

Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 2022

Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

Question: What's the difference between major surgery and minor surgery?

Answer: Major surgery is anything they are doing to ME!!!

I am having surgery tomorrow. It's a minor surgery, but it's a big deal to me. It isn't a life or death matter, but I'm told that the recovery is painful. So . . . I'm thinking about pain. Pain is a gift from God that tells us something is wrong. You wouldn't know to remove your hand from the hot stove if it wasn't for pain. Our nervous system is built for that. The pain signal does not even have to make it all the way to the brain, wait for the brain to make a conscious decision, and then send a signal all the way back: "Move your hand!!!" God created our nervous system to enable a quick response.



The problem is that pain usually lingers around a lot longer than it takes to react to an injury. Still, there is a purpose – pain is a signal that you need to take care of that burnt hand. A bandage may be appropriate. Playing baseball may be inappropriate for a while. Take it easy!

Longer-term pain may also help us to know that something is wrong with our relationships, our lifestyles, our moral choices. Pain can help us to get out of a bad relationship, or it may prod us to do the work that leads to healing. Pain can help us to realize that substance use has gotten out of control. These choices are not made by the peripheral nervous system, and we may have to experience pain for a good while before we are open to making a change.

In fact, pain is so important to the way of the world that God made it a part of the plan of salvation. God became a human being, and experienced pain. Christ's suffering was a self-sacrifice of love, so that he could join us in our pain, and redeem us through that pain.

Hebrews 2:17-18 reads:

For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Pain teaches us empathy. We are better able to help others when we have been through our own pain. Now we know that there isn't likely to be an easy fix, and that our simple presence may be the best we can do for another person who is hurting.

Pain is a gift from God. Like several other of God's gifts, it's one that we sometimes wish we could give back. Actually, that is God's plan – that God will take our pain:

*God he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for^[e] the first things have passed away." (Rev. 21:3-4)*

Ken

Youth

We had our youth retreat on August 5-7 and it was a smashing success! Brent Upson hosted us at his cabin in Flagstaff and our kids had so much fun! From hiking to tie-dyeing t-shirts to movie night on the big screen, our kids had a great time playing and exploring.

We also had a lot of free time where the kids could choose their own activities including arts and crafts, board games, a spa station, or time to themselves to relax in a hammock or swing on the swing.

The teaching on the retreat was a unique blend of self-guided study, group discussions, and activities. Each young person was gifted a Bible, a journal, and colored pencils. Each day they were given a self-guided study to go through on their own. Then we reconvened as a group to discuss what they had learned, which ended in either a prayer time or worship time.

We studied the book of Jonah, and discussed how Jonah is a story that many of us hear for the first time as children, but that it can have serious implications

for us as young adults as well! On day 1, we learned about sin, and how we all need God's grace. On day 2, we talked about how God is a compassionate God, always ready to offer a second chance. And on day 3, we talked about how we have a duty to give grace to others and forgive—just as God has forgiven us!
Sammi



Roasting marshmallows



Movie night

ESL Classes

The adult ESL classes ended on August 28 after ten sessions at two levels. Students also participated in two practice sessions along with some Orangewood Congregation members--**thanks** to them for enhancing the learning and fellowship. Certificates for those who completed the sessions will be presented at an upcoming OAF service. We hope to continue classes for these students in the fall. One of the recent lessons for the beginner's group was telling time. Now you may think, "That's not so difficult, my 5-year-old grandson can tell time." Well, first, African countries use 24-hour time, our "military" time. Thus, African students are unfamiliar with terms like noon, midnight, a.m., p.m., in the morning, etc. It further complicates that, technically, in American culture, any time after midnight is "morning, no matter if the sun is not up. In the African culture, "morning" means there's daylight. When communicating time to those who have only used 24-hour time, it is essential to convey, morning or evening, am or pm. Simply saying 8:30 might result in an unintended outcome.



