



New Basel Church
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echo
New Basel Newsletter

September 2023

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Forgiveness is a tricky matter.

Alex Rodriguez, a baseball player for the New York Yankees until 2016, was accused in 2013 of using steroids to enhance his on-field performance. He was eventually suspended for the entire 2014 season. After composing a lengthy letter of apology by hand, he was forgiven and allowed to rejoin the Yankees in 2015.

Forgiveness for King Henry II, though, was not so easy. He had an ongoing battle with Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury. On Dec. 29, 1179, he famously exclaimed "Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?" That night, Becket was murdered within the walls of the church by 4 knights responding to the King's comment. The king was upset that Becket had been killed, but it would take more than a simple letter for him to be forgiven! In order to reestablish a relationship with the Pope, he had to agree to go on a crusade, as well as abolish several practices to which the Church objected. Furthermore, he had to seek public forgiveness by submitting to being beaten with a rod 5 times from each of the bishops present at Canterbury Cathedral, and another 3 times from each of the 80 monks cloistered there. Then, to top it all off, he had to spend the night in the crypt, next to Becket's tomb!

Now most of us have not used steroids like that, nor inadvertently caused someone's murder, but we've all sinned, and we all need God to forgive us. But what do we need to do in order to be forgiven?

Turns out the Bible is pretty clear. Thankfully we don't need to sleep in a cemetery. 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." The idea of confession is not just us admitting we're wrong, but also understanding our need to change. We turn away from that behavior, wanting to change.

We usually focus on the word 'confess', because we wonder just what that entails. But in keeping our focus there, we usually miss the significance of the word 'if.' Meaning if we don't, our forgiveness is not guaranteed by God's faithfulness and justness. It's a mighty big 'if.'

But don't forget about what Jesus taught us in the Lord's Prayer: that forgiveness also hinges on our willingness to forgive others (forgive us...*as we forgive others*). This would be part of what John calls 'walking in the light' in 1 John 1:7. In other words, we not only have to be willing to confess our sins, but we also have to be willing to show other people the thing we hope to receive from God!

So what do we need to do in order to be forgiven? We must confess what we've done wrong, but also demonstrate God's forgiveness toward others. That's easier than being beaten by 80 monks, most of the time anyway!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council

Monday August 7th, 2023

Called to order at 7:07 p.m. by President Kenny Chamberlin

Present:

Elders: Kenny Chamberlin, Jen Reiff, Pam O’Neal,

Deacons: Judy Barten, Francis Anderson

Trustees: Austin Murphy, Gary Foltz,

Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion

M/S/C to approve the July minutes

Communications:

None

Reports:

Financial Secretary and Treasurer:

Judy gave the Financial Secretary & Treasures report for July.

M/S/C to approve the Financial Secretary and Treasurer’s reports.

Pastor’s Reports:

Worship: Preached &/or led 4 Sunday worships

Administration Meetings: 1 Church Council meeting, 4 Planning Meetings (Edward Jones)

Pastoral Care: 3 Phone Visits, 5 Home Visits 1 Hospital Visit

Other: 1 CrossTalk Class Session, 3 CrossTalk Local meetings, Church Movie Night, Church Picnic

Vacation Days: 5 This month, 8 Year to date

Mileage: 54

Elders:

Jen Reiff reported no communion for August.

Deacons:

None

Trustee:

None

Old Business:

*Harvest Home - October 1st, potluck will be served afterwards.

* Discussion on bids for fixing the stained glass and other windows.

New Business:

*M/S/C to pay bills that were presented

*Propane Contract - M/S/C to approve the contract with K&R Propane

*Christian Education committee will be meeting this week to discuss Sunday School plans for the coming year.

*Food pantry donations will be the month of September.

*Tony Herman will be unable to play the piano for at least 4 months, August is taken care of and will figure out a plan going forward.

*Judy, Jamie & Drew met with Edward Jones Investment and discussed moving the UCF Endowment & UCC Scholarship Funds all into an Edward Jones account. Council M/S/C a motion to have them proceed with moving the funds.

Upcoming Events:

August 25th - Echo Articles Due

September 3rd – Communion

September 11th - Council Meeting 7:00pm

October 1st – Harvest Home – Potluck Dinner

October 29th – 5th Sunday Brunch

No Other Announcements:

Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm by praying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Pam O'Neal, Secretary



Prayer Requests

Elaine Bethe
Naoma Foltz
Dwight Meuli
Cecil Schrader
Bob O'Neal

Judy Lauer
Kelly Schrader
Judy Lauer
Ed McAdams
Tony Herman

FoodPantry

September is New Basel's month to collect donation items for the Food Pantry in Abilene. Churches are the backbone of their Christian Ministry to the needy by giving their gifts of food.

The following is a list of immediate needs to the pantry:

Baking Supplies: cake and muffin mixes, frosting, oil, flour, sugar

Canned Goods: fruit, vegetables, soup, condiments, meat substitutes

Cereal: hot cereal, cold cereal, cereal and breakfast bars

Cleaning Supplies: laundry soap, dish soap, hand soap

Paper Goods: toilet tissue, paper towels, napkins, facial tissue

Pastas: macaroni, noodles, spaghetti

Personal Hygiene: shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, women's feminine products, disposable diapers, men's shaving supplies, hand and body lotions and creams

Meats: any kind of canned meat and fish, especially tuna

Miscellaneous: peanut butter, jelly, coffee, tea, ramen noodles, rice, dry beans, crackers, juice, syrup, instant potatoes, hamburger helpers, spices, salt and pepper, jello, and pudding mixes

The Food Pantry expresses their gratitude for our continuing support and interest in the operation of the Food Pantry, and wishes to say 'Thank you.'

My birthday on August 13th was made all the more special when I opened the birthday card (made by Jan McAdams) with signatures in it of my church family. Thank you so much. Having another birthday (#86) is God saying "I'm not done with you yet. Keep on keeping on." So I will.

Blessings,
Peggy Meuli



September

Birthdays

1st Holly Bethe
 9th Dwight Kamm
 16th Lisa Berggren
 19th Chad Beetch
 25th Axie Shrack
 28th Marcile Parks
 30th Francis Anderson
 Jeremy Reiff



Anniversaries

18th Jim & Deanna Stalder
 24th Scott & Amber Reiff

Upcoming October Birthdays & Anniversaries

2nd Jessica Murphy 6th Francis & Clema Anderson
 10th Sterling Bonnema 7th Kenny & Janet Chamberlin



Sunday School Kickoff will be **Sunday, September 10th** in the Parish Hall at 10:00 AM. Breakfast will be served by the Sunday School Committee followed by some indoor/outdoor games for the youth. Regular classes will begin September 17th and will be held Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:15

Greeters, Acolytes, and Usher for September

	Greeters:	Acolytes:
3 rd	Kenny & Janet Chamberlin	Sterling Bonnema
10 th	Bob & Pam O'Neal	Bo Rothchild
17 th	Jane Haney & Carol Lawson	Axie Shrack
24 th	Gregg & Jolene Beemer	Wyatt Hunnicutt
September Usher: Dwight Kamm		

Thank you to Gregg Beemer for being the August Usher

MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday September 10th at 5pm

***One Night with the King* - based on the story of Esther, a girl who disguises her Jewish origins when the Persian king comes looking for a new bride among his subjects. Starring Tiffany Dupont and Luke Gross, with Peter O'Toole and Omar Sharif. Popcorn and drinks provided!**