

The Shiloh Visitor

Sunday School
9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship
11:00 a.m.



November 2009

A monthly newsletter from Shiloh Baptist Church

Glorifying God by ... Reaching, Building, Serving

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Q-TIP



From the Pastor's Heart

Do you have a biblical understanding of the material possessions that are under "your control?" I was reading an article on the internet which I will not reference, but I will summarize and editorialize below.

The biblical perspective of material possessions is that we are "stewards" of that which we are "in control." Psalm 24:1 states that everything belongs

to God and other portions of the Bible reflect our stewardship responsibility of taking care of everything that God has entrusted us with. The steward has responsibility and accountability to God. Therefore others cannot dictate how the "good steward" should use God's resources. Furthermore, because I am accountable before God for the use of "my" possessions, I should use those possessions to advance God's kingdom.

One modern day perspective believes that we are "owners" of that which we are "in control." Thus, "my" possessions belong to me and I may use them in any way I choose. Furthermore, I am not accountable to anybody else. This perspective can obviously lead to greed.

Another modern day perspective believes that whatever is in one's "control" rightfully belongs to everybody else. Thus, you are not "owners" and others have an "inherit right" to your material possessions. This perspective can obviously lead to the "legalized theft" of material possessions.

It should come as no surprise that the superior understanding of material possessions is the biblical perspective. From this stewardship perspective, additional biblical perspectives come to light. For example, the biblical principle of contentment—we should learn to be satisfied with what we have materially, rather than always grasping for more. (1 Tim. 6:7-9; Heb. 13:5; Phil. 4:11-13.) As Christians, we know that identity, security, and fulfillment come from healthy love relationships with God and people—not from stacking up more wealth or any combination of toys.

From a stewardship perspective, the main reason why the biblical principle of contentment is so important is so that we can practice another biblical principle of generosity. If we do not live modestly and below our means, we may be unwilling or unable to take advantage of opportunities to be generous and to advance His Kingdom!

Ask yourself these questions, "Do you live consistently below your means?" and, "Do you distinguish biblically between 'needs' and 'wants'?" Also, remind yourself of God's principles and priorities and understand the likely consequences of your financial decisions.

Finally church, read between the lines. We also have a biblical mandate to "demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" – 1 Corinthians 10:5. America is falling from a biblical perspective of stewardship, contentment and generosity. ☩

DOWN MEMORY LANE

[From Shiloh Church (1876-1905) minutes, pp. 108-110, Virginia Baptist Historical Society, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia]

Delinquent funds was a serious matter. On December 5, 1880, the clerk, William McDaniel, submitted the following resolution:

Every member who is delinquent and in arrears of paying their church dues shall be required to pay them by the 1st day of January 1881." By February 20, 1881, the financial committee adopted with one dissenting voice the following resolution:

That in view of the present embarrassment of the church we deem it expedient to reduce the Pastor's salary from \$400.00 to \$300.00 and in so doing, it is far from our intention to reflect in the least upon his ability as a pastor.

We are satisfied that this embarrassment has been brought on by indifference on the part of a goodly number of the members failing to discharge their duty to the church.

☩



In the Spotlight...

“YOUR HEART

is wonderful,” Kathy recalls the doctor saying as he shared the results of her stress test before the surgery. Those words couldn’t be more accurate! Kathy Maples is known at Shiloh for the incredible gift of her kidney to Elizabeth Lee, a fellow member and, now, dear friend.

Your Heart Is Wonderful by Joyce Soderlund



Cowgirl Kathy Maples participating in a church roundup with Cowboy Butch dawdling in the background

The moment Kathy begins to talk about her experience with the kidney transplant, you realize that she takes absolutely no ownership of the act. She describes the event with as much awe as many others have shown upon hearing it for the first time. “God knew all along. He prepared my heart physically by giving me a friend to walk with just a few months before, and of all things, Elizabeth and I were picked to be prayer partners! Nobody knew I was looking into being her donor except Butch, my husband. God just put that together,” she said shaking her head in amazement. If you spend any time talking with Kathy, you immediately realize she likes to stay in the midst of God’s miracles. I sat fascinated during most of our interview as I listened to all that transpired in her life and the glimpses God gave her of His awesome work along the way.

