

Judge Not

by Jerry D. Benjamin

Fifty years ago this coming June I graduated from seminary and was ordained to the Gospel ministry. It doesn't seem so long ago until I start thinking of all the things that have happened, people I've known and churches I've served since then.

As I think of my schooling, I remember that we studied the great theologians, Paul, John Cassian, Thomas Aquinas, Luther, Calvin and all of them as they paraded through history. What I saw, that no one else seemed to comment on, was that each generation criticized and corrected those who went before. It went on and on right up until our own generation of theologians, whom we presumed to be correct. But, of course, the next generation has come and they look back on us and criticize and correct. Sometime they even laugh and point.

The outcome of this is that I have propounded:

BENJAMIN'S LAW

"ALL THEOLOGIAN'S ARE WRONG"
The first corollary of this law is that "I am a theologian." The second corollary is "So are you."

Since Jesus' most radical teaching, "Judge not", supports this law, I stand by it. We never know for sure about other people, other events, other beliefs. We must always make decisions on the best evidence that we have, but it is always partial evidence, since we don't know everything.



This is a tough order. We'd like to hold our prejudices tightly, but we mustn't. We'd like to blame our troubles on others, but we can't. We'd like to feel better without changing, but we don't. We make ethical decisions every day. We decide about people every day, and we must. But how?

Those of us trying to follow Jesus are called to be willing to change, assured that love and mercy are with us even as we change, even when we are uncertain. Stubbornness must give way to tolerance and love. We have

many gifts, but the gift of perfection is not among them. We grow and learn as we work and study together. This is a great gift. We hear Good News together. This is a gift. Love is the richest gift.

Love your creepy neighbor and your irritating family member. Persevere. We are not gifted with perfection, but our gifts are sufficient.

One of the most irritating things a preacher can say is something I've said over and over throughout my fifty years. "You can do this." Don't wait to be perfect. Press on.

Your imperfect friend,
Jerry



This month's Pastor's Desk was written by Rev. Jerry Benjamin, while Rev. Susie Beil is away in Scotland on Study leave.

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Summit Life is a monthly publication of:

Summit Avenue Presbyterian Church

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www.summitave.net

Newsletter Articles are due at the church office the 3rd Monday of each month.

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00am Adult S.S Classes
 9:00am Brass Handbells
 10:00am Chancel Choir
10:30am Worship
 11:00am Summit Kids
 11:45am Coffee Hour
 6:30pm Youth Group

Audio sermons available at www.summitave.net

Every Member a Minister

As Presbyterians, we believe God calls and equips all of us to serve and lead in the church. The following list of names is a reminder to those who have signed up to serve in the coming weeks. Like to be on this list? Give the office a call or mark a blue card with your name and how you'd like to help, and we'll contact you!

Communion

May 7 Ken Davis, Ruth Martin, Steve Royce

Liturgists

May 7 Mary Fischer
 May 14 Nathan Perry
 May 21 Barbara Stark
 May 28 TBD

Usher & Greeters

May 7
 May 14
 May 21
 May 28

Time For Young Disciples

May 7 Nathan Perry
 May 14 Sharon Peterson
 May 21 Bethany Nupen
 May 28 Lori Hamilton

Acolytes

May 7 Maxx Kelly
 May 14 Ruth Ross
 May 21 Evan Howell
 May 28 Jonah Griffin

Organist

May 7 Joanne Richardson
 May 14 Len Guyt
 May 21 Woody Bernas
 May 28 Woody Bernas

Hospitality Team

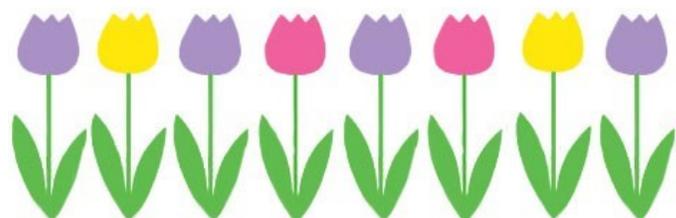
May 7 Bev & Mike Kelly, Megan & Dan Kranenburg
 May 14 Ruth Martin, Mary Fischer, Teagan Taafe
 May 21 Kathy Kuyper, Peg Powell, Audrey Robinson, Bud Taylor
 May 28 Jan Collier, Meredith Edwards, Sue Hall, Maxine & Russell Warren

