



Mark 6.3: "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him."

Jesus was known to be a carpenter in his hometown of Nazareth. He was known as one that worked with his hands – constructing things out of materials – and in that work he created. This reflected his relationship with his earthly Father and his heavenly Father. But this was offensive to the folks in his hometown synagogue as he began to teach. For they looked at him as just the laborer that was into construction.

While on this pedagogical journey we are learning that the work we do with our hands is to be dedicated to the Lord. For the Lord has called us to a school for the Lord's service,

where we are journeying to the mountain of the Lord together. We all bring God-given gifts and talents to this fellowship of believers. And those gifts and talents are offered to the Lord so that God might do with us as seen fit. And we do this together with integrity, selflessness, intentionally, consistency, and for the common good.

There is a quote that makes me think of the integrity found in Jesus' labor as a carpenter that is from Thomas Merton, it goes like this: "The peculiar grace of a shaker chair is due to the fact that it was made by someone capable of believing that an angel might come and sit on it." On this journey, the Lord has commissioned each of us to be laborers in God's vineyard. As we work with each other, may we guard each person's dignity and save each person's pride. And when we work – may it be a work of love. May we participate with what the Holy Spirit is doing in this world, and may we do it together.

If you would like to learn more about this time of pedagogy – feel free to reach out to me. We can get coffee and discern together what the Holy Spirit is up to here in Surf City. 910.524.5676 ~Philip Chryst

A Letter from your Lay Leader...

DIGGING A DITCH part 1 (Clearing out the ditch)



*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Psalm 51:10 esv*

Tuesday was our first Pray, Work, Eat day. It went well, we gathered for a time of prayer, then we were each assigned a job to do. My assignment was to dig a ditch. As I started digging that ditch, I started seeing how digging a ditch was like the life of a Christian. Overtime things pile up in a ditch and it keeps it from draining properly. You can take that build up as being sin in your life. Which keeps you from hearing the word of God. No matter what that sin is, it just builds up and builds up and builds up and soon, that sin in your life is like the ditch. It used to flow so easily into the bigger drainage system, but it became clogged up and it no longer was able to flow easily. We all need to repent and clean out everything in our lives that hinders us from hearing the word of God and keeps us from being a good representation of Christ to others.

So how do we take care of that ditch? Well, you must dig it up and clean it out. How? by praying, reading your Bible, and fellowshiping with other Christians to start opening that drain line again. Opening your communication line with God and opening it up where others can see you flowing into their lives with life and rejuvenation.

But you know, you can't do it just one time, It needs to be done every day, because if you miss a day when it rains, the debris falls in the ditch, you miss another day it rains again, things start to pour into that ditch and clogs it up again and you find yourself not being Christ to others you find yourself hiding from God because you fell prey to the ways of the world. As in the ditch pictured above you see roots, the ditch is cleared of all debris, but the roots are still there. The roots can be unforgiveness, addictions, self-centeredness, envy, evil thoughts, or anything that allows the debris from letting you flow the way God intended you too. Those roots have got to be removed.

Well today is the day you dig that ditch up. You dig it up, you clean it out and you don't do it just today you do it every day and let that water of life flow, so it doesn't get stagnant. There will be some areas in that ditch where the roots have gotten so thick you will have to pull out the hand tools, get down on your knees and cut away at those roots with prayer and fasting.

Once we are done with all our work it will be time to feast at the heavenly table with our Lord and Savior. I am ready for that day, but until Christ returns, I will be busy about my work, clearing out the ditch, so I can share the love of Christ with others.

Join me next week for Digging a Ditch part 2 (Why can't I do something else besides digging a ditch?)

Loving you Always,
Your Sister in Christ,
Jessica Blackburn, your lay leader



Are you ready to get away for a wonderful, inspiring, Worship filled weekend to Myrtle Beach?

There is group of women heading to Myrtle Beach for a Women of Joy conference May 5 – 7. Sorry guys, this is a Women’s retreat. We will have an amazing weekend of singing, listening to inspiring speakers, and I believe we have planned for a few hours of shopping as well. Come join us!

If you are interested, contact **Jessica Blackburn** for details. jmb@rayblackburn.com #910-622-1193



WELCOME TABLE:

April 30th: Susan Wieland & Bill Widholm

Please join us in the Sanctuary for prayer service every Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 7:30a.m.

All are invited!



