

The Good News

No. 4

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This Week's Sermon Emphasis

Rev. Rasco will be emphasizing the reading from Romans this Sunday in her sermon. The verses, Romans 6-1-11, speak of the new life for those who have been baptized in Jesus.

Rev. Rasco on Vacation

From Monday through Sunday (June 22-29), Rev. Rasco will be on vacation with her family. She will return on Monday, June 30. Preaching in her place on Sunday, June 29, will be the reverend Dr. Julie Adkins.

If you need to reach Rev. Rasco in an emergency, you can call her at 903-453-1424. If she can't answer when you call, please leave a message.

Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer list you saw in last week's Sunday bulletin, two names have been added. An email was sent out earlier this week informing of Joyce Isaacs' daughter, Cheryl Jimenez, who was sent to Paris Regional Medical Center in serious condition after apparent seizures. Cheryl remains hospitalized.

Also added at the request of a friend, is Matthew Eiben, a Commerce man who suffered a serious accident which has left him paralyzed.

Historic News from Detroit

A lot of history was made at the Presbyterian Church's General Assembly in Detroit this week. Unlike previous bi-annual meetings, the assembly took action on some controversial issues, including the definition of marriage.

Rev. Rasco briefly touches on some of the action in the following.

Here are some statements about what has happened this past week in Detroit. These statements come from the General Assembly News found at

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/ga221/> (if you would like to know more).

I have only highlighted a few of many, many, decisions made. Some will go into effect immediately while others will go back to be voted on by individual presbyteries.

Some of the decisions made have been a cause of contention for a long time in our church. Please pray for our church that we work together in mutual forbearance to bring about God's kingdom on earth. If you have the need to discuss any of these decisions, please feel free to come by my office (after I get back from vacation, which will be June 30th). Also if I see the

need for more discussion and clarity midst our congregation we may be able to get together a question and answer/"what happened?" session some time soon.

Also please read the pastoral letter to the church, presented by the leaders of GA, including the newly elected Moderator of General Assembly, Heath Rada. You can find it at the following: <http://www.pcusa.org/news/2014/6/19/pcusa-leaders-issue-pastoral-letter-church-assembly/>.

Here are some of the highlights.

- Recommendations that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) advocate measures to prevent gun violence won resounding approval Thursday from the 221st General Assembly (2014).
 - After rejecting an attempt to refer, the Assembly voted 425-170 to approve a lengthy paper from the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy titled "Tax Justice: A Christian Response to a New Gilded Age," offering recommendations seeking a fairer tax system in the United States.
 - the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) agreed to grant pastors discretion in determining whether or not to conduct same-gender marriages in civil jurisdictions where such marriages are legal.
 - The action effectively removes the ban on Presbyterian pastors marrying same-gender couples in those jurisdictions.
 - The Assembly approved sending out for presbytery approval a constitutional amendment to W-4.9001 of the PC(USA)'s *Book of Order* that would change the constitutional definition of marriage from "between a man and a woman" to "between two people, traditionally between a man and a woman."
 - The vote on the authoritative interpretation – which takes effect immediately – was 371-238 or 61 percent to 39 percent.
 - The vote on the proposed constitutional amendment – which goes to the denomination's 172 presbyteries for ratification – was 429-175 or 71 percent to 29 percent. A majority of the presbyteries must vote approval of the measure for it to take effect.
 - By an overwhelming vote, the 221st General Assembly (2014) sent a proposed amendment to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s *Book of Confessions* that would add the Belhar Confession, which has its roots in the struggle against apartheid.

Note: The General Assembly is still working through Saturday afternoon.

A more in-depth look at what occurred will be forthcoming in the monthly newsletter next week.

Graduates

If you have a close relative who is or has recently graduated and want to brag on them (who wouldn't?), send an explanation of who, what, when, and where (and a picture if you have one) and we'll put them in the upcoming monthly newsletter.

Oops!

Carolyn McFarland, not Nancy (as we said in last week's newsletter), has looking for volunteers to replace her in the nursery.

Tomorrow is PW Day Out

Starting with a gathering in the church parking lot at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 21, the Presbyterian Women's group will proceed to Sulphur Springs for a some antique and other shopping and then lunch. The plan is to be back by 1 p.m. unless the group is having too much fun.

Keep us informed

If you have some news or information that needs to go out, please let us know. We can't print what we don't know about.