Following Jesus Into the World

listen online: summitave.net

| Date | Scripture | Sermon Title | Preacher |
|--------|----------------|--|-----------------|
| May 7 | Matthew 6:9-13 | "How Close Can We Come to a Holy God?" | Rev. Susie Beil |
| May 14 | Matthew 6:9-13 | "Crossing to the Future" | Rev. Susie Beil |
| May 21 | Matthew 6:9-13 | "Heaven on Earth" | Rev. Susie Beil |
| May 28 | Matthew 6:9-13 | "Daily Bread" | Rev. Susie Beil |

Easter Sunday Fun!



God is in the Monotony

by Nathan Perry

Often in life we are chasing a target that always keeps moving! We set goals, make checklists, and once things get checked off we move to the next. We have more meetings, make more plans, and in the process sometimes we forget to focus on the life happening, here and now.

If we were on our death bed, I doubt the things we'd be thinking about would be those checklists! I doubt our biggest regrets would not be failing to meet a deadline or to follow through with a project! More so, for those of us who lost someone we love, if we could spend another day with them, we wouldn't want to do projects or events. It almost wouldn't matter what we did with them! We'd just want to be with them. Maybe simply dinner. Conversation over a meal. Playing a game or going on a walk. Ultimately, life happens between the lines. While we write our stories, God is shaping our lives and directing our pen.

3 years!

As May approaches Kat and I are celebrating our third wedding anniversary. When I first came to Summit we were just engaged and getting ready for our wedding. When I look back over these last 3 years, a lot has happened!

Think about all that has been built into the life of the church in a short amount of time. Kids ministry, Vacation Bible School, youth, events, missions,

MOPS, retreats, camps, Triennium, and both local and global missions. Think about the spiritual impact we've had in the lives of kids, youth, and families. In the moment it often feels like things can be going slow. Some days feel intense while other days we wonder if we are making the impact we so desire! However, the day to day, week to week, month to month monotony of life is where transformation happens. Both in the life of this church, and in our own lives.



Three years ago I was engaged and planning a wedding, working and commuting from Kirkland to Bremerton once or twice a week, and I was a full time student smack dab in the middle of getting my Bible degree! I was setting a lot of goals and making many checklists! Day to day it felt monotonous. I didn't feel like I was being transformed. And I certainly didn't feel powerful. Yet, it was in these times of faithfulness, and consistency that God's power was at work in my life. And his power was made perfect in my

weakness. He has transformed me immensely. God seems to always do this without me being aware in the moment!

I pray this month, we as a church would be more and more aware of his hands at work both guiding us and molding us. I pray that in our day to day lives, in the good times and bad, through the excitement and especially in the monotony, we'd turn to him. Embrace the monotony around us that we overlook, or take for granted! Our lives are in his hands! He is our keeper.

Psalm 121: A Song of Ascents.

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.
- 6 The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
- 8 The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever more.