Did you Know.....by Bob Wells

From the Archives - - - 2 (Drone)
 Several years ago, Orangewood used an air conditioning service guy by the name of Jim Keillor. Jim had a hobby of building and flying small personal drones. One day, while at Orangewood, he asked if I wanted to see his model drone. This is what transpired.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/g0cingiyhcjx3jv/Drone%20Over%20Orangewood%20Converted.mpg?dl=0>

Our September Birthdays

Wish them a happy birthday with a card, email, phone call or prayer.

Yvette Shoemaker	September 2
Marian Lusby	September 9
Mary Beth Hamel	September 10
Joe Morton	September 17
Scott Teerink	September 21
Cheryl Carlson	September 22
Edna Brenci	September 24
Lisa Campbell	September 26
Matthew Ramella	September 27
Derek Lamarr	September 29

Presbyterian Women: An invitation to Bible Circle Study

All are invited to gather in Room 11 on *Tuesday, September 20 at 1:00 pm* for the introduction to this season's Bible Study Circle-- "*Celebrating Sabbath-accepting God's gift of rest and delight.*" Reverend Dr. Carol Bectel's study book will be made available. The monthly Bible Study Circle meetings are *the first Tuesday of each month from 1:00-3:00* with snacks and discussions of each month's particular passage of scripture. Make a commitment to explore how Sabbath can become an important part of your life in Christ by marking the monthly meetings on your calendars. Lesson one is scheduled for *October 4 at 1:00.*

SAGES

Sages will resume monthly gatherings (second Tuesdays at 11:00) on October 11. You don't have to be a senior to enjoy the tasty home cooked lunch (\$4.00) and entertainment.

Sages is looking for an individual to take over lining up entertainment for the meetings. If you are interested, or need more information, please contact Bob Orf at 602-993-5688.

Honduras 2022

After 2 1/2 years of pandemic delays our group of 12 from 4 churches (names are below) reconnected with the communities and people we love. Unlike previous trips which had focused on building, providing medical clinics and clean water, on this trip, our primary objectives were to renew and refresh our relationships with communities in Trinidad and Copan Ruinas and to assess future opportunities in three areas:

- Eye Clinic in Trinidad
- Building Projects
- Scholarships and educational support

During our 6-day trip the team met with multiple organizations in Trinidad, Santa Rosa, San Marcos, Dulce Nombre, and Copan Ruinas. We had a wonderful time connecting with old friends and staying at the home of Don Elio and Dona Irma in Trinidad, with delicious meals planned by Tita. It felt almost surreal to be back in that place, eating on the familiar patio, hearing the roosters in the morning, and walking through the beautiful town square. We found some things different, however, in Trinidad. These days there are strong party divisions and this makes it unclear what the future may hold. Still, we were very encouraged by the scholarship team and we met the new Mayor several times. On one occasion he even told the story of making Dirk's boots!

Upon our arrival we divided up our donations so that we could distribute some in Trinidad and some in Copan Ruinas. Our youth members carried crayons, frisbees and balls to give out at the work sites. They had the opportunity of working a half day with Brent to experience the home building process. Our trip was greatly enriched by their participation, and we look forward to keeping them involved with the various projects as we work on things "back home" in anticipation of future trips. Our blessed relationship with the people of Honduras continues.

The list of team members is:

Orangewood: Brent Upson, Bernale Wright, Christina Suarez, Dennis Daniel, Sabrina Case, Spencer Case, Gigi Griep and Phebe Packer

Pennsylvania: Tim Wheeler

South Dakota: Dan Sweatman, Rev. Nathan Esser

South Carolina: Bob Edwards

Honduras 2022



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September

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2022

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The *Plumbline*, a monthly newsletter of Orangewood Presbyterian Church, contains helpful information for members and friends. If you would like to receive this publication via e-mail (pdf file), contact the office. Issues may also be found on our website. **The deadline for the October Plumbline is September 19.**