From the Pastor’s Study

“Yes, but…” Luke 9:57-61

In this lesson from the Gospel, several people have volunteered to follow Jesus. It is evident that they truly do want to follow Jesus, and yield their lives to him, but in each case, their affirmation of faith was followed by a conditional statement. “Yes, I will follow you, but first let me go and bury my father.” “Sure, I want to follow you, but first let me go say goodbye to everyone at home.” In many ways, we mimic the response of these disciples. We too, often put limitations and conditions on our service. “Yes, I’ll follow you, but let me make sure my house is in order first.” “Yes, I’ll follow you Jesus, but first I need to help out with my child’s sport’s team.” “Yes, I’ll follow you, but first I must attend the county fair, family reunion, fall festival.” “Yes, I’ll follow you, but since I’ve been teaching, singing, worshipping, and serving for such a long time, I deserve a break…” “Yes Lord, I will follow you, but…”

While it is true that all of us have many different responsibilities and that our “extra” time seems much more limited today, this does not change Jesus’ persistent call to commitment and service. “No one,” Jesus reminds us, “who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God.” While his reply to his would-be followers seems harsh, Jesus continually calls his followers to task. He does not dilute or modify his call because there are other choices people can make with their time or because there are other tasks that are easier or more enjoyable to perform.

As we begin our fall schedule, the Lay Leadership Committee is searching for leaders to help plan and execute the administrative and programmatic tasks of the church. We need Sunday School teachers, helpers, and leaders. We need people to serve on committees in the church to help plan and carry out the mission and ministry of our church. We need people to be enthusiastic about their faith serving the church. As Christians, each and every one of us is called to follow Christ in commitment and service. Will you answer Christ’s call with an affirmative “Yes, Lord, I will follow you” making Christ and his body the church a priority in your life? Or will you echo the voices of those long ago who replied: “Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but…”

Pastor Bruce

PRESCHOOL

It’s hard to believe it’s time to go back to school! We hope everyone had a happy and safe summer! Our 3 year old preschoolers will begin school on Tuesday, September 2. They will be met by our new teacher, Mrs. Diana Skurka! (She will be teaching the Tuesday/Thursday preschool class.) She comes to us with a teaching background in elementary and preschool ages… we’re very happy to have her join us at Nixon Preschool! The Monday/Wednesday/Friday class will start the following day on Wednesday, September 3. There are still a few openings available... it’s not too late to register! If you or someone you know has a preschool age child, please call the church/preschool at 724-586-7372!

September brings the first day of school and... our annual cookie dough fundraiser! Our cookie dough sale will start on September 25th and will run for 2 weeks. This year we will be selling 2 pound tubs for $10. There are many yummy flavors! Please see Michele Baker or call the preschool to place an order. Thanks for your support!

As we begin our school year, we welcome any donation of classroom materials! (Items we go through quickly include: tissues, paper towels, glue sticks, construction paper, scotch tape, etc…) Any donation is greatly appreciated! Our next preschool board meeting is Thursday, Sept. 18th. See you in October!
RECYCLING

The Nixon Preschool would like to thank you for your generous donations to the Preschool’s recycling program. Just a reminder; the following can be recycled: Copy and fax paper, newspaper, magazines, catalogs, mail, envelopes, folders, construction paper, textbooks without covers, shredded paper can be put in a plastic bag. Please do not put your paper in plastic bags! The following cannot be recycled: phone books, poster board, plastic, glass, metals, trash, cardboard boxes, cereal or other food boxes. So far this year, we have recycled 11.738 tons of paper saving 78 cubic yards of landfill space and 48,151 KWH of energy. Keep Up The Good Work!

OUTREACH

It’s hard to believe but it’s time to start thinking about two big fall events—the Election Day Dinner and the Holiday Bazaar. This year’s dinner on November 4th will be chaired by Jean Charlton. (Thank You, Jean!) At this point Linda Bodesheim, who has spearheaded these projects the last few years, is looking for someone to co-chair the Bazaar on November 8th with her. Please contact her if you can help. These two events need everyone in the church working together to make them successful. Proceeds will go the area outreach programs including the Penn Township Volunteer Fire Department. Plan today to do your part!

Thank You to…

- All who showed up for the work night at Church.
- Bob Gray for planting the new shrubbery at the entrance of the Church.
- Jean Charlton & Crystal Porch for directing VBS this year & to all the helpers!
- All who provided wheelchair escorts on Sunday mornings at the Veterans Hospital.
- Everyone who worked at the Chicken BBQ and those who donated food.
- Stephanie Baker, Seth McCall, Erin Black, Ashley Burns, Dr. James Thorne, Skip Cooper, Joshua Glace, Rick Baker and the Trombones, Gary Mix, and Donna Rice for providing special music during the summer.

