

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

October 2019

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Chapter 6: Treasures in Heaven

Abraham and I were scurrying around gathering our things early one morning before we were left behind. We wanted to get tucked into a sack before any of the others woke. A few days ago, we thought someone caught a glimpse of us. I was very grateful not to be in the sack they beat against the ground. We decided we needed to be extra careful for the next few days, just to be safe. We had taken to hiding in the very bottom of a travel bag. It wasn't always comfortable and often very hot, but neither Abraham nor I wanted to get left behind. We were learning too much to stop this extraordinary journey.

I had left home with very little. There hadn't been time to do more than grab a few things. Abraham did not have much more time to pack. Each of us carried with us one memento from home, our writing supplies and I had my journal, where I was writing all of our adventures. These few items were precious to us and we kept them close as we traveled.

Later in the day, I awoke from a nap. It was easy to fall asleep with the bag swinging back and forth, it always seemed to lull me to sleep, even when I tried to stay awake. I looked around and found I was alone. We had stopped and Abraham must have gotten out to explore.

I quickly joined him, not wanting to miss anything. I heard Jesus speaking. *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

At last, I thought, something I can understand. I don't need to worry about having treasures on earth, I don't have anything. No one would want any of my things. It was good to hear Jesus teach about something that wasn't really about me.

I began to look around for Abraham and found him sitting not too far away listening to Jesus, too. I made my way over to him.

“Malachi, would you like some lunch? I found some berries that are quite tasty and would be happy to share.” Abraham told me. “Thank you that sounds marvelous.” I responded and we ate in companionable silence. Then Abraham looked over at me and asked, “Malachi, where is your bag? Where is your journal?”

I looked around and began to panic. Where was my journal? Where were my writing supplies? Where was my picture of my family? I couldn't remember where I had put it last. I began to panic and raced back to where I had been listening to Jesus talk about treasures in heaven. Abraham followed me at a much more cautious speed. He helped me look, but we could not find anything.

“Maybe you left it in the bag we traveled in last night, Malachi?” Abraham asked.

Without uttering a word, I raced back to the bag. I will admit I wasn't very careful with whatever disciple's things were in that bag as I raced around trying to find my own. I dug

around and moved things. I hunted and looked. Nothing. I could find no trace of my beloved belongings.

Abraham joined me in the hunt. I wasn't very nice to him. I was so upset that I blamed him for my lost things. Still he helped me look. We ventured into every bag that day. We looked and looked but found not a single trace of my things. At the end of the day I found myself silently crying.

Then Jesus' words came back to me: *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* Was Jesus speaking to me? Was I putting too much value into my things? Maybe I didn't understand Jesus' words after all.

It was good to have a friend as Abraham sat quietly with me all night. Silently, we crawled back into the travel bag from last night to get some rest. It was a restless night for me. I tried not to wake Abraham, but I could not sleep. I wondered if I had placed too much importance on my belongings. I was sad to lose the picture of my family, but I hadn't lost my family. They would always be with me. I knew they missed me but were excited for this adventure. I would be able to find writing supplies to send them letters. It was my journal that I longed for the most. It was where I was writing down my adventures and what Jesus was saying. I was so sad to have lost it.

As the time drew near for Abraham and me to get up and forage for food, I asked God to forgive me. I prayed that I could trust him for all my needs. And I asked him to help me remember what Jesus taught and to learn those lessons in my heart. I felt calmer and peaceful when Abraham looked at me with his sleepy eyes.

We were careful to gather all of Abraham's things before leaving the bag. I picked up his sack to carry and it felt heavier than normal. When I asked him about it, Abraham, looked shocked.

He said, "I had completely forgotten. Yesterday, I noticed your bag had a hole, so I put your things in my bag so that you would not lose anything. I am so sorry. I totally forgot."

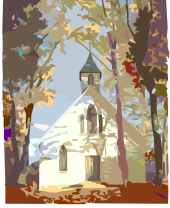
I quickly rushed to hug my friend. I was grateful to have my things back, but even more I wanted him to know that I was not angry with him. Friendship is more important than even my journal.

