I hope this finds you enjoying the summer, soaking up the sun and resting in this respite from the very cold winter weather. Drawn outside by the warm weather, I have engaged in quite a bit of planting, both in the gardens behind the church and at my home. I can’t resist venturing out into my yard each day to survey the Brussels sprouts and broccoli, the kale and peppers, to see if any growth has appeared. Generally, there are no noticeable changes; the growth of these plants takes place incrementally, so that day-by-day I don’t notice the changes. But when I think about how small my pepper plants were on Monday, I realize that by Saturday, they have grown at least an inch! The growth happens imperceptibly each day, but over time, great and beautiful changes take place, as the plant matures and begins producing its vegetable.

So it is with you and me. Our growth in Christ often takes place imperceptibly, but when we look back over the months or years, we suddenly realize how much we have grown and changed and developed into the person God is calling us to be. By reading Scripture and praying, by serving and attending worship, we create an ideal environment for connection to God and spiritual growth. We need those things just as vegetables need the sun and the rain. Although we may wish for our spiritual practices to immediately change us into the person God calls us to be, the process is more like the steady growth of a plant. Eventually, and with the proper care, we grow and develop into our truest self, producing beautiful fruit.

In his poem *Trust in the Slow Work of God*, Teilhard de Chardin writes “Above all, trust in the slow work of God...Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense.” Let us continue on our journey with Christ, trusting in the slow work of God to transform us and bring forth fruit in our lives.

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**Save the Date!**

- **Food Pantry**
  - Volunteers needed on July 3 at 8a.

- **Lunch Bunch**
  - Lunch and laughs on the 2nd Monday of the month: July 14 and August 11

- **Community VBS**
  - Jungle Safari in the City Park, July 21-24 from 9a until 12p

- **Church Picnic**
  - Worship and potluck lunch at Bethany Covenant Camp on August 10th.

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*In Christ,*

*Melinda*
**Food Pantry**

Every July, we staff the food pantry on the first Thursday. We are looking for 6 volunteers to serve at the food pantry on July 3rd from about 8:00a-11:45a. Please call the office if you are able to help out!

**Church Picnic**

Our annual parish picnic will be at the Bethany Covenant Camp in Rockdale on August 10th. Beginning at 12p, we will have a potluck lunch, followed by a worship. We hope you’ll be able to join us!

**Community Vacation Bible School**

This year, Our Saviour is participating with other churches in a community Vacation Bible School to take place in city park. Jungle Safari will take place July 21-24, from 9a-12p and will involve elementary-aged children. Volunteers are needed to help with the events that week. Please let Melinda know if you are interested.

**Parish Dinner**

Community Dinner on September 24, from 4p until tickets sell out. For $8, enjoy chicken and biscuits, a beverage, and Lois' fresh apple pie!

**Open House**

With all our new, beautiful renovations, it is time to celebrate! We will be holding an open house on July 31st from 7-9p, serving coffee and a variety of desserts. If you are able to make a dessert, please let Sandy or Gail Mizner know. We hope you’ll come out to enjoy the evening!

**Attendance and Finances**

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## Birthdays

**July**
- 2: Gale Gunter
- 7: Vicki Smith
- 15: Brenda Mortimer
- 17: Ray Burnette
- 19: Judy Aughenbaugh
- 22: Jim Dungey
- 25: Laura Read
- 30: Terry Allen

**August**
- 1: Garry & Cathy Moore
- 3: Elton & Ruth Himes
- 10: Antonio & Kerri Casagrande
- 16: Melinda Hall & Nathan Royster
- 31: Gary & Jackie Mitchell

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## Anniversaries

**July**
- 17: Ernest & Jean Nichols

**August**
- 3: Garry & Cathy Moore
- 10: Elton & Ruth Himes
- 16: Antonio & Kerri Casagrande
- 21: Melinda Hall & Nathan Royster
- 31: Gary & Jackie Mitchell

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If you are unable to serve your assigned day, please arrange a substitute or trade. If you would like to join this ministry, contact the Church Office.
Lunch Bunch

Come out and share some laughs and enjoy the conversation with the Lunch Bunch. The second Monday of each month, anyone and everyone is invited to meet up for lunch at a local restaurant. On July 14, we will meet at Buck's Pizza at 11:30a and on August 11 at 11:30a with the place to be announced. Hope you can come!