Please join us this Saturday, April 29th at 9:00 a.m. for a churchwide workday.

We will be doing a weekly workday every Tuesday from 8:00-12:00. *We would love to see you!*



Please join us this Sunday at the 9:30 service as we welcome our newest members. The final membership class will immediately follow worship service.

4/27/23~ Leadership Council Meeting @ 6:30p.m.

4/30/23~ Children's Council Meeting @ 10:30a.m.

New class:

Spiritual Gifts by Patricia D Brown (the book "Participants Guide of Spirit Gifts" can be ordered through Amazon). Spiritual Gifts sets you on a course to open yourselves to God in ways that will enable you to see and accept your gifts, which are spiritual realities.

*Starting Tuesday evenings May 2 @ 6:30p.m. or Wednesday afternoons at 12 pm. Once a week for two months. (You can choose either the day or evening class)

Sign-up sheet on bulletin board at Faith Harbor. Contact Gail Widholm with any questions: #910-297-2465 gwidholm12@yahoo.com



The men of the church are gathering on the third Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship. Please join us as we venture forth in establishing a permanent and sustainable ministry for all men in the church.

For more information contact Dave Davila at davila21@bellsouth.net or Tom Jackson at tsjaction@yahoo.com

The Quilting Mission meets on Monday and Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Please join us...no experience necessary. Any questions, feel free to call Alma at (540) 588-0738



The Thrift Store is in need of gently used children's clothes for spring & summer.

Reminder: Donations for the thrift store should always come through the Harbor Warehouse. *Thank you for your support!*

Jean Hawley: (910) 330-0760
Beth Walker: (252) 213-2240

Gloria Richardson: (704) 804-4909
Sylvia Bowman: (910) 284-3131

United Women in Faith NEWS



The "Keep Me Dry" diaper program is a mission of the Harbor Thrift Store and supported by United Methodist Women. It is housed at Share the Table where clients can pick up a package of 20 diapers per week to supplement their babies' diaper needs. Studies have shown that 1 out of 3 families experience diaper shortages and our area is no exception. If you are able, please consider donating diapers or a monetary gift. There is a play pen for collection next to the front door as you enter our church. **We are especially in need of size 5 and 6.**

Thank you for your continued support and God's blessings as we care for the smallest ones in our community.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS...



Please join us every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for Children's Story Time!
Tell a friend, bring a friend!

Jr. Basic is in need of parent volunteers to help with preparing and cleaning up for lunch time. Please let me know if you can help with one of the dates listed below.

May

May 7th: Parent's Potluck/Jr. Basic

Each family will bring in a dish to be shared with children and parents alike. Children will be served lunch with their parents but instead of eating with their families they will go back to the children's classrooms for lunch and Jr. Basic. Parents meanwhile will have lunch in the narthex with other parents. This is an opportunity for parents to get to know other parents they may not already know. I encourage everyone to sit with someone they do not know well. We will be participating in some fun activities to get to know each other while connecting and building relationships in Christ. After all it takes a village! I expect to be finished around 12:30. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

May 14th: Happy Mother's Day!

May 21st: Jr. Basic/End of school year party!

A look ahead: Vacation Bible School June 26th-29th. 5:30 - 8:30pm. Dinner will be served!
*Vacation Bible School Volunteer sign-up sheet is in the narthex. It takes many hands to make VBS possible!
Even if you cannot commit to all four days, please consider signing up to help one evening or for decorating
and cleaning up. Thank you for your support!*



***Sun., April 30th~**

Regular Youth group meetings for MS & HS in the Reef and Library from 5-6:30pm. Last Confirmation Class to meet from 5:30-6:30pm in the Sanctuary with Sponsors.

*We were invited to create a team and participate in Coastal Horizons Annual Coastal Duck Derby fundraiser. Folks can "adopt a duck" to help a child. *There is a QR code that takes you straight to our team's donation page on the Info. table in the Narthex. **The Duck derby race will be on May 19th at 5:30pm at Jungle Rapids with an amazing Grand prize for the winning duck!** Our youth are encouraged to attend and volunteer at this fun family event! I can drive us there in the church van (More information to come). Feel free to reach out should you have any other questions. Thanks all!

