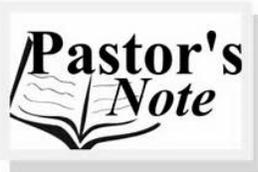




The Center Chronicles

November 2017



I recently came across an interesting book by John A Turner entitled, Crazy Stories, Sane God. The book is a collection of the strangest stories found in God's Word. Some of the stories you may have heard while others might leave you scratching your head. You may remember stories like Abraham and Isaac, Jonah and the whale, and even Jesus' birth. There are some stories, however, that have been skipped over because they seem so strange and out of place. Therefore, for the next few months, join me in looking at some of the Scripture's crazy stories and let us learn what God is doing in these stories.

Today we look at the life of Judah. We see banners, paintings, poems and even songs written about how Jesus is the Lion of Judah. But when you look into Judah's life, you realize he was not a very nice guy and had to work through a lot of issues. Though Leah's youngest of four sons, there was something about him that made him a natural born leader. The one thing he had in common with his other brothers and half-brothers is that none of them liked Joseph. Joseph was a dreamer and the favorite of Jacob/ Israel. So one day when Joseph approached them where they were tending sheep near Dothan, the brother's plotted to kill him. Reuben, trying to rescue him, encouraged them to throw him in an old well where Reuben would rescue him later.

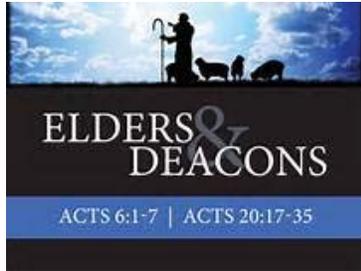
Judah, however had other plans. Noticing a caravan, Judah encouraged his brothers to sell Joseph and make some spending money- and they did which leads into the beginning of Joseph's story which is recorded in the rest of Genesis 37-50. Yet, just before getting into Joseph's story, Moses inserts a strange story about Judah in Genesis 38.

We learned that he ended up moving out and marrying a Canaanite woman (Shua) and they had three sons- Er, Onan and Shelah. Well the first son, Er, married a woman named Tamar, but did some wicked things so God "put him to death". So Judah made Onan marry Tamar, but he didn't want a family, which God didn't like, so the Lord put him to death. So Judah kept Tamar in the family until Shelah was old enough to marry. As Turner pointed out, "To put it mildly, Tamar wasn't having very good luck with the guys.....By now she must have felt like she was cursed, or damaged goods...." Judah himself would lose his wife and would make some poor decisions which ended up getting Tamar pregnant. (have to read Genesis 38 to get the whole story) Realizing his mistake, Judah ends up marrying Tamar and it is interesting that God did not strike them dead. Instead, Tamar would give birth to twins and one of them, Perez, winds up becoming part of Jesus's genealogy, which affirms him as a son of Abraham, and a son of Judah.

If it were up to us, Joseph would have been a worthy choice to be part of Jesus lineage, but God chose Judah. He wasn't the oldest, the nicest, nor the best fit because he had some

selfish character issues. In fact, you will not find his name in the heroes of faith list in Hebrews 11. As Turner points out, “He’s a terrible son, a terrible brother, and a terrible father. Yet God selected Judah to be the line through which His Son would come. Maybe that is the whole point. When Joseph confronted Judah and the other brothers, Judah got the exact opposite of what he deserved. He received grace. And is that not the reason Jesus came to this world- the give you and me and the rest of the world, the exact opposite of what we deserve?.....

Peace,
Jon



Nominating committee meets....

The Nominating committee meets this month to begin the discerning and prayer process for the next class of Elders and Deacons. Pray for them as they inquire and ask those in this congregation whom God is calling to serve Center Church and the community that we are a part of.

Bible Study opportunities abound

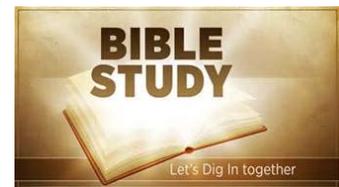
Donald Bivens is leading a Sunday school class on Yancey’s book, What’s So Amazing about Grace.

