

Claude Presbyterian Church

9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 13, 2008

Welcome!

Welcome to Claude Church today. We are happy you came out today to join with us in praise, worship and fellowship. If this is your first time here, we ask you to sign our visitors' book in the front entrance before you leave today. We invite everyone here today to join us in the Sunday School room for light refreshments following this morning's worship service.

What's Happening at Claude

Sunday, August 17 - B.B.Q. at Carman & Doug Lackie's place - please bring a salad and/or dessert.

September 9 - Reach Out Forum - 7:15 pm

September 20 - Scottish Ceilidh at John & Helen Mason's - watch for more details

Wednesday evening Bible Study has been suspended until the fall.

Stewardship Moment

The wonderful thing about the purse is that it can help you be a better Christian. It can extend all your powers. The money can travel for you all around the world and do good. It can go where you do not have time to go personally. It can serve people you will never even be able to meet. It can serve a variety of causes although you could not possibly have time, strength, or energy to deal personally with all of them... It will become an instrument of God's holy purpose if you give it a chance, by dedicating it to Christ!

— Lowell H. Atkinson

Mission Capsules

GUYANA

Through *Presbyterians Sharing* . . . we support Linda Shaw, a Christian Educator working with the Guyana Presbyterian Church. Linda's primary responsibility is to develop Sunday School curriculum and Vacation Bible School curriculum and to train teachers and

leaders. This has been a satisfying and often joyful experience for her. Linda has begun a literacy class for adults, teaching nine women who meet weekly. The first hour is spent improving basic reading skills, and the second, for those who wish to stay, is a basic Bible lesson. Six of the women in the group attend church, and were recently able to share their reading skills in worship - with much joy! As we support *Presbyterians Sharing* . . . let us pray for Linda as she works to make a difference in the lives of women and children in Guyana.

Nurturing Your Family's Faith at Home this Summer!

It's summer! Summer vacation lasts nine weeks. That's one sixth of an entire year! Here at church we want to provide you with some ideas for ways you can nurture your families' faith throughout this season. Even if you will be away in the coming weeks, know you are not far from our heart and prayers. Below you will find some simple ideas for ways you can nurture your family's faith, no matter where you might be this summer.

Sabbath Rest.

As your family moves into the summer months, plan to set aside Sundays (or another time during the week) as a time to reflect on how much God loves you and your family. Think of something special your family could do as part of your day of Sabbath 'rest' and celebration. Check out the ideas listed below. As a family, pray together and/or read a story from a Bible. (Ralph Milton's *The Family Story Bible* is a great choice.)

Prayer Ideas

• A simple prayer: Dear God, thank you for being here with us and for loving us! Thank you for summer rest and family time together. Thank you for this beautiful world—the green grass and the blue sky. (Add your own ideas ...) Help us to always walk in your way

by loving one another. Amen.

- If you have young children or grandchildren, create prayers that rhyme: For example: "Good night, sleep tight, Know that you are in God's sight. Amen." Or "God, we thank you for our day. God, we thank you in every way. Amen."
- Add-a-word prayer: A parent begins a prayer and each member of the family adds one or two words. For example, you might say, "Thank you, God, for ..." Each family member could then add one word, such as food, birds, friends, soccer, grandparents. Or you might say, "God, I'm sorry that ..." Each family member adds something, such as "I yelled." "I got mad at my brother," and so on.
- Alphabet prayer: Go around the family and have everyone thank God for something that starts with a different letter of the alphabet, going from A to Z. For families with teenagers, do this backwards from Z to A.
- Current events: As you hear on the news about troubled areas in the world, pray for these areas as a family.

Blessing Tree (Materials required: Tree, stones)

• Trees are an important image in scripture. We remember the Tree of Life, the burning bush, the tree Zaccheus climbed, and more! Purchase and plant a small tree or choose a tree that is already present in an area you will frequently see throughout the summer. If you live in a place where you do not have access to a tree, you can purchase a plant for your home. During your special time of Sabbath rest, stand around your Blessing Tree and share with one another something for which you have been thankful in the past week. As each person shares, she/he places a stone around the base of the tree. As you move through the summer, watch your blessings grow as you remember God and give thanks!

Drive-by Blessing

Whenever you drive by a church (any church!), take the opportunity to talk about faith. Invite each person in the car to share something they are thankful for.

Gratitude Jar

Find a large jar. Create a label for the jar and call it, "The Gratitude Jar." Throughout the summer, invite each member of your family to think of one thing every day for which they are grateful. At dinner, enjoy a round of gratitude, going around the table, saying, "Today I'm grateful for ..." Place a coin in the jar for each statement of gratitude. At the end of the summer, open the Gratitude Jar, count the money, and then offer a prayer of thanks for all God's many blessings. Then give the money away to a local charity to help some other family experience some of God's abundant blessings from grateful hearts. (*Adapted from The Family Cloister: Benedictine Wisdom for the Home, David Robinson, Crossroad General Interest, 2000.*)

Family Faith Walks

Weave God into your family's busy life with a book like Family Faith Walks: On-the-Go Faith Activities, Kelly J. Haack, Concordia, 2002. "Walk, run, skip, and laugh your way through these easy-to-do ideas." This book includes a short scripture, questions to talk about as a family, fun activities, and a prayer.

Presbyterian Prayer Partnership

Prayer requests for this coming week include:

SUNDAY, JULY 13

Pray for new ministers at their first charges who may feel overwhelmed and alone.

MONDAY, JULY 14

Pray that we will take the time to enjoy the blessing of long, warm summer days.

TUESDAY, JULY 15

Pray for the Hummingbird Ministry in Richmond, British Columbia, as it continues to expand in the lower mainland area and Vancouver Island.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

Pray for the women at Action Réfugiés in Montreal, Quebec who are seeking refugee status in Canada. May they feel God's loving presence in a sometimes desolate place.

THURSDAY, JULY 17

Pray that we will have a positive influence on all people we meet, especially those who are difficult.

FRIDAY, JULY 18

Pray for those with social challenges, that those who encounter them will treat them with compassion and understanding.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

Pray for the Rev. Jennifer Cameron and the Ministry Committee in the Presbytery of Kingston.

Claude Prayer Group



If you would like to join our Prayer Group or if you have any special prayer requests, please contact Faith Clarkson at 905 838-1573 or Rev. Benson at 905 838-3512.

Famous Quotes!

If it weren't for the optimist, the pessimist would never know how happy he wasn't.

Anonymous