****Save the Date~**

On Sunday, May 21st at the 9:30am service, we will be recognizing our current seniors. We will be praying a blessing over them as they begin this new chapter in their lives. There will be refreshments afterwards. This is also Homecoming Sunday! ***If you have a Senior that is graduating High School or College, please let Jewels or the church office know, so that we can include them in this special celebration. (If they are unable to attend in person, please send us their information so that we can include that in the Messenger and the Bulletin). Thank you!

Feel free to contact me should you need further information about anything listed here. We thank you for your faithful support and prayers for our youth and this ministry. Peace be with you.

Blessings,
Jewels Swain, Youth Coordinator
910-232-9844

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I am special to God.

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

~Matthew 13.44 (NIV)



Members: Joyce Arnette; Ray Blackburn; Nancy Buckman, Doris & Mike Davis; David Decatur; Patty Feige; Janet Hughes; Martha Marlow; Hank & Jan Maser; Tony Merlino; Larry & Becki Modlin; Sean Mooney, Wendy Mooney and family; Judy Pratt

Military: Joe Fraley, Alex Harris, Andy Harrison, Ryan Hermance; Greg Holmes; Sgt. Joey Horne; John Modlin, Branden Mooney, Tyler Ray, David Ritz, Michael Roberson.

Family and Friends: Eileen Eifert (John Pratt's sister); Parker Fox; *the Hoopes family*; Tim Maser; Wendy Mooney's mother Shirley; Virginia (and Jimmy Platts); Johnny Paliotti and his mother Donna; Connie Paschall; Barbara & Neil Schilling; Mary Sloan; Stephen Smith; Nancy Sproull

Website Prayer Requests: *Adrian Capps*; Lorraine Chavez; Betty Parrish, Mylinda Paschal & Tetsuo Nakatsu

And all unnamed persons needing God's peace, comfort, and healing. Heavenly Father, I am praying for complete healing and good health. Please take away my worries & grant me inner peace and strength. AMEN

SCRIPTURE CARD- Week of May 1st

Centering Prayer: I shall not want. Psalm 23

M Acts 11.1-18, John 10.11-18

Tu Acts 11.1-26, John 10.22-30

W Acts 12.1-5, John 10.31-39

Th Acts 13.13-25, John 13.16-20

F Acts 13.26-33, John 14.1-6

Sa Acts 13.44-52, John 14.7-14

Su Acts 6.1-7, I Peter 2.4-9, John 14.1-12

Key scripture: John 14.6: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"



MAY

2nd: Isaac Henry

4th: Michael Alexander; Kevin Woolard

7th: Gail Ace

8th: Linda Wells

9th: Jessica Matthews; Tamara Jones

11th: Hunt Tayloe

13th: David Cosner

17th: Caroline Shepard; Sandy Sly

18th: Oscar Phillips; Austin Hengst

20th: Doug Medlin; DeAnne Chryst

27th: Emma Chryst

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT FAITH HARBOR UMC

Sunday, 4/30

8:00 Beach Service
9:30 Worship Service
10:30 Adult Bible Study, Rm. 6
10:30 Children's Council Meeting
11:00 New Member Class
2 – 8:00p.m. *Little Pink Houses*/Narhex
5:00p.m. MS/HS Youth Group

Monday, 5/01

7:30 Open Prayer
9:00 Quilters, Rm. 6
3:00 Bible Study, Rm. 6
6:30p.m. Cub Scouts, Rm. 1-4

Tuesday, 5/02 (Workday)

7:30 Open Prayer
9:00 Quilters, Rm. 6
10:00 Children's Storytime
5 – 8:00p.m. *Little Pink House* Game Night
6:30p.m. Spiritual Gifts Class
7:00p.m. Women's AA Group/Reef

Wednesday, 5/03

9:30 Communion
10:00 Reading Circle, Rm. 6
10:30 Staff Meeting
12:00 Spiritual Gifts Class, Rm. 6
6:30p.m. GS Troop #4242
7:00p.m. Choir practice
7:00p.m. Boy Scouts/Reef

Thursday, 5/04

7:30 Open Prayer
12:00 AA Group, Rm. 6
6:00p.m. GS Troop #2424

Friday, 5/05

8:30 Women's Breakfast Group
Women of Joy Conference Trip

Saturday, 5/06

Women of Joy Conference Trip

Sunday, 5/07

8:00 Beach Service
9:30 Communion Service
10:30 Adult Bible Study, Rm. 6
11:00 JR Basic/Parents Potluck
5:00p.m. MS/HS Youth Group
Women of Joy Conference