

Second Edition

SEPTEMBER 2020 ISSUE

On Second Thought...

We've been discussing the five points of what Presbyterians call the "doctrines of grace". The first of these five points was that we are Fallen. We fall short of the goal God has set for our lives and, because of this, we cannot do anything to help in our own salvation. It is purely by God's grace that we are saved.

The second point was that we are Adopted by God. Even as a human couple chooses to adopt a child into their family, God the Father makes a deliberate choice to adopt and welcome people as children into his family.

This month we consider *how* God does this: Intentional Atonement. There are two parts to this. First, we believe that Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin and that this was done *intentionally*. It was God's plan from the beginning, not an improvisation because things had gone wrong. The cross was Plan A for our salvation and the purpose of the cross was atonement for our sin.

Atonement means to make satisfaction or reparation for a wrong; it means to make payment. Some people divide the word this way: at-one-ment. By this they intend to say that we become "at one" with God through Jesus' death on the cross. This is not quite right, for it describes reconciliation with God, not atonement. Reconciliation with God must be preceded by the act of atonement, or payment for our sins. And this is exactly what Jesus did on the cross.

Just before Jesus dies, he exclaims, "It is finished." (John 19:30) This was actually a legal phrase that was used on legal documents in the Roman Empire during the 1st century. It was used to indicate that someone's debt had been paid. Essentially, it meant "paid in full." This is atonement - our debt has been paid in full by Jesus on the cross. Nothing else needs to be paid; nothing else needs to be done. We are free and clear of our debt.

"But Pastor Tim," people often ask me, "what is the debt we owed and how could Jesus have paid it?" Well, remember two months ago when we talked about how we are Fallen? That we miss the mark God sets for our lives? This is sin, and it affects every part of our lives, whether we want it to or not. Paul writes to the Romans,

I'm not able to do the good that I want to do. Instead, I keep doing the thing I hate, the thing I don't want to do.
(Romans 7:15)

Now, sometimes we sin without even realizing it. Other times our sin is forgetting to do, or not doing, what we're supposed to do.



But if we are honest with ourselves, there are times that we go against God's wishes consciously, with our eyes wide open, knowing that what we are doing isn't right. Any way you slice it, we are sinful and this sin pervades every aspect of our lives.

We don't often think of it this way, but our sinfulness is actually rebellion against God. God created the entire universe - including us! - so he gets to say how we should and shouldn't act. God gives us free will so that love will actually mean something, but with that free will we rebel against our Creator. And the price for our rebellion, for our insolence, is the death penalty.

For the wages of sin is death... (Romans 6:23a)

The debt we owe God for sin is our lives. Because God is righteous and just, he cannot just let us off the hook. But because God is merciful and loving, he, himself, pays the price for our sin.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

So many people miss this. People think that God is a vengeful, blood-thirsty God, demanding a sacrifice for our sin, and that Jesus steps forward to pay that price. This is a complete misunderstanding of the Trinity! Jesus *is* God Incarnate. So when Jesus pays the price for our rebellion it is God taking upon *himself* the consequences of our choices. In Christ, God suffers all of the punishment that we deserve so that we don't have to. Only Jesus *could* make atonement for our sin because only Jesus was God - perfect and without sin.

This atonement was fully accomplished by Jesus on the cross. The debt has been paid in full. And we believe, because the Bible teaches, that this was God's plan all along; that God gave us free will, knowing we would rebel, and knowing that he would be forced to pay the price for us by offering up his only Son, so that we could have eternal life.

Grace and peace...

A stylized, handwritten signature or mark, possibly reading "Tim", is shown in a simple, sketchy style.

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Worship and Celebration

Upcoming Sermon Texts and Topics

We are continuing to follow the Revised Common Lectionary this fall. Our Scriptures and topics for September will be:

Sept 6	Romans 13:8-14	Justice & Morality
Sept 13	Romans 14:1-12	Judging Others
Sept 20	Philippians 1:21-30	Having One Mind
Sept 27	Philippians 2: 1-13	Humility



The September-October Upper Room is now available! If you would like one, Sandra Butler has copies that she would like to hand deliver to you!

Please contact Sandra directly by phone (659-4416, cell or 584-4397) or email sandyb446@comcast.net.

