

~ Kevin's Kolumn ~

To God be the glory...

1 Peter 4: 10f. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another; as good stewards of God's varied grace; whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Spiritual gifts in the body differ greatly. A gift you possess may not be on another's radar screen at all. For instance, Jacob informed me he'd like to get the community garden up and producing again soon. The only reason I'd have a "green thumb" would be the result of a broken chip in a jar of guacamole that I'd attempt to retrieve without using a knife. John Piper once said, "*The prism of your life will retract one of the colors of grace that would never come through my prism.*" Unity in diversity is what makes the Lord's church so functional. Energy is used by a person working in the kingdom of God. If only select parts of the body are in motion, the other parts atrophy. Synergy, on the other hand, is the result of ALL parts working together to produce a result far greater than could be accomplished by one. One of the worst ways we in the church have tried to lead people into utilizing their spiritual gifts has been guilt. You may have been prodded by guilt into doing something that really didn't connect with your God-given talent. The result was certainly less than favorable. You may have burnt out on that ministry. You may have become bitter or even resentful to the point you almost threw in the towel. Result-driven, forced religion can easily lead to that end. I've experienced it, personally. Instead of resorting to guilt to receive results, why not use glory? If I know whatever I do will result in giving God more glory, I'm going to be far more receptive to that than I would be if I did it simply because "nobody else will do it." If you begrudgingly do something in the kingdom of God unwillingly, it will be evident. But, if you do something in the kingdom of God that makes your Heavenly Father smile, you'll do it with a completely different mindset. The next time you engage in a task, silently say to yourself: "To God be the glory." And, whistle while you work...it makes people wonder what you're up to!

Have a blessed day and remember the One who gave it to you!

Kevin

Help us celebrate...

Baby Shower – There will be a Baby Shower in honor of Stacy Morrison – McCormick on Saturday, April 16th at 1:00 PM in the Lower Fellowship Hall. She is registered at Target & Baby's R Us. If you have questions, please see Pam Jackson. All ladies are invited to attend!

Wedding - Jason Hatfield & Tiffany Boyce will be united in marriage on Saturday, May 14, 2016, in Grafton. If you would like to attend, please contact Arnetta Hatfield.

Good Morning!

Prayer Requests

- ♥Keep Delores Rager in your prayers as her health continues to decline.
- ♥Kelsey Cook had her baby! Harmony Grace is the newest addition to our church family. Both mom and baby seem to be doing very well.
- ♥Please keep Lela (Mandy Rennix's sister-in-law) in your prayers as she struggles with an infection.
- ♥Peggy Glaspell is awaiting results from her recent biopsy.
- ♥Kevin Swearingen (Craig's uncle) is dealing with lung cancer. His prognosis is not good.
- ♥Betty Jo Shaffer asks that we pray for one of her co-workers. Becky Smith is dealing with cancer. Doctors have discovered 4 tumors.
- ♥JoAnn Hall had her breast cancer surgery. She seems to be doing well.
- ♥Cards, letters, & words of encouragement would be very much appreciated by Dallas Shaffer as he is currently in the Anthony Center. His mailing address is: Dallas Shaffer, Anthony Center, 313 Anthony Center Drive, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986.
- ♥Continue to pray for Edwina, Kim Dumire, Mary Titchenell, Kenny Cottrell, Patsy Roberts, & Buck Osborne.
- ♥Deb Carpenter had her knee surgery last week.
- ♥Paul Sparks asks that we keep his mother (Peggy) in your prayers as she is dealing with irregular heartbeat.
- ♥We were thrilled that Edith Gull was able to be with us for mid-week bible study Wednesday evening. She is still struggling to regulate her blood pressure. Please keep her and Don in your prayers.

News and Notes

Stuffed Animals Needed – Ed & Deb Carpenter are collecting stuffed animals for the Newberry Church of Christ. If you would like to donate, please leave them in the tote located in the "Caring Corner". For more info, please see Ed or Deb.

Bible class teachers - We are still looking for teachers to help out in our next teaching quarter. If you can help, please see one of the elders.

2016 Graduates – If you have a child that is graduating High School or College this year, please let Joel know ASAP. We will be having our Senior Recognition Night on Sunday, May 15th at 6:00 PM. There will be a celebration following in the Lower Fellowship Hall.

Vacation Bible School – VBS is June 5th – 8th with the picnic on June 9th. If you would like to help, please see Mary Lough.