



The St.  
Andrew



# Chimes

**August 2009**

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor's Pen	1
August Sermon Texts	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
Community Ministry Walk	4
Help Us Spread the Good News!	4
Help Wanted	5
Music Matters	5
Back to School	5
Christian Education	6
July Statistics	6
PC(USA) Facts	7
Bread for the Journey	8

## From the Pastor's Pen ...

In Charles Dickens' historical novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*, he wrote, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity; it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us, we had nothing before us; we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way."

It's very possible that someone might describe our world today in a similar manner. We're not really sure what to make of things! The economy's recovering, and then it's not; the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are going better, then they're not; our jobs seem secure, then they're not.

It would be easy for us to throw up our hands, and yell "*I give up!*"

However, God's work has always advanced the most in the worst of times. Remember the story of the widow in 2 Kings, chapter 4? Her husband was dead, her sons were being taken as slaves, she was deep in debt, and had nothing but a jar of oil to her name. But God's prophet, Elisha, told her to gather as many vessels as she could and pour what oil she had into them. Crazy, right?!

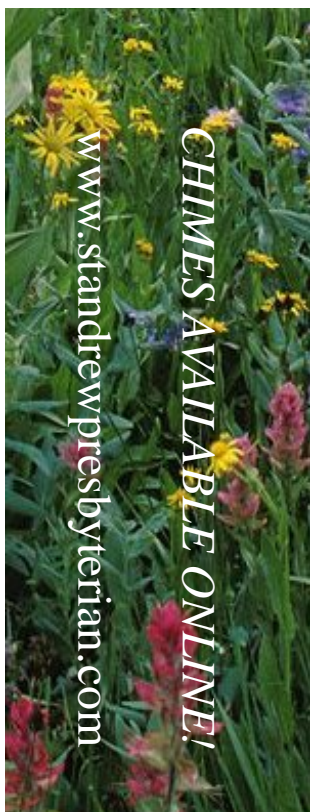
Well, she obeyed. And lo and behold, the oil kept flowing! And the vessels kept filling! They filled until finally there were no more vessels to be found. Only then did the oil run out. The widow then sold the oil and paid her debts.

From a human standpoint, we could easily say in this economy, "There's no money for supporting the church, mission work, outreach, programs and the like! We're in economic crisis! And I have just this one jar of oil!"

However, as we adopt God's priorities as our own, we find that God provides in ways we never dreamed. The oil somehow keeps flowing until the needs are met. And God's work is thereby advanced.

Yes, for some these *are* the worst of times. But for the cause of Christ, these *can be* the best of times! Instead of worrying how much oil we do or don't have, let's just *open ourselves as vessels and let God pour his oil into us*. In my experience, the oil will keep pouring until the needs are met.

Let our hearts beat in sympathetic vibration with God's own! May we one day look back on these days and say, "*It was the best of times, even in the worst of times!*" — MV



# August Sermon Texts

## **AUGUST 2: John 6:35, 41-51**

35Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

41Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" 43Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. 44No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. 45It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. 46Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. 47Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. 48I am the bread of life. 49Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

## **AUGUST 9: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a**

26When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. 27When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son.

1But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD, and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. 2The rich man had very many flocks and herds; 3but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. 4Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." 5Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; 6he shall restore the lamb four-fold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

7Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; 8I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. 9Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. 11Thus says the LORD: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. 12For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun." 13David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

## **AUGUST 16: 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14**

10Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. 11The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. 12So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

3:3Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places.

4The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used

to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. 5At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." 6And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. 7And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. 8And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted.

9Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" 10It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 11God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, 12I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

13I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. 14If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

### **AUGUST 23: Ephesians 6:10-20**

10Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. 11Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. 15As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. 16With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. 19Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

### **AUGUST 30: James 1:17-27**

17Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

19You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. 21Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

22But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. 23For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; 24for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

26If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 27Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

Michael Olson	August 3
Toni Kohlstedt	August 6
John Wilson	August 7
Marge Wylie	August 9
Mark Vickstrom	August 16
Bob Simms	August 18
Travis McKenna	August 20
Brendan Olson	August 22
Terry Spence	August 26
Judith West	August 28
Chuck Hendricks	August 29
Joyce Lackey	August 29
Kenneth West	August 29
Tom Moller	August 30
Cherrie Pickens	August 30

Mark & Anne Vickstrom	August 9, 1986
Fred & Dorothy Thies	August 10, 1962
Mark & Donya Powell	August 17, 1986
Thomas & Mary Herndon	August 18, 1994



Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Apologies! Please drop us a note! Thanks.



# Community Ministry Annual Run & Walk

Community Ministry sponsors a 5K run & walk along Bear Creek each year. This year's event will be held on Saturday, August 29, at Bear Creek Park. Onsite registration is at 8:30, run 9:00, walk 9:05. Children 5 and under are free; 6-18 and over 60 are \$15; everyone else is \$25. The walk concludes with prizes, a picnic, and other fun activities for the participants!

Event day registration is available, but you are encouraged to register before the day of the walk online at [comministry-denver.org](http://comministry-denver.org). Registration forms are also in the narthex.

*Every \$5 received feeds a family for a week!*



# Help Us Spread the Good News!

Just a reminder ... growth and the spreading of the Good News is the responsibility of EACH of us!

If each of us brings just ONE visitor to church this year, that's well over 100 new potential members!



*Do your part!*

*Invite a friend!*



# Help Wanted !



1. Clean and organize the office shelves and cupboards
2. Clean and organize the library cupboards
3. Organize the library books
4. Editor for the *Chimes*
5. Weekly bulletin production

SEE PASTOR MARK —  
THANKS!



## Music Matters

*CALLING ALL SINGERS!!*

Choir rehearsals start Wednesday, August 26, 6PM!  
New, unsure, but willing participants WELCOME.

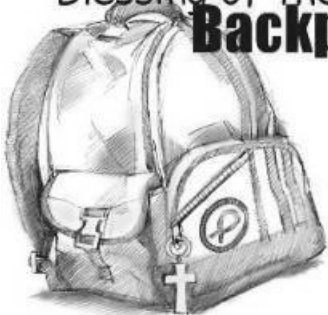
Guest pianist Carrie Mallory will be playing for us on August 9 and 16  
while Seung-Mee is on vacation.

Other guest musicians this month are on the way — stay tuned!!



## Back to School

Blessing of the  
**Backpacks**



**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 23**

Many of our kids head back to school this month!  
All children and youth are invited to bring their  
*school backpacks* to the worship service on Sunday,  
August 23. We'll have a special blessing of our  
backpacks, as we get ready to start back to school!

**INFO CHANGED?**

If your address, phone number or email has changed, please notify Dorothy at the church office  
(303.934.5644)

# Sign Up Now to Help With Christian Education!

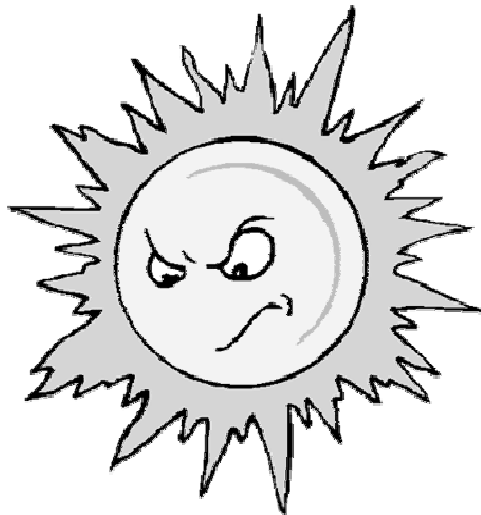
Experience one of the most rewarding volunteer contributions –  
help out in a Sunday School or Adult Ed. class this fall!

