

"Answering the Call of God."

Ps. 14; Esther 3:1-6, 4:1-17
Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church
Rev. David E. Young
August 2, 2009

(This sermon time was shared with Alicia Pashby, who talked about her work in Bahrain).

This past week's Vacation Bible School highlighted several Bible stories that illustrated the challenges of leading God's people, servicing others, obeying God, and telling the Good News of God's great love for us shown in Jesus Christ. The fifth challenge involved taking risks for God's sake.

Answering the call of God is a risky business, to be sure. One does not know where it will lead. It requires different things from different people, based on their gifts and abilities - both those that they come by naturally and the ones they work very hard to develop and perfect.

Sometimes we make the mistake of thinking that only those who are ordained or are in explicitly "church" work are answering the call of God. That's where the word "vocation" comes in. It means "calling" and usually we think that ministers and missionaries, Vacation Bible School Teachers and church musicians are the ones who are answering the call of God while the rest of us are just on hold.

But, as our children were taught this week, and as many of us know because we have wrestled with the question of how to serve God well in whatever field or occupation, we can all do the Lord's work because we are all disciples and servants of God.

Answering the call of God will lead to surprises. We may think we know where the road ahead will go, but more often than not, there are twists and turns along the way and before we know it, we "aren't in Kansas anymore."

We've been blessed to have Alicia Pashby back with us for a short furlough and Alicia wanted to tell us a bit of her journey thus far as she seeks to serve God through her gifts as a musician and as a teacher and, most importantly, as a child of God. Welcome Alicia!

(Alicia's talk here)

Thank you, Alicia. We will continue to lift you up in our prayers, confident that you are touching lives and ministering to the needs of others as you answer the call and claim of God upon your life.

Know that we are with you, wherever you go, because we are linked together in the strong love of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Thanks be to God!