

# Good News and good news

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## Just a Peek to Know...

*by Judi Sweeney*

I have previously written about how as a child I always searched the house for my birthday and Christmas presents. I just “had to know” that I hadn’t been forgotten, especially once I no longer believed in Santa. Even at 10 or 12 years old, I would search out all of my mother’s hiding places. I didn’t need to see what she had purchased for me, I just needed a peek that there was going to actually be something for me.

That need to know has always been part of my life. When difficult times came along in my life, I learned to ask God to show me He was still in control. I just needed a “peek” of His power and glory to settle the anxiety I was feeling. Most of the time I received this “peek” into His glory in a section of the Bible I was reading, in a call from a friend I hadn’t heard from in a while who had given the perfect encouragement I needed, or from a real God Wink or God Peek or God Thing. I learned to look for these peeks when I felt anxiety starting to wrap around me. I found them.

This past weekend, Jack and I took our grandson, Elias, to West Point for a one-week Student Leadership Experience. He had flown from the Seattle area to be with us for a couple of days, something he has done several times over the past 2 years. We have taken him to West Point for competitive shooting and training, but we’ve always stayed with him. Saturday, we dropped him off and drove away. Within a half an hour, I was feeling a lot of anxiety about leaving him there so far from home and so far from us. I was surprised at the level of discomfort I was in, and I told God about my feelings. “Please let me know he is okay,” I asked God. Sunday afternoon I made the decision to join Instagram – something I before had said I would never do. Yet, God seemed to be saying it was okay. West Point had uploaded a very short video of the first day of the week. The video moved quickly through all the things they did, and with about 200 young men and women, only a very few were

*Just a Peek...continued from page 1...*

*Continued on page 4...*

## New Women’s Ministry and Secret Sister Tea...

*by Annie Shea*

My vision for our women here at the church is to grow, nourish and mentor each other. I have prayed and felt lead to do this since the fall women’s retreat last October. I am planning different things throughout the year for all the women at the church, young and old.

Our first event is the **Secret Sister Reveal, June 22 at 2 pm – 4 pm.** We will have a time of fellowship and time to break bread together. There will be time to discover our Secret Sisters and then choose new Secret Sisters at this event.

There will be plenty of time to discuss and plan for additional women’s activities. I am also thinking of having tea parties, a Christmas gathering, a women’s chick-flick night, bingo, and eventually a women’s Bible Study. I am also praying for a few women who would like to step forward and help me plan these things. Please pray about it and consider that maybe God is calling you, too!

## good news...

These are the birthdays of people age 65 and older and couples with anniversaries from June 4<sup>th</sup> to June 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Birthdays:

Mark Hume	June 6
Deb Arnold	June 7
Bill Abusamra	June 14

### Anniversaries:

Gregg & Cindy Jorritsma June 4

### Altar Flowers

Just a reminder that we have a new procedure for getting flowers on the altar each Sunday. You can still buy (or pick) and bring your own flowers on any given week. Please have them there by at least 15 minutes before the service. At the end of the service, please take your flowers with you.

If you want to celebrate anything or remember someone with your flowers, please get that information to Deb Arnold and Judi Sweeney before that Sunday.



Last November, we had a summit meeting for all the people in the church who were part of or wanted to be part of a ministry of caring in and outside of the church. Our church is known for its love and service, and we have many individuals and small groups of people who help meet the needs of others. I was convinced that there was someone God was calling to organize this ministry and make it even more effective. We prayed for that person to answer the

call that evening. It turns out that God was talking to the person that night. But it took a while for her to shed some of her other myriad of jobs. Now, she is ready to start working on her call. Be sure to welcome Nancy Olson as the new Coordinator of Caring Ministries in the church.

When I talked to Nancy about her desire to coordinate all the caring groups in the church, she told me that she has always considered helping people and serving to be her ministry both inside and outside of the church. She loves to meet and greet new people as they come into the church, and she wants to make sure that everyone feels welcomed. She heads up the Prayer Group at the church, and they weekly send out cards and pray for the prayer needs people have brought to them. She has been a

*Continued on page 4...*

## Monthly Verse • John 8:31-32

If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.  
Then you will know the truth,  
and the truth will set you free.

Blue lettering indicates those groups that have updated information.

### Adult Sunday School Class

This adult Bible Study meets weekly during the school year from 9:30 - 10:15 am in the Conference Room. Starting on January 21<sup>st</sup>, the class will be taught for awhile by Patti Barney using the book *Psalm 91*.

### Monday Morning Women's Bible Study

Meeting weekly at Phyllis Cobiski's home at 23 Gilbert Street from 10 - 11:30 am. The group will be starting a new study called "Breaking Free" on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Contact Pauline Dwelly for information.

### Women's Monday Afternoon Bible Study

This group will begin a new study using the book *Grounded in the Faith* which has twenty-four low prep, in-depth sessions that are meant to ground believers in the basics of their faith. Topics include justification, sanctification, evidence for the inspiration of the Bible, the Trinity, God's attributes, Jesus' humanity and divinity and much more. The cost of the book is \$20. We'll begin this study on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Contact Susan Gainley.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

This group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month from 6 to 7:30 pm. The group meets in the Parlor. Contact Karen Bessette for more information.