There are many opportunities to choose from, with various levels of involvement.

See *Kristin Olson, Christian Education chair*, or *Donya Powell, Christian Education Director* for more info.



Q: What did the pig say at the beach on a hot summer's day?



***St. Andrew Statistics for July:***

A: I'm bacon!

<b><i>Members</i></b>	<b>138</b>
<b><i>Average Weekly Attendance</i></b>	<b>68</b>
<b><i>Average Weekly Contribution</i></b>	<b>\$2,234</b>

# Did You Know??!

## *PC(USA) Facts*

### **1. *How many members and how many congregations does the PC(USA) have?***

At the end of 2008 (our most recent data), there were 10,751 congregations and 2,140,165 members in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) — a net loss of 69,381 members from 2007 (-3.1%) and a net loss of 69 congregations.

### **2. *What has been the membership change over the last 10 years?***

In 1998, the PC(USA) reported 2,587,674 members, so the current membership reflects a net loss of 447,509 members, or about 17.3%, over the last 10 years. There were 11,260 congregations in 1998, 509 more than in 2008.

### **3. *What is the size of the average Presbyterian church?***

Presbyterian churches tend to be small. About seven out of ten (73%) of congregations have 200 or fewer members. The average, or mean, size of a Presbyterian church is 199 members. The median size is 100. More than three-fourths have 250 or fewer members. Half (50%) have 100 or fewer.

### **4. *What is the average worship attendance?***

On an average Sunday in 2008, the number in attendance at worship in the average congregation was equal to about half of the congregation's membership (51%). Worship attendance is higher in smaller congregations. In congregations with between 101 and 250 members, average attendance is 56% of membership.

### **5. *What is the racial-ethnic makeup of the church? How diverse are we?***

The PC(USA) is mostly White (91%) and, unfortunately, not very diverse. Other racial-ethnic groups for which data are collected by the PC(USA) are Black or African American (3.3%), Asian (3.3%), Hispanic (1.4%) and Native American (0.3%). (There is also an "other" category, 0.3%).

The race-ethnicity of ministers is similar with the exception that the second largest group of ministers, other than those who are White, is Asian (6.4%). In addition, 3.6% of ministers are Black, 2.3% are Hispanic, 0.2% are Native American, and 0.6% are other. Elders and deacons follow a similar pattern, with deacons being the most likely group to have someone of color (14%). About 8.6% of elders are people of color.

### **6. *How many ordained women are there?***

There were a total of 21,286 ministers in 2008; 13,462 active and 7,824 retired. Of active ministers, approximately 32% are female (4,253).

### **7. *What is the average contribution per member in the PC(USA)?***

Total contributions for 2008 were \$2,137,897,382, a loss of \$24,234,268 (1.1%) over 2007. Nonetheless, the average contribution per reporting member increased to \$1,109.37.

*Go placidly amid the noise and haste,  
and remember what peace there may be in si-  
lence.*

## *Bread for the Journey*

*As far as possible, without surrender,  
be on good terms with all persons.*

*Speak your truth quietly and clearly;  
and listen to others, even the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.*

*Avoid loud and aggressive persons,  
they are vexations to the spirit.*

*If you compare yourself with others,  
you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.*

*Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.*

*Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the  
changing fortunes of time.*

*Exercise caution in your business affairs;  
for the world is full of trickery.*

*But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals;  
and everywhere life is full of heroism.*

*Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection.  
Neither be cynical about love;  
for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.*

*Take kindly the counsel of the years,  
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.*

*Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.*

*But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.*

*Beyond a wholesome discipline,  
be gentle with yourself.*

*You are a child of the universe,  
no less than the trees and the stars;  
you have a right to be here.*

*And whether or not it is clear to you,  
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.*

*Therefore be at peace with God,  
whatever you conceive Him to be,  
and whatever your labors and aspirations,  
in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.*

*With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.*

*Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.*

Max Ehrmann, *Desiderata*, 1927