June 2019

Pitsburg CoB
Pastor: Ken Oren email: pitsburgcob@yahoo.com
Web: www.pitsburgcob.org

--- CALENDAR OF EVENTS ---

June 9   Sunday noon  
Father’s day luncheon at JT Greenville

Jun 16   Sunday 2:30 pm  
Sunday afternoon service at BRC

Jul 3-7   Annual Conference Greensboro NC  
Pastor Ken, John & Sue Strawser

Sept 4   Wednesday 7:00 pm  
Church board

Sept 11  Wednesday 7:00 pm  
Church council Meeting

Sept 18  Wednesday 7:00 pm  
Bible Study  
Genesis - invite community

Nov 3    Daylight savings time ends  
Set clock back 1 hour

Dec 24   Tuesday 10:00 pm  
Christmas Eve service

--- JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES ---
1  Aden Strawser
4  Alex Morales
6  Ken Oren
8  Kenneth & Marilyn Miller
9  Dale Clark
10 Randall Westfall
12 Jennifer Westfall
15 Brandon Harriger
18 Ken & Daryl Oren
21 Heidi Westfall
30 Rita Custer

Note:
If we have not listed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the Pastor so we can correct the list.

--- Castine Area Food Bank ---
June food item is Flour

Galatians 5:22–24 (NRSV)
22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

From the Pastor
As we enter into the summer we appreciate the time of vacation, warmth, no school and lazy days. That is those of us who do not have to work . . .

For some, with the summer comes the ability to travel and visit friends and family. If you are able to do so, I suggest that this would be a good time to visit another congregation in their vicinity. By doing so, you can maintain your spirit by seeing God at work in a different setting. I would hope you could learn from that setting, and it brings the possibility of bringing back and sharing your experiences.

We are in a time of re-birth, of looking at our ministry with fresh eyes, seeking God’s wisdom and listening for what God has in mind for our congregation.

I invite your thoughts and prayers as we contemplate how we can better serve God in this community.

Pastor Ken
There was a nature show on television about a black bear that gave birth to two cubs. One cub died right away. Three weeks later the mother died and the remaining cub was left to fend for itself. An orphaned cub in that condition is like a walking buffet for predators. And of course the camera immediately showed a hungry-looking mountain lion.

One day the orphan cub encountered a giant male black bear. The little cub cowered at the bear's sheer mass. The larger bear peered around and seemed to realize that the mother bear wasn't anywhere to be found. He gave the little cub a friendly nudge. The camera then showed the little bear happily trailing along after the larger one. The adoption papers were signed, sealed and registered at the county seat in that nudge. Papa bear proceeded to show the cub how to grub for insects and how to catch fish and how to scratch his back against a tree.

One day the two bears became separated. The cub began to cry and looked frantically for his new father, but couldn't find him anywhere. The cub approached a stream where he'd learned to fish and something caught his attention. He looked up to see a mountain lion ready to pounce. That same mountain lion had stalked the cub for the entire show. There was no way that mountain lion would've gone for that cub with Papa bear around, but now...

The camera zoomed in on the cub. He automatically mimicked the posture of his adopted father when threatened. He stood on his hind legs and bared his teeth. Then, in the exactly the same way his new father would have done, this cub let loose a mighty growl that should have reverberated throughout the forest. But, only a tiny bear cub squeak came out.

Well, you know what was coming. But, to everybody's astonishment the mountain lion lowered his head and ran off in the opposite direction. The camera panned back to the proud little cub still standing tall on his hind legs. And then all the viewers saw what that little cub Could Not: a few yards behind him, at full, ferocious height, his sharp, white teeth bared in a snarl, stood Daddy bear. He may not have made a sound, but he was there.

And even though the cub couldn't see his father, his father stood guard, protecting his young. The little cub had power available greater than anything he could produce on his own. There was a greater power watching over him.

John 14:21 (NRSV)

21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”  

Billy D. Strayhorn, What Difference Does It Make?
There was a farmer who grew excellent quality wheat and every season he won the award for the best grown in his county. One year a reporter from the local newspaper interviewed the farmer and learned that each Spring the man shared his seed with his neighbors so that they too could plant it in their fields...

“How can you afford to share your best wheat seed with your neighbors when they are entering their crops in the competition with yours?” the reporter asked...

“Why that's very simple,” the farmer explained... "The wind picks up pollen from the developing wheat and carries it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior wheat, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of all the wheat, including mine. If I am to grow good wheat, I must help my neighbors grow good wheat"...

The reporter realized how the farmer's explanation also applied to peoples' lives in the most fundamental way... Those who want to live meaningfully and well must help enrich the lives of others, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. And those who choose to be happy must help others find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all...

Karen Caron - Alice R

In her book The Preaching Life, Barbara Brown Taylor tells of a conversation she had with a friend who grew up on a sheep farm in the Midwest. According to him, sheep are not dumb at all. "It is the cattle ranchers who are responsible for spreading that ugly rumor, and all because sheep do not behave like cows. Cows are herded from the rear by hooting cowboys with cracking whips, but that will not work with sheep at all. Stand behind them making loud noises and all they will do is run around behind you, because they prefer to be led. You push cows, her friend said, but you lead sheep, and they will not go anywhere that someone else does not go first-namely, their shepherd-who goes ahead of them to show them that everything is all right." Sheep know their shepherd and their shepherd knows them.

He went on to say that "it never ceased to amaze him, growing up, that he could walk right through a sleeping flock without disturbing a single one of them, while a stranger could not step foot in the fold without causing pandemonium."

Sheep & shepherds develop a language of their own.
If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please contact the Pastor at pitsburgcob@yahoo.com