Fenton McCahill continues to lead the Men’s Bibles study on Saturday morning at 9am.

Pastor Jon Faraone leads a study on Romans on Sunday nights at 6pm. Everyone is to receive notes and questions which are discussed during the meeting.

Debbie Faraone offers a class for Older members during the Sunday school hour (9am). She focuses on an Ann Graham Lotz Bible Study program.

Sandra Black has information on a women’s Kay Arthur bible study group for those who are interested. For more information call Sandra at 253-3876.



Christmas Show Box Ministry Opportunity

November 19, we will be collecting shoe box Christmas gifts. If you are interested in participating, you can google samaritanaspurse.org or shoe box ministry. Please read the following information: Choose an age group for a little boy or girl. Start with a quality “wow” item such as a stuffed animal, soccer ball with pump, or clothing outfit that will capture the child’s attention the instant he or she opens the box. See our gift suggestions according to age and gender listed below for other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies to fill the shoebox.....DO NOT INCLUDE Candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans. Once the shoe box is filled, put a check for \$9 in each show box.



We take a moment to give thanks for our Veterans

November 11 is a US public holiday to celebrate those who responded to the call of serving in the one of the 5 branches of the Armed services. I encourage you to experience the parades, the school assemblies, but most of all, be sure to take a moment to say “THANK YOU” to those veterans who were willing to serve this nation for our sakes.

Shelter My Sheep news



With Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner, it is our hope to have House #2 up and running. We are still waiting for Bethlehem Church to finish their contribution activities (plumbing, insulation and sheetrock).

When they complete their commitment, We will need painters and also someone willing to prayerfully consider helping us purchase a wall mount heat pump that serves as both heater and A/C. We also will need help putting flooring down when the time comes and help put in cabinets and appliances when everything is ready for installation.



The Dorcas Ladies continue their ministry to help the hopeless and the hurting. They inspire us with their love for sewing and the love they have for those they sew for. If you are interested in sharing in this ministry, please contact Sandra Black (253-3876) or join them every first and third Wednesday's in the fellowship hall from 9:30- 2:30.



Harvest dinner is set for Sunday November 19 following worship service.



"Our Mission is to work together with any and all resources in order to decrease and eliminate homelessness in Monroe County, Tennessee."

October 24, 2017

RE: NATIONAL HUNGER AND HOMELESS AWARENESS WEEK – November 11 – 19, 2017

Dear Monroe County Business Leader,

Homeless Management of Monroe County (HMMC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and committed to helping those in need in our county. National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week is November 11 – 19, 2017. We have several plans in observance of this week and asking local businesses for their assistance with helping those in need.

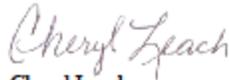
Following are plans for our county:

- o 11/11/17 – Cities in Monroe County that will be honoring veterans for Veterans Day (i.e. parades) will be asked to pray for the homeless veterans.
- o 11/13/17 – Blanket Day – Donations of blankets will be taken.
- o 11/14/17 – At least one restaurant in each Monroe County city will be asked to donate 10% of meal for each coupon or mention of coupon advertised in a local paper.
- o 11/17/17 – Canned Food Drive – Donations of food will be taken.
- o 11/19/17 – Dollar a Pew – Ask Monroe County churches to ask congregation to donate \$1 per person for proceeds to benefit the homeless in Monroe County.

Proceeds from these events will provide shelter, food, transportation assistance, utility assistance, job opportunities, education assistance, and permanent housing for homeless Monroe County individuals and families. HMMC combines their resources with local and surrounding organizations to assist those that are homeless due to loss of jobs, loss of homes, disability, domestic violence or other unforeseen circumstances. To date, the organization has assisted 157 homeless individuals and families in Monroe County.

We are specifically asking your church to participate with asking your congregation to donate One Dollar (\$1.00) per person on Sunday, November 19, 2017. Any contribution your business can assist with is greatly appreciated. We sincerely appreciate your support. Should you have any questions please feel free to call (423) 442-4143.

Sincerely,


Cheryl Leach
Treasurer



Partner Agency

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