Kathy Maples was born into a Catholic family of 6 children. Her father was in the military and was stationed at Dahlgren Naval Base during Kathy’s 10th and 11th year of high school. Kathy smiled as she shared the fact that she actually knew Butch back then, but they did not date. “He had long hair and played in a band. He was voted best looking by his classmates at King George,” she added proudly. It wasn’t in God’s timing that they would fall in love and marry until much later. Instead, Kathy’s family moved to Maryland in her senior year when her father retired.

She recounts the tragic loss of her boyfriend at the age of 17. Kathy has had to deal with the deaths of many of her loved ones over the years. But through the recent loss of her brother Paul, she was able to say, “Although when a loved one dies my heart hurts, and it truly does, I have an inner peace in knowing they are with the Lord and it gives me strength to spread this feeling of peace to others.”

Kathy remained in Maryland, got married, and raised a family. She had Jeremy and Jason just 2 years apart. Her son, James, followed not too far afterwards and was born with Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia. “He spent his whole life in the hospital,” she replied sadly. While at the hospital at the University of Maryland, James shared a room with another special needs baby named Justin. Kathy began to care for him as well because his mother was never there. “Some people just can’t do it. It takes a lot to care for a special needs child,” Kathy shared this as a matter of fact without any hint of judgment or criticism.

Kathy’s own son, James, died one year later on his birthday. After grieving his death, Kathy found herself back at the hospital to see Justin with whom she began to fall more in love with each weekly visit. She started taking an active role as his advocate, and even told the doctors and nurses when his care was lacking. When Justin was about 3 years old, Kathy had a dream that he was at the same hospital pushing lunch trays. When she awoke, she knew that she had to get him out of there. She began to pursue adoption possibilities. She wisely decided to become his foster mom instead so that he could continue to receive optimal medical care from the state. “He was my son, though,” she said with obvious love. Kathy was able to bring him home, into the fresh air, and away from a hospital crib for the first time in 3 ½ years. She recalls how he just lit up a room and was full of fun. She remembered a time when they walked across a bridge together carting his oxygen tank behind them. This was a major accomplishment!

She took in more foster children. In talking with her, there did not seem to be an end to her compassion and love for these kids. Justin lived until the age of 9 when God decided to take him home. The tragedy of his death was only compounded by a divorce between Kathy and her husband that very year. Kathy recounts how difficult it was to lose Justin. She remembered grieving once again. This time the Lord sent her an encouraging message through a 5 year old girl named Lindsey. Upon seeing all the adults crying at the funeral, Lindsey shared with her father, “I don’t know why everybody is so upset. Justin doesn’t have to use an oxygen tank to breathe any more, and he doesn’t have a whole in his throat.” When Lindsey’s father shared that with Kathy, she remembered thinking, “After that, I was ok.” Now, when others ask where she gets her resolve, she points them to the Father in heaven and attributes her unfathomable peace to Him and His strength.

Kathy’s love for people and their children seems to be limitless. She expressed that at one time she considered becoming a surrogate for neighboring couple who had several miscarriages. Looking back, she is amazed at God’s providence even then as she was given a foster infant to care for that same year. Within a couple of months, she was able to hand them the very same child she was raising. Kathy explained that she often got glimpses from the Lord like this or confirmations of His will through dreams. “I just know sometimes,” is her simple yet confident reply when faced with tough life decisions.

Kathy began dating Butch Maples while she still had foster children. She remembers meeting him for a meal at a halfway point and lugging all the children with her. She smiled recollecting a time when Butch took her canoeing and explained that life was supposed to be enjoyable and relaxing and not run at the constant busy pace in which she had grown accustomed. I got the feeling that today the Maples keep a good balance of working on God’s latest tasks for their lives and sitting back to enjoy His grandeur, specifically a certain bundle of giggles called Jacob, their grandson.