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Worship:

The Session met for its regularly stated meeting on Tuesday, August 18th and decided to continue virtual worship *only*, at least through September. The church building will also continue to be closed to group meetings and in-person activities indoors. With the University of Tennessee and Knox County Schools resuming classes, the Session felt it was wise to wait and see how this resumption of in-person activities in our community will impact the spread of Covid-19 before making a decision about returning to in-person church activities. Once again, this decision is not being made out of fear but out of love and concern for our members. Three people in our congregation have contracted Covid and one of those died. The Session wants to be as careful as possible before resuming indoor in-person church activities. The church office will remain open during normal hours, as it has been, but we continue to ask that you only come to the church building for essential business and that you call and make an appointment before coming. The Session will reconsider the matter of returning to in-person worship and activities at its stated meeting on Tuesday, September 15th.

Virtual Congregational Meeting:

The Session has called a congregational meeting for **Wednesday, Sept. 2nd at 6:00 p.m.** for the matter of electing two at-large congregation members to the Nominating Committee. Due to the current pandemic, the Session has decided to make this a virtual congregational meeting to be held over Zoom. A link to the Zoom congregational meeting will be emailed on Tuesday, Sept. 1st to everyone on our email distribution list. If you already receive emails from the church there is nothing you need to do. You will automatically receive a link to the congregational meeting. If you do not receive emails from the church and would like to be added to the list, or if you would just like to receive this one email with the link, call or email Audrey in the church office and let her know. (ajohnson@2ndpres.org / 865.523.2189) If you have not participated in a Zoom meeting before and would like a tutorial, let Audrey know and someone will be in touch with you to help.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nan Sweitzer 09/03

Henry Casey 09/04

Clara Hardin 09/06

Jimmy Cheek 09/07

Donna Downen 09/07

Edith Vance 09/08

Scott Farris 09/11

Drew Wall 09/11

Nancy Smythe 09/12

Jerry Young 09/15

Gill Turner 09/17

Jim Ford 09/18

Harriet Campbell 09/23

Donna Matlock 09/23

Elsie Dodson 09/24

Lisa Henley 09/24

Brent Beals 09/26

Robert Morgan 09/26

Pam Turner 09/26

Terry Chumley 09/27

Brayden Beets 09/29

Linda Sue Byrd 09/30

John Kelley 09/30

FELLOWSHIP

**WELCOME
FINLEY NELSON HOMER KENNEDY!**



**FINLEY NELSON HOMER KENNEDY
WAS BORN ON AUGUST 7TH, 2020
AT 1:35 A.M.**

**PATRICIA AND GEOFFREY (MOM AND
DAD) ARE DOING WELL WHILE
GRANDPARENTS TERRY & KAY WEAVER
ARE OVER THE MOON.**

**THE CHURCH HOSTED A LOVELY ZOOM
SHOWER FOR THE KENNEDY'S ON JULY
16TH.**



**A BIG THANK YOU TO
NEAL PEEBLES,
BILL RAGSDALE, AND
THE FACILITY
COMMITTEE
FOR HELPING US
OBTAIN AND INSTALL
A NEW MAILBOX TO
MAKE SURE OUR MAIL
REACHES US
SECURELY!**

**MARIANN THUESEN WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR
THEIR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS AFTER HER RECENT
HOSPITALIZATION. SHE IS AT HOME NOW AND RESTING.**

WEST VIEW WORK DAY

Service & Outreach

BRING ON THE STUDENTS!

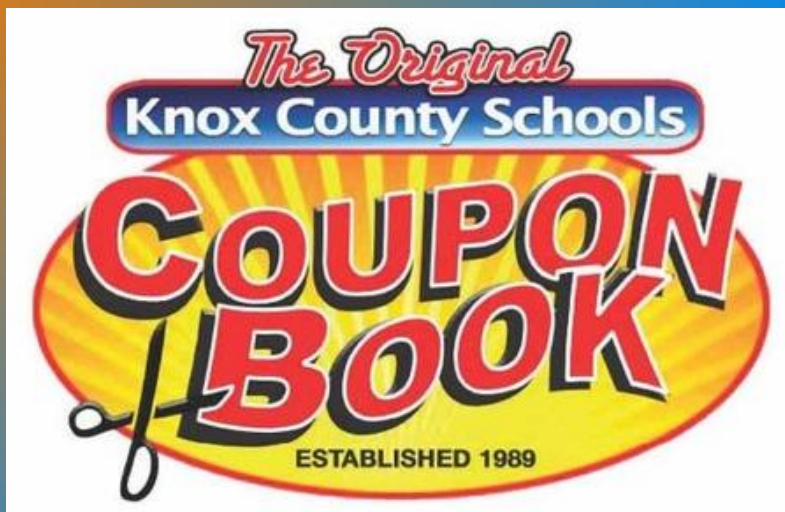
Thanks to you, the grounds of West View Elementary School have once again been beautified by the efforts of members of Second Presbyterian Church, friends of Second Presbyterian Church, and staff of West View Elementary.