### Overcomers - NEW

This new women's Bible Study meets on Monday nights at Jeannine Fish's home. This group is currently not meeting.

### It's All About Jesus

This Bible Study group meets to learn more about Jesus through the Scriptures. The group meets on Tuesday evenings at 6 pm. Contact Jade Ford for more information.

### Men's Bible Study

This group is currently in the book of Joshua,



working through the Bible with a Bible Study entitled *The Essential 100*. We're discovering the 100 most inspirational passages in God's Word that truly identify the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus. We meet on Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Conference Room. Contact Brian Roth.

### Understanding Spiritual Gifts - Zoom

This Zoom Bible study biweekly on Wednesday nights from 6:45 pm. They are Studying Spiritual Gifts, a study by Kay Arthur (available on Amazon). Contact Marcia Cummings to get a Zoom invite for the class as well as for more information.

### Christian Yoga • Balanced in Him

Meeting every Wednesday night in the parlor. Contact Holly Kularski for information.

### Prayer Group

This group meets weekly on Fridays at 9:30 - 11:00 am in the Conference Room. Contact Nancy Olson for details.

### Celia Daniel's Bible Study

This Bible Study meets in the Multi-Purpose Room on Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. Contact Celia Daniels for more information.

### Sweeney Bible Study

We continue with our life application Bible studies. Our next meetings will be on June 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Contact Judi Sweeney.

### Living Single - NEW

This new group for singles aged 30+ meets on Thursday nights. On first and third Thursdays in each month, they meet in the Conference Room. On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

Thursdays, they do activities in the area. Contact Bridget Reynolds for details.

### Men's Saturday Breakfast and Study

The monthly men's breakfast and Bible Study is on the second Saturday of each month. Contact Dale Wadsworth for information. **The next breakfast is June 8th at 8:15 am.**

### Drawing Closer

The Bible Journaling Group will meet in the Multi-Purpose Room from 9:30 - 11:00 am on Saturdays. Contact Deb Arnold.

### Parents of Little Ones Bible Study

This new group will meet at the Hulsebus' home on the first Saturdays of the month. This group is starting a new study called "Grace Based Parenting" by Dr. Tim Kimmel. Please reach out to Brian or Jessie for more information.

### Jr. KICK

This group for students in grades 6 through 8 meets from at 2:00 to 3:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

### Ignite

This group for high school students meets from 4 - 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

### Sharing Christ Through Cards

Watch the newsletter for the next session.

### Joy 'n Hope

The Cancer Care Ministry supports people with cancer as well as their caregivers. They also pray for people whose life is impacted by cancer each month. See Melanie Silva Fortier for more information.

If you want information about a small group, please contact – Judi Sweeney, (508)383-5384, or [jpsweeney58@charter.net](mailto:jpsweeney58@charter.net)

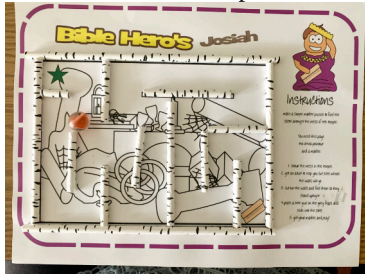
Grade 3 - 5

### *The Boy Who Sought the Lord...* by Sue Caron

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, we learned about a boy who became king when he was only 8 years old. His father and brother, who reigned before him, were evil in the sight of the Lord, but Josiah was different. He began to seek after the God of King David. *"He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left."* 2 Kings 22:2.

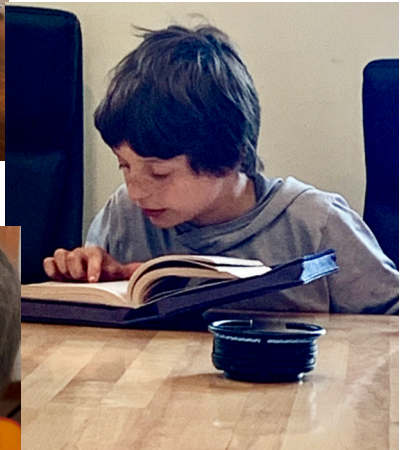
Josiah cleared away idols and called an end to sacrificing to pagan gods. Writings of The Law were discovered during a clean-up of the temple. They were given to Josiah, and he read the scriptures to his people. *"There had never been a king like him before, who served the Lord with all his heart, mind, and strength, obeying all the Laws of Moses; nor has there been a king like him since."* 2 Kings 23:25.

I love sharing stories about kids in the Bible! It was the perfect opportunity to assure our kids that they are never too young to seek the Lord and to walk in His holiness. Please pray that we raise up godly citizens. One person can make a difference. One person can change the world.



## Summer Children's Church

During the summer, the children have a more informal class time during the Sunday Service. We will be including only pictures of these class times during the summer.



### *Meeting Dates*

## *Vacation Bible School for Helpers and Teachers*

If you are called to help out at Vacation Bible School this summer (July 22 - 26), please make note of these meeting dates. The meetings will be held from **6:30 - 7:30 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Church Office Building.** The meeting dates are:

**June 12 • July 10**



recognizable in the panning cameras. And yet, there he was in a split second! I reran the short video and stopped it. No doubt at all. There he was smiling and enjoying all that was happening. God gave me the peek I asked for.