I asked Kathy what brought her and her husband to Shiloh. She smiled warmly and said that they had been tuning in to this preacher pretty regularly when, one day, he asked a caller what church she attended. She said, “Bedside Baptist,” and she explained how she stayed in bed and listened to his preaching on Sunday mornings. He said she needed to fellowship with the body and that God wanted her to be a part of His church. Without saying a word to each other, Kathy and Butch both got dressed and sought to do that very same thing. Eventually, God led them to Shiloh.

Someone once asked Kathy if she believed she was going to heaven and for what reason would she be invited. Kathy confessed that, at the time, she thought the reward of heaven was based on one’s good deeds. She, now, knows that as a born again believer, it is by His grace alone that mankind is given that gift, and it is her personal relationship with Jesus as her Savior that matters to God. This revelation motivated both she and Butch to be baptized at Shiloh last year. When they first started going to Shiloh, Kathy had been

praying the prayer of Jabez, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" (1 Chronicles 4:10) Later, Pastor Kube announced that Elizabeth Lee needed a kidney. Kathy said she immediately knew that was for her to hear. In her own words, she says, "I just knew it was supposed to be me. I went home and looked up everything I could about kidney transplants on the computer. Butch asked me what I was doing and was very concerned about the idea, but I just knew." Later in the conversation, she shared that Butch turned around the moment he put himself in Kenneth Lee's shoes. He told Kathy if she was the one who needed a kidney, he hoped someone would do just what Kathy was about to do for Elizabeth.

Kathy did not share with Elizabeth that she intended on donating her kidney until everything matched perfectly for a smooth organ transplant and the date was set. Kathy visited the Lees and brought news of the surprise gift in person. By this point, they were no longer strangers. Kathy and Elizabeth were prayer partners, sisters in Christ, and they would soon share something God knitted in Kathy before her birth. What a gift!

Kathy had a dream about the surgery early on. She said there were 3 surgeons and they all reassured her that everything was going to be just fine. It was very encouraging, but she was in for a bigger treat! The day she met with her surgeon for the pre-op, he explained to her that he was there for her. There would be another surgeon specifically present for Elizabeth and a third surgeon to watch out for the kidney, itself! God is amazing, and He shares His plans with His saints!

Today, you can find Kathy at the Post Office as its postmaster sharing what Christ has done in her so openly and with heartfelt gratitude. She boldly asks strangers if they know anyone who is willing to donate a kidney. Kathy is currently on the hunt for kidneys for 2 gentlemen she knows. Each is on dialysis and on a list awaiting kidney donors. She will tell you enthusiastically that if you are a government employee, you can have 6 weeks of paid leave during the process! More importantly, Kathy asks whoever she can to pray over these men. This includes you who are reading at this moment.

After sitting with Kathy, I realized the reason her heart is so wonderful. Just as the Lord prepared her physically, He made ready her spiritual heart. As I prayed over what to highlight in Kathy's full life, Joel 2:13 came to mind, "Rend your heart and not your garments, return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity." It was the custom for the

Music Notes

by Sarah Snow, Minister of Music

Thanksgiving! Thankfulness! Turkey! Those are the things I think of in November. What about the hymns? Oh I love ... "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" and "We Gather Together" and "Now Thank We All Our God" and of course "Count Your Blessings!" What wonderful hymns there are at Thanksgiving time. I look forward to singing them every year.

There is a book in the church library that has the history of many hymns. I would like to share the story from the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God." The following excerpt is from the book *Then Sings My Soul* by Robert J. Morgan:

"Now Thank We All Our God" was written by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649), a Lutheran pastor in the little village of Eilenberg, Saxony. He grew up as the son of a poor coppersmith, felt called to the ministry, and after his theological training began his pastoral work just as the Thirty Years' War was raging through Germany.