Malachi, Mouse Adventurer

P.S. Read the adventure for yourself in Matthew 6:19-24.

I have often been told "If you look at a person's checkbook register, you can tell what his priorities are." We do tend to put our money towards what is important to us. Jesus reminds us in these verses that storing up treasures in heaven is what we should be doing. It is about offering love and kindness. Money will not solve any of our problems, though the world will tell us it can. Instead, we are called to place our trust in God.

Pastor Brenda



PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 20th will be Pastor Appreciation Sunday. We will mark Pastor Brenda's 19th Anniversary as the Pastor of Upland Baptist Church. Then, join us in the Chapel after the Worship Service for some social time and a BAKE SALE. You will be able to personally thank our Pastor for her caring, dedication, and ministry to the congregation of our Church. There will be a *Blessings Shadow Box* with discs in the back of the Church. You are asked to write your appreciation for Pastor Brenda on the disc and drop it in the shadow box for her to keep as a remembrance. You may still bring a card if you wish.

News

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Legal Corporation Highlights

- Reviewed the finances and investments of the Church. Thank you to everyone who has been fulfilling their pledges.
- Reviewed the repairs that have been completed around the Church including the boiler.
- Discussed the repairs that still need to be completed.
- Discussed issues with the alarm company.
- Meeting with Upland Borough representatives to discuss selling part of the church parking lot. If we decide to sell, it will be brought before the congregation.
- Discussed adding an On-line Giving Site to our website.
- Budget Meeting: Wednesday, October 9th at 7:00.
- Work Day: Saturday, October 19th from 9 AM to Noon

Ministry Council Highlights.

- Reviewed programs and events that occurred during the summer months – including the collection of school supplies for Main Street and Home Communion.
- Each Team Leader discussed upcoming events.

UNICEF

Now celebrating its 69th anniversary, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF has raised more than \$170 million - funds that have made a critical difference in the lives of millions of children and families.

Every day, an estimated 25,000 children die from preventable causes – because they lack simple things like access to clean drinking water, basic childhood medical attention, sufficient nutrition, or immunizations that can protect them against deadly diseases. One in four children in the world is undernourished.

What Your Donation Can Buy

- \$1 gives a child 40 days of clean, safe water.
- \$5 feeds a malnourished child for 5 days.

What Can You Do To Help?

Contribute by putting your donation in the box at the back and front of the church and/or putting your extra change in the box a child in your neighborhood might be carrying. When you support UNICEF, you help children throughout the world lead better lives.

VBS NIGHT

Monday Night VBS, for ages 5 – 12, resumed on September 8th. We started with 11 our first Monday, the next week was 19, and the 3rd week was 18. Pray for this program as it brings children into our Church from the community so they can learn about God's love for them. We continue to serve dinner to the children and then have a lesson, activity, and craft. Contact either Linda Cook or Brenda Shaw if you would like to volunteer or make a donation. Thank you for your support!

Monday Night VBS
6:00 – 7:00 pm



STUDENT RECOGNITION



- **Matthew Shaw** has been busy this fall with Cub Scouts! He and his Den have completed their Duty to Country adventure, which included participating in the 9/11 Service in Brookhaven. Matthew is also selling Cub Scout Popcorn to help fund activities. If you are interested in buying popcorn, let him know.
- **Stephen Shaw** is enjoying 7th Grade. He is running Cross Country and last week had his best time ever in a meet. Stephen is working on advancing in Boy Scouts and continues to enjoy camping.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Plan Ahead . . .

- October 1

Small Groups Begin

- October 14
- October 19
- October 20

- October 27
- October 31
- November 17

- November 30
- December 1
- December 8
- December 16

No VBS Night

- Work Day from 9 AM to Noon
- Pastor Appreciation Sunday
- Bake Sale for ABCOPAD
- Sunday Social
- Bells Play during Worship
- Trunk or Treat
- Pledge Sunday
- Bells Play during Worship
- Giving Tree Begins
- Church Decorating
- Fellowship Lunch and Activity
- Giving Tree Gifts Due
- Night of Music



PROPERTY – Frank Kulp

No Property Report this month.