In Christ's Service,
Nathan Perry



D-Groups

Sunday, May 21

6:30 - 8:00pm

Youth Room



The Summit Youth Gathering

Sunday, May 28

6:30 - 8:00pm

Youth Room



VBS Kids Camp 2017

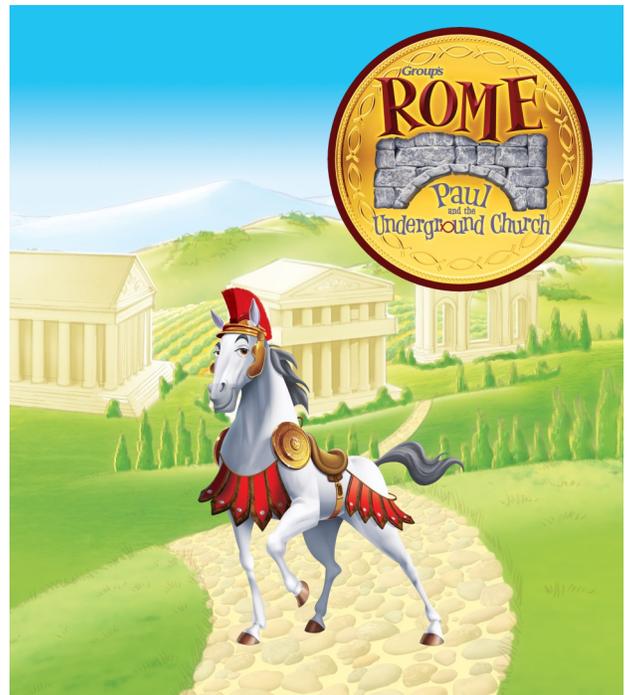
Registration is OPEN!

June 26-30 4yrs - 6th grade

summitave.net

Register online or in the office today! Registration is now open for the 2017 VBS Kids Camp. You can register campers or volunteers. If you have any questions contact the office at office@summitave.net or call 360.377.2740

Come join us and bring your friends as we step back in time with the Apostle Paul and experience what life was like in first-century Rome!



Youth Activities for May

Youth Serve Group May 7

Leave Summit: 2:00pm

Return to Summit: 4:00pm

There are many in our own communities that are in need of simple necessities like food and shelter. Come join us as we partner with the Summit Missions Team and the Kitsap Rescue Mission to feed the homeless here in Bremerton.



Archery Tag May 21

Leave Summit: 1:00pm

Return to Summit: 6:00ish pm

\$30 + waiver form (available at summitave.net/youth)

Bring a sack lunch | wear dark clothing

Please RSVP by May 19

Next Step Archery · 22313 70th Ave W U1 · Mountlake Terrace · 98043



Family Night Unplugged

Friday, May 12

6-8pm

Summit Avenue



Come check your cell phone at the door and get unplugged while engaging in some adult conversation and enjoying a home cooked meal. This months theme is movie night/pajama party. Child care will be provided.

Text Message Giving

Text: Give2Summit

To: 732-56



We now are able to receive offerings via text message! This is a fun and easy way to submit your monthly giving or Special Offerings.

Simply text the word Give2Summit to the number 732-56. Then select the amount and the fund you want to give to. You will receive an instant confirmation and email of your giving once completed!

You can use text giving as often as you like and all giving gets recorded for your giving statement at the end of the year. If you have any questions or need any help with text giving please contact Julie in the office.

SummitFEST Neighborhood Block Party!

July 22

Save the date for our SummitFEST Block Party! The Outreach Committee is planning a parking lot party with food, games, and lots more! This event will be open to everyone so plan on an afternoon of food and fun!



Coffee Oasis Crisis Line

360.768.2076

4pm-8am

Ages 13-25



The Coffee Oasis has established a crisis line for youth. Anyone age 13-25 in crisis can call 360.768.2076 from 4pm - 8am and receive empathetic and compassionate support from trained volunteers.

If interested in volunteering, contact Joshua Gross at Joshua.gross@thecoffeeoasis.com or call 360.377.5560

Monthly Emergency Action Activities

Brought to you by the Emergency Preparedness Committee

Activity #2: What if you get separated?

Below are a few things that could help you in case you get separated from your family during an emergency. For more information you can download the "Prepare in a Year" booklet in full at

<http://mil.wa.gov/uploads/pdf/emergency-management/piy-englishbooklet.compressed.pdf>

Keep a contact card in your wallet:

This can help someone identify you and know who to contact. This can also be used to make others aware of any allergies or medications that may be life threatening to you.

Call out of area:

Did you know that long distance calls will often go through, when local calls will not.

Short texts:

If you send short text messages, they may be delayed, but often, they will eventually go through.



