

Missionary Messenger

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Mother's Day

"Honor your father and mother" (which is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on the earth." ~ Ephesians 6:2-3 (BSB)

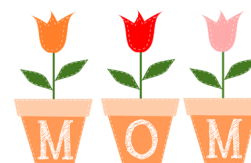
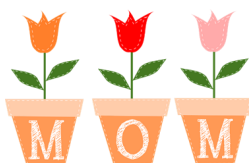
It is May and this is the month that we celebrate Mother's Day. I looked into the history of this holiday and was surprised at the strong Christian influence that is behind this celebration. Originally this day was called Mothering Sunday. While the modern American Mother's Day didn't evolve until years later, the most clear precursor to the holiday was the Christian celebration of "Mothering Sunday." In the United Kingdom and parts of Europe, Mothering Sunday fell on the fourth Sunday in Lent, where all the church members would pay a visit to their "mother" church.

The beginning of our modern Mother's Day started in the mid 1800's. This modern celebration started with a woman named Ann Reeves Jarvis. She began "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" to teach women how to take care of their children. Jarvis later organized "Mothers' Friendship Day", a peaceful movement where mothers got together with former Union and Confederate soldiers to help bring healing. Another woman who was instrumental in the history of Mother's day was Julia Ward Howe who wrote the "Mother's Day Proclamation" in hopes of uniting women to push for world peace. She later petitioned for June 2nd to be recognized as "Mother's Peace Day". Activist Juliet Calhoun Blakely began a local Mother's Day in Albion, Michigan during the 1870s.

After the death of Ann Reeves Jarvis in 1908, her daughter Anna Jarvis sought to host a celebration to thank mothers everywhere for all they do. She held the first Mother's Day celebration in a Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia with financial backing from Philadelphia retail owner John Wanamaker. Thousands also gathered in Philadelphia at Wanamaker's retail store for a Mother's Day celebration of their own. After Jarvis successfully held her first Mother's Day, she sought out to make it a national celebration. After years of lobbying, she finally got the attention of President Woodrow Wilson in 1914. He proclaimed that the second Sunday in May, no matter what the date, would belong to moms across the nation.

All of the people who helped establish Mother's Day were devout evangelical Christians. We have had so much positive influence on our country. This is just a little food for thought as we begin the month of May.

In Christ, Pastor Ken



Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/mothers-day#history-of-mother-s-day>

April in Review

Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt



Craft Day

"I Am A Church Member: Discovering the Attitude That Makes the Difference"



By Thom S Rainer

This book is an easy read with so much truth in it of what it means to be a biblical church member. Rainer explains the importance of church membership and what it means to be a member. It is good for those who have become too comfortable and also for those who have given up on church altogether. "This wonderful little book explains the power of belonging to a church family." - Rick Warren

The chapters include

- *A Tale of Two Church Members
- *I will Be a functioning Church Member
- *I will be a Unifying Church Member
- *I Will Not Let My Church Be about My Preferences and Desires
- *I Will Pray for My Church Leaders
- *I Will Lead My Family to Be Healthy Church Members
- *I Will treasure Church Membership as a Gift

"If you love your church, are frustrated with your church, or don't understand why membership matters, I encourage you to pick this book up and read it." - Matt Chandler

(quotes from back cover)



Memory Verse of the Month!

2 Corinthians 5:7

*For we walk by faith,
not by sight.*

~ 2 Corinthians 5:7 (BSB) ~

Who Are We?

Pastor: Ken Sistrunk 260-229-5949 (cell)

PastorKenNMMC@gmail.com

Elders: Dave Jackson (vice-chairman),

Tim Baker, Jon Gnagy

Directors:

Outreach: Sue Howard

Prayer: Debby Gatchel

Stewardship: Tim Baker

Worship: Jon Gnagy

Secretary: Joanne Sistrunk

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CONNECTION NOTES:

Plant the Seeds Anyway: A Parable

A certain farmer went out into her (I mean his) garden. Using his shovel, he broke up the ground and removed weeds. He removed rocks and the remains of last year's vegetation. He added fertilizer and tilled the amended soil. Finally, when the weather was right, he planted green bean seeds. His garden was in!

A few days later she (I mean he) noticed birds. They were in his garden, they were in the trees, they were in the bird house, they were everywhere. The birds had discovered the seeds! The birds were fast devouring his seeds. He did his best to chase the birds away, but the damage was done. The hard work he had invested was to no avail. He was left with only a bare patch of ground. Discouraged, he sat down on a nearby stump, too tired to try again.

Weeks later, she (I mean he) noticed the neighbor's lush garden. The neighbor was harvesting produce. She (I mean he) became angry. He cried out to God. He told God that it was not fair! He complained that he had spent all that time and all that effort, not to mention cost to plant a garden. There was now just a patch of weeds where his garden should have been. She (I mean he) even complained that the neighbor "just threw seeds on the ground and got a rich beautiful garden"!

God listened to her (I mean him), then directed his focus to the base of a nearby Maple tree. As the gardener investigated, he discovered a solitary green bean plant. Then God guided his vision to a pole supporting the Martin birdhouse. Beside the pole was another green bean plant. God then pointed out a spot at the back edge of the property. And there stood another plant. The gardener then looked around. He spotted another one just below the Flowering Quince shrub and another below the hose spigot.

Confused, the gardener sought God. God

spoke to the gardener, "Your task was to plant the seeds. My task was to take your work and cause it to grow. Because the seed growth was not where or how you envisioned it, did not mean it was of no use. I used what you planted."

The gardener then realized that he (I mean she) was doing her part in growing a garden even if the garden did not look like others' gardens or if it was not where he thought it should be. He (I mean she) realized that was ok.

The moral of this story is:

*often times ministry is accomplished in ways that are completely unplanned or unexpected.

*we are responsible for planting Gospel seeds but not their sprouting. That work is up to the Holy Spirit.

*as long as we are assisting with the work of planting that has been given to us, it is ok!

"The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work." – 1 Corinthians 3:8

Don't be surprised if you hear more about this in the very near future!

Sue



CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:

May 9th: May's Birthday Meal @ Timbercrest. Thank you to the ladies who have volunteered to help hostess this event.

May 14th: Muffins for Mother's Day
The men are going to assist with supplying a Continental breakfast in honor of Mother's day. Please join us all. It starts @ 9a.

May 20th: We have been invited to Trent and Marilyn McDonald's. Meat will be provided for the meal. Bring a dish to share. And bring a lawn chair. It starts @5:30p.

May 26th: We will join the First Brethren Church to prepare an Appreciation breakfast for the entire school system teachers and staff. Please volunteer to provide some of the necessary food and supplies for this major outreach event. Please go to <https://www.perfectpotluck.com/BLRI8319> to register your supplies. If you have any questions or concerns, please see Sue Howard right away. Thank you so much!