COMMUNICATIONS – Dave Geveke

Another person recently volunteered to be trained to operate the camera during Church service. Camera operators are always appreciated. Please e-mail the church or give the office a call if you're interested. You can operate the Church camera if you can take a picture with your phone.

Please continue letting us know how your experience watching the broadcast at home is going. You can e-mail the church or give the office a call.

WORSHIP – Priscilla Mills

It's good to be back to Worship in the Sanctuary. The sermon focus has been on prayer. Don't forget to complete your prayer card with your personal commitment to focus your prayers.

Praying with the Pastor continues on Wednesdays at 9:30 am.

Evening Prayer Meetings will start again this month. October 8th at 7:30 pm will be the first prayer meeting this fall.

Joyful Noise Bell Choir rehearsal has started on Sundays at 8:30 am. The Bell Choir will play during worship services on Sunday October 27th. Come and listen!

Greeters and Ushers are a continuing need. Sign up at the back of the church. We can always use new people to greet and get to know more members of our congregation. Please let Priscilla Mills or Pastor Brenda know if you notice anyone who needs the nursery.

Worship at Belvedere is Sunday October 27th at 2:30 pm. Please let Pastor Brenda know if you can go. The residents enjoy the service and singing, and love spending a little time with our church members.

Looking Ahead

Calling all Veterans. Veterans Day will be November 9th. Please let Priscilla know if you are a veteran as well as what branch of the service you served and provide a picture of yourself in your uniform, if possible.

"I love the Lord for he heard my voice, he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live." Psalm 116

MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski

Pastor Appreciation Sunday and Bake Sale to benefit ABCOPAD will be after worship on October 20th in the lower level of the Chapel. See the sign-up sheet in the back of the church for donations to the bake sale and come over for a time of fellowship and appreciation for the wonderful Pastor we have.

Attendance is growing at our monthly worship service at Belvedere. The residents are so happy to see us. We will be going on October 27th. Please see Pastor Brenda if you would like to join us.

We welcomed three new members to our church family in July. Peggy Albany, Monica Manerchia, and Paul Michalkiewicz are making Upland Baptist their home. We welcomed John Gallagher, Jim and Sharon Jackson, Theresa Rowan and Darlene Strunk to our fellowship in September. Please take a minute and introduce yourself and welcome them into our family of believers. God is truly working in our midst.

DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston

Welcome October! Children's Church is back in full swing. We are always looking for adults in our congregation to share their love of our Lord on Sunday mornings. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to participate.

OUTREACH – Joan Decker

VBS Night

VBS Night has had a surge in attendance. We hope this continues through the fall. Come join us in the chapel on Monday nights from 6 – 7 pm to help with dinner, the Bible story or the activity.

Trunk-or-Treat

Halloween is coming soon. Don't forget our annual Trunk-or-Treat event for the neighborhood children on Thursday, October 31 from 6 – 7 pm in the UBC parking lot. Please bring lots of treats as well as a chair and prepare to have lots of fun.

Main Street Elementary

There are volunteer opportunities available at Main Street Elementary. Please call the church office for more information 610-874-7474 if you would like to help.

Food Bank

The Food Bank was blessed to receive 65 boxes from the United Way and 112 boxes from FRMA this summer. The Trade Wars with China has brought a lot of canned goods to all Food Banks in our area. **The Food Bank item for October is ramen noodles.** The Food Bank is always in need of canned goods as well as plastic bags. Please support the food bank in any way by dropping off donations at the church. The Food Bank is always in need of help. Please call the church office at 610-874-7474 if interested in helping at the food bank. Assistance is greatly needed with weekly deliveries.

Worship

Please join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM.

HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR OCTOBER 2019

All cards for International Missionaries are to be sent to the following address:

International Ministries
1003 W. 9th Ave., Suite A
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1210

Mrs. Patricia Long 10/8

Email – patti.long@internationalministries.org

October Birthdays

- 1 Karin Lord
- 2 Parker Ferguson
Peggy Rhoads
- 7 Aaliyah Harman
- 9 Florence Osborne

October Anniversaries

- 10 John & Jane Kofroth
- 12 Florence & Herbert Osborne