Moment for Missions

Coffee Oasis & Kitsap Rescue Mission

You can donate to Coffee Oasis or the Kitsap Rescue Mission just by shopping. If you have a Fred Meyer rewards card the charity of your choice will receive a quarterly donation based off of what you spend. This costs you nothing and you can sign up online at fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4, or at the customer service desk. Coffee Oasis donation #80169 Kitsap Rescue Mission donation #86795

Master's Hands Ministries

Master's Hands Ministries will be holding a school supplies drive May 1-14, for the upcoming school year. They are seeking crayons, pens and pencils, play dough, globes and world maps, human and animal skeletons, printers and scanners, good second hand laptops, calculators, geometry boxes for kids, and tennis shoes. You can place any donations in the box in the office or you can mail any monetary donations to Master's Hands Ministries, PO Box 391, Shelton WA 98584



TREASURER'S REPORT:

Our Treasurer's report reflects what was approved at the previous month's Session meeting, giving us a month's lag time. So for this newsletter, we report on March 2017

| March 2017 | Actual | Monthly Budget (expected) | Year to Date |
|------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Income | \$33,608.49 | \$19,136.94 | \$84,936.16 |
| Expense | \$27,527.91 | \$23,584.06 | \$72,719.85 |

Foodline Update

We gathered 60 pounds of food, etc. for the month of April for the Bremerton Foodline. We are getting closer to meeting our goal of a "pound per member" each month. Let's make May a big month!



For shopping lists and/or grocery bags visit the food wagon in the Narthex. Thanks for your support!

Session

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Bethany Nupen | Worship/Kids |
| Brett Harrison | Mission/Outreach |
| Russell Warren | Groups |
| Paul Du Fresne | Finance/Stewardship |
| Ken Davis | Mission/Memorials |
| Ruth Martin | Outreach/Hospitality |
| Dan Kranenburg | Personnel/B&G |
| Rick Chapman | Finance |
| Bev Kelly | Youth/Personnel |
| Steve Royce | |
| Lori Hamilton | Clerk |

Deacons

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Moderator: Delcea Wills | |
| Joyce Hersch | Jeannie Lemm |
| Mary Fischer | John Lemm |
| Audrey Robinson | Jerry Dick |
| Ann Sveen | |
| Sue Davis | |
| Louise Royce | |
| Dennis Kurzrock | |

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Susie Beil
Parish Associate: Rev. Jerry Benjam
Youth & Kids Ministry Director: Nathan Perry
Childcare Ministry Leaders: Ida Kendall, Aphroditis Howell
Choir Director: Gary Dahl
Handbell Choir Director: Cheryl Sanlin
Organists: Woody Bernas, Joann Richardson, Len Guyt
Office/Communications: Julie Mirth
Custodian: Darlene Randall
Treasurer: Cathy Best
Kitchen Facilitator: Sue Kela
Sound Technicians: Rick Walker, Tineke Dahl, Karl Jensen, Rick Chapman, Oliver Dahl, Teagan Taafe, Quincy Cole

Desk Volunteers:

| | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| Monday | Aggie Schultheis & Bethany Nupen |
| Tuesday | Sharon Plowman & Terese Edmonds |
| Wed. | Laurel Spitzer, Judy Wieck |
| Thurs | Mary Urwin & Sue Kela |

First Aid Class

Monday, May 8

5:30-8:30pm

Robinson Fellowship Hall

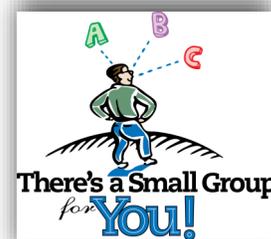
Cost \$25



Come get first aid re/certified. This course will be taught by a licensed instructor and the certification is good for two years.

Spring Groups Guide

The new Spring Groups Guide is out. You can find it online at summitave.net/groups, in the office, or in the Narthex. Be sure to check it out today!



Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9am - 2pm

Phone: (360) 377-2740

Check out our website at:

www.summitave.net

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Return Service requested

