



Footprints

Black Forest Community Church



June 26, 2016

Father and Faith – An Excerpt of Sherri Ramsay's Message on Father's Day Sunday

Sherri began her message on Sunday speaking of her childhood and her parent's mission of buying and fixing up homes and renting them out to older widows and to people who received housing allowances from the government and how her dad was there to help them when they needed it and even assisted in lowering rent and covering utility costs at times.

"My father had and has faith in the mission he felt God gave him to house people, to build for the church – just like there are people in our church who give of their time and talent to do the carpentry and maintenance work that is needed."

She later spoke of her own faith:

"Part of having faith, for me, is believing that the other members of our church – the board, the pastor - are doing the best they can. I know that they look to God for guidance as we move forward. I see idealism in our membership and the difficulty of living up to that idealism. There are so many people in our church that serve in ways that I am unable or unwilling to do. I'm not going to list any of them because as soon as I do, I know I will miss that name of someone who not only deserves but who might even need that little recognition. Please know that I'm aware of how little I contribute and of how much you do. So that's the good faith in and of our membership that is so important right now.

Another part of having faith is believing that God did truly give me the tools I need to perform His will for me. This is the point at which I often mentally look up and say "do you really think I'm right for this?" When I first took over the choir, I felt both strongly moved to do it and very concerned that I was biting off way more than I could chew. We have a wonderful choir and I don't know whether they had faith in me or just faith that if God led me to this position it was the right choice, but they definitely stepped out in faith to try things that they weren't used to doing. There was a point at which I felt used up and as though I just didn't

have any more to give; at that point, I said I wanted to take a year off. And I came to church and I watched the choir and I bit my tongue and our pastor resigned and I thought about a church that had no leadership in music or the pulpit and I discussed it with my mom and I still wasn't ready to come back until one morning our music committee chose a hymn that included these words "and I shall again sing praise to you." I sat in the pew and I couldn't sing because I felt the importance and the conviction of those words and tears were in my eyes and my throat closed up. And I went to the church leadership and asked to come back. I still felt that I didn't always have the right tools but I try to have faith that God would lead someone with better abilities to this church if He felt we needed them.

That actually covers, for me, the mission that I was given in the church. But that is another area of faith that's required for all of us. We have to believe that God gave us a mission as a church or why don't we go join a church with less troubles? You and I are still here when it would be really easy to choose one of the churches down the road and go sit quietly and without responsibility in the congregation. That was actually the intention Greg and I had when we first joined this church. At our previous church, we were involved in performing music a lot and I was a member of the trustees' board. We were ready to be anonymous church members. At that time as well, this church was faced with some divisive issues. And some people left the church. And we felt led to get up and sing for you. Because we believed that it was the small something we could contribute. We are still here because through all the bad times, you have toughed it out.

So, as I said before, I know that you do so much more than I do. And I hope that we can as a church continue to believe in each other and the wonderful talents that each person brings to our fellowship. And I pray that we can continue to believe in the good faith of our fellows and the mission that God has for us. And I hope that we may all be, as I call a core of our choir that always comes when I need them – even when the weather is bad and the road is awful – we may all be, the tough and the faithful. Amen."

VBS Sunday

Please come this Sunday to worship and hear the children read scriptures and sing songs that they learned during their wonderful week at VBS here at Black Forest Community Church. The theme was "Surf Shack" and you will be sure to "Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love!"

We Are Proud to Introduce Our New First Step Preschool Director, Kristi Priddy

My name is Kristi Priddy and I am the new Director of First Step Preschool. I hold a degree in Child Development from the University of Texas and have worked with young children in the roles of preschool director and teacher for the last twenty years. I feel privileged to join First Step Preschool and its legacy of providing a high quality preschool program. An engaging preschool environment is one of the first steps to developing a love of learning. We currently have a few spaces available for the 2016/2017 school year. We would love for you to join us in providing a creative, hands on learning experience for your preschooler.



Limited spaces open for Fall of 2016. Call today to reserve your spot, (719) 495-0146.

Praise with the Pros FREE!!

NFL athletes share their amazing stories of struggles, victory and faith. Bring a friend and your entire family for a night of fun and worship.

July 14, 6:30-8 p.m. Vista Grande Church

July 15, 6:30-8 p.m., Grace Bible Church

July 16, 6:30-8 p.m., Springs First Church

Pro Football Camp for the Youth

Coached by NFL athletes for young athletes ages 7-14, July 12-14, from 8-11:30 at Vista Ridge High School. For more information and to register, go to: www.profootballcamp.com or call 719-266-9308.

Christian Education

Sunday School

Every Sunday the children meet for Sunday school from 10:15 am to 11:15 am. However, for the months of June and July, there will be no Sunday School. We will resume in August when the school year begins again. Our curriculum is called Spark, published by Augsburg Fortress. If you would like to volunteer as an assistant for this coming school year, please see Debbie Putney.

Youth Group

Youth Group includes 5th-12th grade. They meet the first and third Wednesday of each month. There is no Youth Group during summer months. We will resume in the fall. Have a wonderful summer!

Happy Birthday!

June 30

Carol Williams

June 303

Elizabeth Murray

Prayer Chain

To request prayer (if you have the individual's permission to share the information) **or to receive information about prayer requests** (by email or phone call), contact Theresa Palaia (719-495-2207 or office@blackforestcommunitychurch.org) or Margaret Natelli (719-495-9679 or nnatelli2@aol.com).

Congregational Coffee Chat

The next chat date will be determined. Stay tuned!

July: ONA

"Ultimately, what you offer to the world is exactly what you get back. So, if your goal is to create a joyful life filled with abundance, the most important thing you can do is help others do the same."