

PASTOR'S PEN

I have placed in this weeks newsletter a quote by Alex McManus that speaks to what I believe is a vital issue for every church. The subject is creativity and the question is, will local churches be willing to act and think in new ways? There is a resistance to change in all of us. We are most comfortable with things remaining the same. Many want things staying exactly as they have been. Among other things, this often applies to the atmosphere, function and environment of how we do church.

We want our church to remain basically the same, as we've always known it, with little or no change. This attitude can be without regard to the unchurched generation we're commanded to reach that often sees the same way church has been done for generations as irrelevant to their lives. Do we care? Are we willing to be open to change? Getting out of the box? Willing to move out of our "comfort zone"? In short, are we willing to get creative? I will be writing about this in the coming weeks and preaching to this subject, as well.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH!

Alex McManus

"The future of the church will depend on the creativity found in the local body. Creativity is the natural result of spirituality. Spirituality and creativity are not the captives of an elite few, but are the birthright of all. Creativity is one of the evidences that we are not robots subject to an unchangeable flow of events. It is proof of the freedom of the human spirit. Our hope for the future lies in our ability to think and act in new ways."

MUSIC MINISTER NOTES

In 1805 in England, Sarah Flowers was born. As she grew up, she dreamed of being an actress. In 1834, she married William Adams, a civil engineer, and they lived in London to be near the great theaters of the day. Sarah became an actress and in 1837, she played "Lady Macbeth" to rave reviews in the Richmond Theater in London. Unfortunately, she was frail and her health forced her to change instead to a literary career. She wrote as if driven by compulsion to complete each work quickly. Some of her efforts were in writing hymns of praise to her Lord. Her sister Eliza, a talented musician, often wrote music for the hymns. Their lives were shortened, however, when Eliza contacted tuberculosis. She died in 1946. Her sister, who had cared for her throughout her illness, died two years later.

Among her hymns is "Nearer My God to Thee." She wrote this hymn at the request of her pastor who wanted a hymn that would go along with a message on Jacob's dream at Bethel and his dedication to the Lord. Her hymn was published in 1840. On April 14, 1912, this great hymn was the final song played by the band aboard the great ocean liner, Titanic as it went to its watery grave in the north Atlantic. The last verse reads: "Or if, on joyful wing cleaving the sky, sun, moon, and start forgot, upward I fly. Still all my song shall be, nearer my God to Thee...."

SS SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

A few months ago I saw an interesting answer to a question often asked by borderline atheists and honest seekers. The question was "Why would anyone feel drawn to a religion whose deity was to be feared?" Here is a paraphrased and abbreviated answer.

God, in His omniscience, knows your secrets. He knows your aspirations, your failed ambitions, your most embarrassing moment, your self-worth, even your day of death. And yet, rather than being hostile to you, He loves you so much that He sent His Son to sacrifice His own life in order to remake you into a perfect, immortal person from the inside out.

Anyone who takes the idea of God seriously will be afraid. But you will also be fascinated, drawn in, attracted. And the closer you get to Him, the greater the attraction.

AWANA YEAR CONCLUDES

This coming Sunday evening is our AWANA AWARD Night, which signals the conclusion of our 15 years in AWANA Ministry. The Lord only knows the impact on lives of this Christ honoring, sound, Biblically based ministry to kids. Our volunteer AWANA workers are the very finest in the world. Your love, devotion to children and faithfulness to the Lord are awesome. Our AWANA program has doubled in size this past year and we've already set the goal to double again next AWANA year. Praise God for the professions of faith in Jesus this year. Let's pray that number will grow next year as well. AMEN!

gloriaDEI Student Ministires

The peanut brittle orders are being filled as fast as possible. We had over 80 orders for peanut brittle so please remain patience. Thank you for your gracious spirit. If you have not paid for your items please do so as soon as possible. There are still several envelopes that need to be filled. Please grab one quickly.

This past Wednesday evening the student ministry decided to cancel Mission 25:45 this summer. Last year we compacted the majority of our service/mission projects into this one week. We have decided instead to do more projects throughout the year. If you have any suggestions or know of any needs both inside and outside our church family please let us know.

AS YOU PRAY

Remember Bro. Doug (our church planting missionary) as he has begun his deputation visits among churches to raise funds establishing this new work we are sponsoring. Watch for updates of this effort.

NURSERY WORKERS MAY 20, 2007

S.S. Charline Henry
A.M. Amanda Swope/Danielle Dipboye
P.M. Cindy Harp
WED. Judy Treat

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL WORKERS May 20,

Kings Kid's: Dawn & Fernando Martinez
Pals of the Prince: Diana Dubwig/Joy Morrow
Constance Harp

IN THE HOSPITAL

Amber Barrett.....St Francis Rm 5309
Cleo King.....St Johns Rm 1127

VBS PLANNING COMMITTEE

We will meet this Saturday, May 19th at 10:00 a.m. to have breakfast at The Full Cup on 31st and to continue planning VBS. If you would like to help with the planning of VBS, please join us. We still need many workers for VBS. Please don't delay! Sign up now!

SPIRIT FOOD

"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth."
- Job 19:25