry. You may not be accepted everywhere.’

‘You could do lots of different things, many of them more lucrative than this. Why be a pastor?’

‘How will you ever get married? Who is going to want to date a minister?’

‘You'll be in a fish bowl. Can you take that constant scrutiny?’

‘There will be criticism. Is your skin thick enough for that?’

A lot of people in the Bible, when they are contemplating answering the call of God, receive good advice from other people:

Abraham and Sarah's mail carrier: Abraham's mail carrier probably gave him good advice: ‘You say you're going to *the land that God will show you?*’ (Gen. 12:1) The postal service needs a specific forwarding address if you want to receive your benefits checks in the future. We need a street address or at least a P.O. box. Are you sure it's wise to head off without more specific directions from your boss?’

Job's friends: ‘You don't look so good. This must be a punishment by God for your sins. You need to confess whatever it is you've done and repent and then your suffering will cease.’

Peter's advice to Jesus: ‘God forbid it, Lord, that any struggle or sacrifice should come into your life on account of your using your gifts!’

Usually good advice points out the obstacles to our answering the call of God. And often, it makes good sense.

But the good news, though a puzzling paradox, turns out to be a reliable compass as we live out our Christian calling. Kent M. Keith expressed this well in his book *The Paradoxical Commandments: Finding Personal Meaning in a Crazy World*.

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.

Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.

Do good anyway.”

Amen. John Wesley organized things in 1743 into the following General Rules:

August 9 Do No Harm (Ephesians 4:25-32)

August 16 Do Good (Luke 6:27-28)

August 23 Stay in Love with God (Colossians 2:6-7)

Lord, in Your sweet mercy, grant us the strength to love the illogical, unreasonable and self-centered...especially if they sin differently than we do! And if they accuse us of being holier than them or that we are not acting “Christian” enough, may our hearts still be tender to break anew. Better our hearts to be broken again and again than to become stiff and cold. We ask in the name of Jesus. Amen



This Sunday June 16th at Noon. Saint Paul's will provide Ham so please bring sides and desserts.

This Sunday June 16th we will take up a special offering for Peace with Justice Ministries.

The Leadership Table will meet Monday June 17th at 6:30 pm (instead of Tues).

Volunteers are needed to ride in the van on Sunday Mornings to pick up the kids.



From Steeple to Street
ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Children's & Youth Celebration
Ages 3-18 (Parents, too)
At the Greens Apartments
(421 S. 27th in Duncan)
Tuesday, June 18, 2019
5:30 PM-7:00 PM



Bringing the Love of Jesus from the pews of St. Paul's United Methodist Church to our neighborhood and community.

Free hot dogs, hamburgers, games, songs and Jesus loving fun right where you live and play. Join Us!

Faithweavers Presents...



June 12 - Softball Game

June 18 - From Steeple to Street

June 19 - Splash Pad

July 3 - Fireworks

July 10 - Pickle Ball at Pirkle Pavilion

July 17 - Simmons Center Pool or Kiddieland

July 24 - Water Balloon Volleyball



Book Study – Sundays 6 pm
 Bible Study – Mondays 6 pm
 Ladies Night –
 Mondays 7 pm
 Keno Group –
 2nd Tuesdays 5:30 pm

APPORTIONMENTS

2019 Apportionments

	Conference	District
Total:	\$16,560.00	\$1,155.00
Paid to Date:	\$3,119.00	\$418.25
Still Due:	\$12,441.00	\$673.75

June



9 – Cheryl Johnson
 12 – John Freese
 12 – Amy Blevins
 21 – Kathy Allred

Youth at Camp
 Tanner Tanaka home after 42 days in NICU
 JC went to 60-year High School Reunion
 FITS Summer Program
 Mr. Clifton home
 Kairos Outside



Conner Bowles travel mercies

Donna Frye travel mercies

Family of Robby Fithen

Reames Family

Ann Johnson – Recovering from Surgery

Mason Teakell and Family

Sara Riggs – Divorce date postponed

James Clifton – Kidney Cancer - Surgery to remove right Kidney

Lakyn Anderson – Newborn with Breathing Issues

Flooding

Keith Crain – Surgery

Jonathan Pipkin – to remember God is always with him, step by step, even when he forgets it

Parker Bowles – Successful endeavors

Lisa Berscheidt's Friend's Son in a serious motorcycle accident

Lisa Berscheidt's Cousin had a premature baby

Addie McMurrin

Tarah Frye – Travel Mercies as she goes to Italy to study for a Month

Addie's brother after Heart Surgery

Beth Horn – On Hospice

Ann Starrett – Dementia and broken Hip. In Memory Care.

James Crow – Cancer

Kay Martin – Dementia and Fell and Broke a Bone

Thomas Bradburry – Healing from Cancer

Della Henry – Heart Surgery

Kathy Allred – Continued prayers for healing and to be healthy

Marcia Haskins – On going foot sores

Drew Cole - Cancer

Junior Brown - Cancer

Connie Green – Cancer

Stacy Mettler – Cancer

Jason Poorman – (Edith Suiters nephew) Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Karen Gibson – Cancer

Gary Gibson – Cancer

Kathy Bridges – Cancer

Margaret Averre – Throat cancer

Daniel Whittney – Cancer

Jennifer Allred – Spinal pain and fibromyalgia

Melinda Douglas – Lung Cancer