UM WOMEN

The UMW invite all women to our meeting on September 18th at noon at Porky’s Restaurant. This is a great time to come and get better acquainted with each other.

Are you missing your favorite casserole dish or cake pan? Please check the kitchen as we have many unclaimed dishes.

Another reminder that we have the “assorted change” jar on the cry room window sill. This fund is for our cemetery mowing and $126 has been collected so far this year. Thank you!

YOUTH GROUP

Attention all youth, grades 7—12, you and your friends are invited to become a part of Nixon’s Youth Group! We will have our first meeting on Sunday, September 21 at 6:00 pm at the church. Join us for our own “Wacky Olympic Games”! Each of our gatherings will involve lessons, games, outreach projects, and fun things to do! So We look forward to seeing you there!

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS!

A new Sunday morning class will begin on Sunday, September 14 at 10:00 am. The class will run until 10:45 am and will be held in the social hall kitchen for all young adults 18 + years. Gather for coffee, juice, and donuts as we talk about faith issues and how they relate to your lives. See you there!

BIBLE STUDY

The Story of God’s calling the people of Israel through the many voices of the Old Testament—in poetry, history, and prophecy will be explored at our weekly Bible Study beginning Tuesday, September 9 at 7:00 pm. We will meet in the lounge. Everyone is invited to attend!
Small Groups...

Now that Fall is approaching it is time to start getting into our small groups again. There are two exciting groups for you to think about. The SisterChicks are going to start on **Monday, September 8th at 7:00 pm**. We will be reading “SisterChicks Say Ooh La La” first. You can order that book online at Amazon.com or purchase it at the Family Christian Book store. Please join us for good discussion and a fun time.

Also, there is a Bible Study at Michele Baker’s house starting on **Tuesday, September 9th at 1:00 pm**. Come and join this small group for a time of fellowship and devotion. Contact Michele to find out what materials we are using or for any questions. Hope you can join us!

CONGRATULATIONS!

- Terry & Lisa (Rial) Stielher who were married on July 19th.
- Bonnie & Bob Gray who transferred their membership to Nixon!
- Our 2008 confirmation class—Joshua Berger, Spencer Hall, and Eric Walker.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We would like to thank everyone involved in making VBS a huge success. The children raised $380 for Saint Jude’s and $185 for both Erica and Rehanna. We are currently getting ready for our Sunday School Kickoff on **September 7th at 9:30am**. We plan to have games, crafts, stories, donuts, and juice. It will be a wonderful start to meet and greet with teachers and other families in our church. We would like to continue on our theme from VBS “Forever Friends” to make a fun year to come.

JUNIOR CHURCH

There will be some changes to Junior Church (JC). Julia Glace will be teaching Junior Church every Sunday. She is looking for helpers though, so if you would like to be put on the helping list please let her know. JC will be from Preschooler age to 5th graders. The older kids are to participate and help with the younger children. We will be playing games, making crafts, and learning about God. Attendance will be taken each week and prizes will be given out each month. You can earn extra stickers too! JC is held during the **11:00 worship service**. So please come and see what it’s all about!

THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS...

Those Hospitalized:

- Roberta Zappa, Chris Zappa, Rehanna Lydon, Nancy Callen, Lucille Love, James George, Nicole Lumley, Gin Ramsey, Lou Negley, Ted Gross, Vonnie Scott, Jorge Carvajal, Terry Dickson, Sandy Mickey, Harvey Scott, Thelma Baker, Bobby Kennedy, Lyle Robinson, Staci George, Nancy Sarver, Tyler Geary and David Monsour.

We have lost many loved ones over the summer. Please remember the family and friends of:


If you have a prayer request you would like to share or add to our newsletter please call the church office or let Julia Glace know.
Look inside for:
Information about our Election Day Dinner
and our Holiday Bazaar, Nixon Preschool,
Sunday School, and Youth Group.

In Memoriam:
Donald Dunn
1956-2008
Music Director, Choir Director, Music Teacher, Friend

Don served as Music Director at Nixon United Methodist Church for over 20 years. During that time, we were amazed by his musical talent and abilities that brought meaning to our worship services; his patience and good humor as he directed the choir and taught his students; and his love and concern of our church. With his quiet manner and quick witted humor, he became a part of our church and family. He leaves behind a legacy of music and memories. While we can assuredly say: “Well done thou good and faithful servant,” Don’s presence, his personality, and his music will be missed by our church family!

“Let there be music in my heart throughout all seasons… Let my spirit sing a song of hope in happiness or tears… Let me live my life in harmony with God, at peace with others, as love plays out the melody of all my days and years…”
- Author Unknown