



It's the beginning of a new school year, and you'll be growing and changing every day. Below is an important lesson that God wants you to remember.

Color in the letter boxes that have an asterisk (*).

Then write the letters that are left on the lines below to finish Romans 12:2.

c	h*	o	n	d*	f	t*	q*	o	s*	r	a*	b*	r*	m
x*	p	j*	e*	a	t	m*	t	o*	c*	p*	e	r	k*	u
w	d*	o	s*	r*	j*	r	g*	l	b*	l*	i*	n*	d	y*
t	r	i*	a	t*	n	s	r*	f	o	r	v*	m	e	d
r	d*	e	n	h*	s*	o*	e	r*	w	i	t*	n	m*	g
c*	a*	m	b*	u*	i	p*	z*	n	j*	r*	d	y*	o*	u*
a*	r*	s*	t	e	o*	w*	s	k*	v*	f*	l*	s	e*	t*
a	p	e*	r*	p	i*	r	g*	o	n*	v	h*	j*	p*	e
u*	o*	g	b*	i*	o	s*	d	a*	l*	l*	s	e*	t*	h*
s*	p	l	m*	e	y*	a	s	o*	r*	i	n	c*	g	u*
p	e	t*	i*	r	f	w*	t*	e	m*	l*	c	d*	a*	t

"Do not _____ any longer to the _____ of this _____, but be _____ of your _____. Then you will be able to _____ and _____ what _____ and _____ will." Romans 12:2, NIV

Answers: conform, pattern, world, transformed, renewing, mind, test, approve, God's Pleasing, Perfect

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Windows of St. John's

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From the Pastor...

I don't usually use my front page to talk about such disturbing things as gun violence but this is one place where the government meets the religious. It is difficult to separate church and state when it comes to the sanctity of human life. It is unsettling to me that politicians on both sides leverage the grief associated with Dallas, Orlando et al. and exploit it for personal benefit.

Some are calling for tougher gun control laws. This will not likely happen. First, because we have gun laws we don't enforce now because of the unwieldy nature of controlling people. Second, because some of us remember history. In 1911, Turkey established gun control. From 1915 to 1917, 1.5 million Armenians, unable to defend themselves, were exterminated. In 1939, Germany established gun control. From 1939 to 1945, six million Jews and seven million others unable to defend themselves were exterminated. Third, because of the often oddly interrupted statistics that compare the amount of guns available to the

citizens and the rate of crime. Both sides site their own studies leaving the issue unsettled.

I'm sure there are other reasons we will not likely see gun control but where this argument misses the point is the root of the problem. We need sin control more than anything and no government can legislate sin out of existence. We need to see life as sacred and precious and no protest can force a person to value life more or less. Our nation does not need to turn out more legislation the church needs to turn more hearts to God.

White privilege is real and from a white person's perspective it exists invisibly. Racism exists, just not like it used to. Emotions are raw and even the smallest of jabs can incite over reaction. All of this is absorbed in God's heart and reflected back in forgiveness if we will recognize that the sin jingoistic pride separates the races and not color. Sin urges murder. Guns are inanimate objects and are not capable of urging anything. Sin devalues life and God calls life sacred. The easy thing is to focus on the control of results of sin (shootings, guns, racism, privilege). The hard thing is to control sin.

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What a month of fellowship opportunities we had in July. Starting with the picnic, in which a great time of fellowship was had by all who braved the heat.

Deacons

When our gifts are unneeded or we go unrecognized for some God-given ability, often we decide we'll go somewhere else where we're "needed." We leave a church with a need for workers in every children's department because we just don't feel that we're being used there.

Ultimately, I think it comes down to this: Are we serving for the benefit of the body of Christ or for our own self-fulfillment?

Love for Christ is accompanied by love for His bride. My church family is just that---my family. I can't imagine saying to my spouse, "I'm sorry, I just didn't change our son's diaper today because it really isn't my gifting, and I'm not sure if it would really use my talents well."

No, I love my son, and I love my spouse. . If the diaper needs to be changed, I change it. It's a simple way to serve in love and meet a need. This doesn't mean my gifts aren't important. What is means is that sometimes the need for a servant

I'd like to thank Bill Sawyer, Bill Siverd and Greg Smith for their assistance in cooking. Also, Sandy Hug-gins who worked tirelessly preparing the sides.

As I write this everyone is busy and excited preparing for "Vacation Bible School",

is greater than my need to use a specific gift. Love for the church means a heart that desires to give. If we refuse to serve in the nursery because Sunday is our chance to get away from kids, we're thinking of church wrongly.

The Bible speaks strongly about the church being our family, even more than our flesh and blood families. Sunday is not a chance to take a break from family---it's a chance to serve our true family.

WHY ARE WE SERVING?

When you're part of a body that loves, serves and gives, a beautiful bond forms. You see people serving in the background, and you praise God for them. You see the joy of service in others, and you want to follow suit. You see a need, and you long to meet it.

