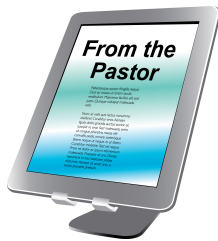




THE
Spiceland Friend

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August 2017



“God-Shaped Surprises”

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

The verse above is the same verse we had last month, but the theme, “God-Shaped Surprises,” is different. The verse sounds kind of spiritual and like everything will be predictable, but in actual life, it turned out that the Holy Spirit had a lot of surprises up his sleeve, and he kept surprising the disciples and the early church. The Holy Spirit led them in unexpected directions and to unexpected people.

What about you? Do you like surprises? What is a big surprise that you remember from earlier in your life? The one I remember is a surprise birthday party for my 21st birthday – yes, I know that was a very long time ago! In that November, Linda and I were engaged and in our senior year in college. We were looking forward to our coming June wedding. I was working for a Presbyterian Church as a part-time youth pastor. Linda decided to throw a big surprise party for me at the church. She managed to get church people, youth group participants, my family, and many other friends to come, and they were all in a

separate room when I walked into the room where I was expecting a meeting to begin. The guests began to come out into the room I was in, and they just kept coming. More and more came out. I could not believe it! First, I couldn’t figure out what was happening and then when I realized it was for my birthday, I couldn’t believe they were all there – so many of them all gathered together to celebrate for me. That was not all. Linda planned a program with humorous skits about my life, about our work with the youth groups, and about other life experiences. She did all of this because I told her once that the only birthday party I ever had for more than family members was one that my parents organized for my 13th birthday, and they invited many of my friends, but only one friend came. Linda made sure this 21st birthday was fun and filled with many people – and she kept it all a surprise. I was totally speechless as all these people from different parts of my life came out from their hiding place to wish me happy birthday and then participated in the program.

This month we are going to focus on surprises that God brought into the early church’s life, but it will be more than learning history. It will be focusing our thoughts on what surprises God is bringing into our lives and how we can be open to seeing them and accepting them as gifts from God. Surprises and unexpected changes in direction can be great in the long run, but they can be disorienting when they first happen. With the Holy Spirit’s help, we can recognize those God-Shaped Surprises and understand how God wants to use them in our lives.

David Brock



Gospel Sing – August 20

Our musicians are busy preparing for our annual Gospel Sing, which will be Sunday, August 20, at 10:30 a.m. during our regular worship time. This is a delightful, meaningful time of worship. It's a great day to invite family and friends too!

Sermon Topics for August

David Brock will be preaching about life lessons we can learn from the book of Acts three Sundays in August. August 20 is our annual Gospel Sing. We will enjoy worship in song as **Cathy Harris** and our musicians lead the service.



July 30

Sermon – “Surprising Orders”
Scripture – Acts 8

August 6

Sermon – “Surprising Conversion”
Scripture – Acts 9

August 13

Sermon – “Surprising Inclusion”
Scripture – Acts 10

August 20

Gospel Sing

August 27

“Sermon – “Surprising Identity”
Scripture – Acts 11

Congratulations to Janet Copeland upon the birth of a new great-grandchild!

Please Remember in Prayer



Church Family

Family of Tom Ratcliff
Richard Ratcliff – breathing problems
Sonja Coffman – surgery
Phil Alexander – home from hospital
Irene & Monte Goodwin – health problems

Extended Family and Friends

Barbara Kyser (Cathy Harris) – fractured pelvis
Jocelyn (Kandi Rutledge’s great-granddaughter) – MRI Friday/check-up
L. J. Murray (Sandy Alexander) – Stonebrooke
Sandy & Jerry Murray & family (Sandy Alexander) – Sandy has failing health with MS
Helen Holt (Joan Holt) – hospice care
Doyle Chandler (Bobby Chandler) – prostate cancer
Sheri Matney (Kandi Rutledge) – eye cancer
Brantley Rayburn – child with cancer
Daughter-in-law of Janice Radcliff – prayers for pregnancy to continue through August
Sandy (Debi Zimmerman) – stroke
Sarah Maley (Kandi Rutledge) – metastasized breast cancer
Our country and servicemen and women

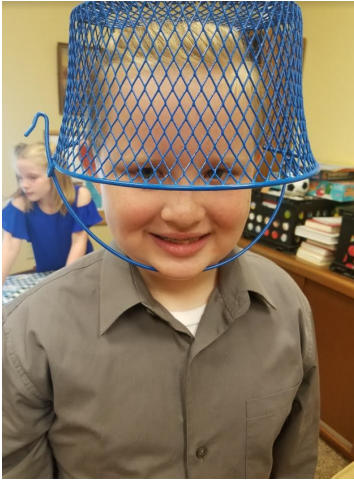
Lemonade Stand Sets Record

Jacob Specht started having an annual lemonade stand four years ago – after he learned in Vacation Bible School that many kids and adults in poorer areas in Kenya did not have clean, safe drinking water. This year he raised \$2,059! Congratulations to **Jacob**, his mother **Valerie**, and his grandparents, **Gerald and Darlene Darling**, who cooked, baked and donated items for the sale. The money raised will enable Kenyans to purchase materials and make many water filtration systems. Thanks to everyone who donated and helped support Jacob's outreach project!



Youth Picture of the Month

August's youth picture of the month features one of our elementary goofballs, **Jacob Specht**, who is sporting a very fancy hat during our morning service's Junior Church.



Notes of Thanks

"I want to thank the church for helping send me to Quaker Haven Camp. I loved it!

–**Erin Groce**

"We appreciate the love and support received from our church family. Thank you for the food, cards, prayers, and thoughts expressed during the time of surgery and recovery. I am continuing to grow stronger and Gib and I are blessed to be a part of Spiceland Friends.

– **Doris & Gib Hoover**

"I would like to thank everyone at Spiceland Friends Church for all their encouragement, support & donations. I hope to faithfully live out the will of God in my mission to help the people of Kenya. It is my plan to grow my mission each year & do this for many years. Thank you everyone for everything you do, everything adds up to be more clean water."

–**Jacob Specht**

We need your help! If you use the building and go out the east door in the Family Center, be sure that doors are latched tightly before you leave!

We Express Our Sincere Sympathy to the Family and Friends of . . .

Tom Ratcliff, who passed away on July 20.
Betty Schiffli, mother of Carrie Copenhaver.
Sharon Halcomb, mother of Gary & Randy.
Jackie Coffman Mathews, cousin of Kandi Rutledge and Randy Coffman.
Family of Judy Coffman (wife of Steve Coffman), relative of Kandi Rutledge and Randy Coffman.
Phil Stafford, cousin of Duane & Beverly Elliott.
Randy Muncy, close friend of Mark & Marilyn Thompson.

Worship Assistants for August

Scripture Readers

August 6 – Caylie Dicken
August 13 – Judy Stevens
August 20 – Steve Stevens
August 27 – Pat Bogue

Junior Church

August 6 – Tyler Little
August 13 – Linda Brock
August 20 – Children stay in worship
August 27 – Amanda Huss

Host – Faye Crowell

Children's Messages – Charlene Williams

Check Out Our Newly-Redesigned Website!

We decided our website was due for an update, and we're excited to unveil the new



version. You should notice a marked improvement in the website's performance and speed, and the entire site has been optimized to display beautifully on hand-held devices. We are continuing to add content, so keep checking back!