Floods of refugees streamed into the walled city of Eilenberg. It was the most desperate of times. The Swedish army encompassed the city gates, and inside the walls there was nothing but plague, famine, and fear. Eight hundred homes were destroyed, and people began dying in increasing numbers. There was a tremendous strain on the pastors, who expended all their strength in preaching the gospel, caring for the sick and dying, and burying the dead. One after another, the pastors

~ continued on page 4 ~



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, Nov. 24th at 7 p.m.
Thanksgiving Songfest
at KGHS

Sunday, Nov. 29th at 7 p.m.
Hanging of the Green

Dec. 11th, 12th, 13th
Christmas Musical
The Ornament



Children & Youth

by Mark Morgan

Fall is here and winter is right around the corner! Are you prepared? Many have cleaned their gutters, split and stacked firewood, serviced the heater, or filled the propane tank. You never know what kind of winter is ahead so we must be prepared. We can also go through "spiritual" winters which show up as disappointments. We must prepare our self spiritually. In order to sustain growth and overcome disappointments, we must grow spiritually deep. Every spring the trees bloom, the grass grows green, and the bulbs sprout from the ground unaffected by the harsh winter. Why? Their roots go deep into the ground. The deeper we are able to grow our roots into God, the more we will be able to withstand the harsh "spiritual" winters that come our way.

AWANAS on Wednesday is going great. It is wonderful to see so many children excited about memorizing scripture, learning about missions, and playing the games. Adults—I'm encouraged by your willingness to put our mission and vision into practice! You are truly "**Reaching and Building**." Could you imagine our church taking the "Reaching" to a new level? It is possible. All we need is someone willing to drive the church van to pick up children and teens to bring them on Wednesday evenings. Will you consider **Serving** in this capacity?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth: Fifth Quarter—November 6th; We will meet at the church at 6:60 p.m. then attend the football game and come back for food, fellowship, and games. Cost is \$5. We will conclude at 11:45 p.m.

Adults get ready. It's back! **Adult Youth Night** is coming in January. You will not want to miss this event! Come relive your youth. ☺

P.O. Box 232 · Jersey, VA 22481
RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

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themselves took ill and perished until at last only Martin Rinkart was left. Some days he conducted as many as fifty funerals.

Finally the Swedes demanded a huge ransom. It was Martin Rinkart who left the safety of the city walls to negotiate with the enemy, and he did it with such courage and faith that there was soon a conclusion of hostilities, and the period of suffering ended.

Rinkart, knowing there is no healing without thanksgiving, composed this hymn for the survivors of Eilenberg. It has been sung around the world ever since.

*Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in Whom this world rejoices.*



As we begin to prepare for Thanksgiving,
I hope the words of this hymn sing into our
hearts and carry us through this busy season.

Happy November! ☺



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Visitor**

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The Shiloh visitor is published monthly as an official communications medium for Shiloh Baptist Church. The deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.

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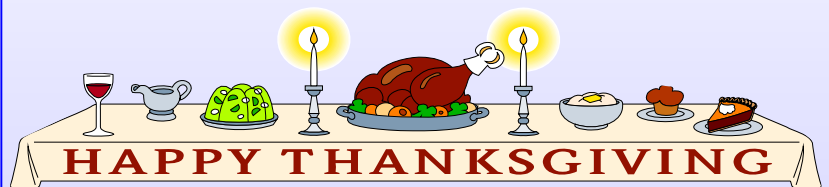
In the Spotlight ~ continued from page 3 ~

Israelites to tear their garments as a public demonstration of grief and anguish. I thought about Kathy and her losses and how God used each of them to draw people closer to Him. I thought how both she and Elizabeth were crying out to the Lord for a supernatural blessing. It is clear that Kathy took her grief to the feet of Jesus, laid it down, and tore open her heart for His use. ☺

REACHING BUILDING SERVING

**Saturday, November 14, 8:30 a.m.—Noon
Prayer Retreat**

Jim Ailor will be leading our Prayer Retreat on Saturday, 11/14. Join us from 8:30 a.m. until noon. For all the details, click on this link:
http://www.kgshiloh.org/Docs/PrayerRetreat_Nov09.pdf



Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal & Business Meeting

Join us on **Sunday, November 15th**, directly after the worship service, for our Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal followed by our business meeting. The Hostess Team will be providing the turkey and the Sunday School classes are asked to bring a designed side dishes to share. Please see your Sunday School teacher for details on what your class is bringing. If you are not currently attending Sunday School or the New Member's class, you are asked to bring a dessert.