God has always provided His children with “peeks” when they most needed them. He reveals His glory and His grace when we most need it. The most famous story in the New Testament about a peek Jesus gave to three apostles is the story of His Transfiguration. Jesus took three disciples, Peter, James and John, with Him as He went up a mountain. When they got to the top of the mountain, they started praying. As they were praying, Jesus gave them a glimpse or “peek” of His glory, *“And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light...”* (Matthew 17:2). They had seen the miracles and healings that Jesus had done, but they had not experienced His glory, who He really was. I have often wondered why Jesus took just 3 of the disciples and not all of them. Knowing how God has shown His control over the things that have caused me anxiety, I wonder if God knew that these three men needed this peek into His power and glory for what the cost of their discipleship would be in the days, weeks, months and years to come. James would be the first of the apostles to be martyred, the only one whose death was recorded in the New Testament, *“About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword.”* (Acts 12:1-2). Shortly afterward, Herod, so pleased with the effect caused by killing James, had Peter arrested. I can’t even begin to imagine the anxiety that Peter must have felt. Yet, it was not time for Peter to join Jesus in Heaven. Peter’s purpose was not finished. Jesus had told him, *“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* (Matthew 16:18). Peter, himself, wrote of the

power of the Transfiguration later in his life, *“For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”* (2 Peter 1:16). Peter recognized the peek given to the three of them not only gave them sureness of knowing but also helped others see Jesus as they had seen Him in “his majesty.” Finally, John, the only apostle not martyred, would be exiled alone to the island of Patmos. There, he recorded the Revelation of God through visions given to him. When this purpose of His life was complete, he went home to heaven at about the age of 88. Again, I wonder if his being at the Transfiguration and knowing what he saw and heard was true, really influenced his acceptance of the visions Jesus gave him of the End Times. John explains it this way at the beginning of the book of Revelation, *“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.”* (Revelation 1:1-2). The man who had seen Jesus’ glory in person was the perfect person to share the vision Jesus gave Him of the future without any doubts.

The peek of God’s glory and majesty that Peter, James and John received was certainly more important than the peeks God gave me. Yet, the purpose of these glimpses into His majesty, glory and power do the same for me as they did for the apostles with Jesus on the mountain. These peeks meet our need to know and understand. They facilitate our living the purpose of the life God has given to each of us. They control our anxiety. They show us God’s love and concern for each of us. They give us an eyewitness story of God’s grace in our life to share with others. They strengthen our faith. We need only to look for them through prayer. God wants to give you a peek.

#### *My Ministry...continued from page 1...*

member of the Diaconate for a number of years, and she always is available to help and to serve. She is part of the “Granny Squad” teaching pre-school at VBS. No job is too small or too unglamorous for her. In her current everyday job, she helps individuals and the families as they try to adjust to life in a care facility. She helps them especially with the tons of paperwork that are required, and she tries to help them so that they are not so anxious or even afraid. She always goes the extra mile with people who have no other family to care for them. She will take them to the bank or just answer all their financial questions. She wants to show the love of Jesus to them.

Recently, Nancy got up at 5 am to feed her animals and then drove to the two women who had procedures scheduled in and near Boston on that day. One of them drove the car from her house, but an accident on Interstate 90 threw off the schedule for the first person’s surgery. They dropped off the first woman for her delayed surgery, got the second person to her procedure, and then Nancy waited to take home both of these women who were tired and in pain. With grace and peace, she drove them both home after a 12 hour+ day of driving and caring for them. This is what Nancy does, and what she hopes even more people will offer to do for others in the future.

The Caring Ministry will slowly gear up. We will soon have a dedicated email for people to send in care requests and notify the church when people are hospitalized or when they are going home from hospitalization or rehabilitation. We have a database containing all the people and groups who are doing this kind of service now, and we will continue to update it. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Nancy and talk to her.

## **June and July at Café at the Mill**

**June 7<sup>th</sup>** • Kira - Music and testimony. Kira Schcerbakova is a Ukrainian of Jewish heritage who has come to Christ! Beautiful voice, very interesting testimony!!!

**June 14<sup>th</sup>** • The Living Hope Band is back!!! Christian Rock / Worship!!!

**June 21<sup>st</sup>** • Ben Laine, a Mill Church event!

**June 28<sup>th</sup>** • Closed for VBS

**July 5<sup>th</sup>** • Closed for Vacation

**July 12<sup>th</sup>** • Closed for Vacation

**July 19<sup>th</sup>** • Clayfoot - Christian Blues Rock!!! Don't miss this incredible band!!

**Friday July 26<sup>th</sup>** • Closed tonight, but we'll see you Tomorrow for an all day festival!!!

**Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup>** • **Hope for Worcester Concert**

Featuring McGrail, Faith's Road, The Stephen Bell Trio, Sam Bowen, & the Living Hope Band. Doors open at 10:30 am and will run to 3:30 pm.

# Luke 14:25-35

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