Serving in our local church is not meant to meet our needs for self-fulfillment or self-worth; it's about the joy found through self-denial.

Tim Pierce
Deacon Chairman



another great opportunity to fellowship while serving.

After replacing the Men's breakfast with the picnic cookout in July, we will be back on schedule for our next breakfast on the 3rd Saturday August 20 . Hope to see all the men there.
Dan Terry



In nature, there is a routine fluctuation of events, and this is normal. Seasons come and go in a regular fashion. Plants grow, flower, fruit, and seed in a predictable progression. So, as a science trained person, I have great difficulty of understanding the fluctuations of our Sunday School attendance. I



realize that this is not a normal analogy that one could make, and yet, we are all a part of God's creation and nature. To what do we attribute our variations in attendance? Is it that many "are out of town" at the same time? Is it that several are called in to work at these times? Since we are located in a resort area, broadly speaking, are we having summertime visitors who aren't inclined to go to church with us? Are we taking advantage of some of our many attractions, and enjoying some time with those ourselves? Or,

Elgia Easter,
Sunday School Director

should we just remember that we have traditionally had a "summer slump", and move on? Well, whatever the reason, we have suffered much bouncing of our attendance from a high of 109 to a low of 66 so far this summer. Let's pray for a better latter portion of the summer than we've had so far.

August will be the last month for several of our teachers that make up our wonderful Sunday School Staff. To each one of you that is not returning to your teaching position in September, please know that you are, and have been, a true blessing to your classes. Thank you for all you have done for our Sunday School and for our church, and especially for those under your tutelage and leadership. Whether or not you realize it, you have mentored many and have guided many as they have formed a more solid basis for a lifestyle of discipleship. You have put in many

hours of preparation and study, and for these we praise you and give you our most heartfelt thanks. Centri-kid was a huge success as well. The children and chaperones learned about the armor of God. Everything the children did from recreation to tracks to Bible study was all tied into the



August is here already... Can you believe we are already approaching the end of summer and back-to-school deals will be coming out soon? M-FUGE was a great success and the start of our mission lifestyle! We were

out in neighborhoods around Asheville, NC doing children's ministry, games and rec, and social ministry. Then each night we worshipped together and had church group devotions. We plan on continuing to work on mission projects here locally and share God's love with everyone we meet.

When you see one of the youth, ask them about their experience.

On August 10th 6-8pm, we will have our annual Slip N' Slide Kickball event for all 3rd graders through high school and even some adults. Come on out and bring a snack to share.



Sept 3rd Game time 3:30pm leave church at 10pm- UVA Football Home Opener against U of R- Tickets are \$12. Purchase your own ticket and we will sit in the student section.

Sept 24th- White Water Rafting

theme of Unseen. We talked about Unseen Strength, Unseen Truth, Unseen Peace, Visible Faith, and Visible Boldness.

On August 27th from 3-5pm, we will have the Back to School Bash. There will be water games, sno-cones, cotton candy, popcorn, and giveaways. I will need volunteers for set-up, food machines, watching the inflatables, and clean-up.

Fun Fridays will continue during the Ladies Bible Study on Friday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am. This month will be centered around service projects each week.



Can you believe it is August already? That means it's almost time to go back to school! We are in need of some Word of Life volunteers for the fall. Please see Kristen if you are interested in volunteering for Word of Life on Wednesday nights.

Centri-kid was a huge success as well. The children and chaperones learned about the armor of God. Everything the children did from recreation to tracks to Bible study was all tied into the



The long hot days of summer are still here! Yet, it is time to set our thoughts toward our mission activities for the coming church year. August--time to look ahead. Our ladies in WMU will be meeting to review our ministries from last year and to plan our ministries for the 2016-2017 church year on Tues., Aug. 2nd at my house at 10:00 am. We invite all ladies to come and let's get excited for missions for this year.

Looking back to our recent mission activity Pure Water/Pure Love. Thank you, most generous church family for your collection of so many coins for

this endeavor. In fact this is just what you gave:

7,263 pennies	\$72.63
1,746 nickels	\$87.30
2,269 dimes	\$226.90
1,902 quarters	\$475.50
Dollars	\$30.00
Grand Total.	\$892.33

There will be two missionary families who will be receiving filtration systems because we collected coins. What a wonderful way to say thanks to our missionaries for their service.

Now looking ahead to a more immediate mission activity! In July and August of each year we support the Bridge Network's work with the Migrants on the Eastern Shore. Formally we collected certain necessities for them, but for the last two years they informed us that they

could use money more than anything else. Some churches go over and hold Vacation Bible Schools. We will be collecting money for this ministry through the second Sunday in August. For the migrant worker, the Bridge Network tries to reach out and show Christ's love through our interaction. Please pray for our ladies as we plan our various mission activities for 2016-2017.

Becki Thomas
WMU Director