The turnout was great, 26 by our count. This included, Principal Dr. Amy Brace; Assistant Principal Julia Bennett; Community School Coordinator Susan Martin; friends Henry Naff, and previous volunteers, Mary Helen Gager and Bill Tapp.

We started with a group prayer seeking GOD's blessing on the students, their families, the teachers, the staff, all teachers and those in our congregation who were experiencing sickness, suffering and distress. And then, with the expert guidance of our very experienced Master Gardeners, John Butler and Dr. Neal Peebles, we proceeded to plant flowers, prune, rake, spread mulch, trim and weed...starting in the cool morning air and finishing by 11:30 before anyone succumbed to the heat and humidity.

Thankfully, we were sustained in our efforts by ice cold water, provided by John Henley, and nutritious snacks provided by Clara Hardin. In addition to sprucing up the grounds, we also provided an abundance of school supplies for the students. If you dropped supplies by the church or made a donation to purchase supplies, "Thank you"! For all your efforts and donations, THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH!





SCHOOL COUPON BOOK SALES TO BENEFIT WEST VIEW SCHOOL:

**YES, there will be Coupon Books on
sale again this year!!**

West View School needs our help more than ever.

- 1) Parents / students of 50.3% of this small school have chosen to attend the first semester virtually; thus, about half may not be participating in sales... if they ever did.**
- 2) This year \$8.50 of the \$10.00 cost stays with the school because books are being printed "in house."**
- 3) Knoxville merchants are desperate for whatever business coupons bring their way.**

Sandra Butler will be taking orders... Contact her directly at 584-4397, 659-4416 (cell), or sandyb446@comcast.net!

Sale Dates: September 24 - October 22

Updates from the Session

Highlights from the August 2020 Stated Session Meeting

- Received reports from the Preschool and Ministry Teams as information.
- Received the Treasurer's Report.
- Voted to continue with virtual worship only for the time being. Will reconsider at the next Session meeting.
- Called a virtual congregational meeting for Wednesday, Sept. 6th at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of electing 2 at-large members of the nominating committee.
- Elected Elder Cleston Jones as Chair and Elder Margie Gill as a member of the Nominating Committee.

Stewardship

JULY BUDGET REPORT

	July	YTD	Budget
Total Giving	\$77,413.88	\$471,006.46	\$771,833
Total Expenses	\$57,729.13	\$385,935.77	\$777,908
Excess/(Shortage)	\$19,684.75	\$85,070.69	(\$6,075)

PLEASE NOTE: As of the printing of this newsletter, all in-person church activities are still suspended indefinitely. You will be notified when in-person activities resume. Please visit 2ndpres.org for the most recent updates!		1 9a Staff Meeting	2 6p Congregational Meeting (VIRTUAL)	3	4 Church Office Closed	5
6 Communion Sunday In-person worship suspended. 11a Worship Live Stream	7 Labor Day Church Office Closed Preschool Closed	8 6p Worship & Celebration (via Zoom) 7p Service & Outreach (via Zoom)	9	10	11 Church Office Closed	12
13 In-person worship suspended. 11a Worship Live Stream	14 6p Discipleship (via Zoom)	15 9a Staff Meeting 6p Session Meeting	16	17	18 Church Office Closed	19
20 In-person worship suspended. 11a Worship Live Stream October 2nd Edition Deadline!	21	22	23	24	25 Church Office Closed	26
27 In-person worship suspended. 11a Worship Live Stream	28	29	30			



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THE SECOND EDITION
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2829 KINGSTON PIKE
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*Responding in gratitude to God's love and grace,
we are a welcoming, faithful, and hopeful community,
following Jesus and serving him in the world.*

ELDERS

CLASS OF 2021

Monica Casey
Betsy Foster
John Henley
Cleston Jones

CLASS OF 2022

Dean Farmer
Margie Gill
Patricia Kennedy
Marty McLean

CLASS OF 2023

Tracy Horton
Neal Peebles
Charles White
Tim Wright

MINISTRY TEAMS & MODERATORS

Worship & Celebration

Betsy Foster
Margie Gill

Discipleship

Monica Casey
Patricia Kennedy

Service & Outreach

Tim Wright
Tracy Horton

Care & Compassion

Marty McLean
Charles White

Stewardship

John Henley
Dean Farmer
Neal Peebles

Preschool Board

Cleston Jones