

GETTING TO KNOW YOU





DEVOTIONAL BY ELDER KEITH FREEMAN

Freedom in Christ

Our Independence Day

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage." — Galatians 5:1

Every Fourth of July, we celebrate the birth of a nation that declared its independence. It reminds us that freedom is precious, worth protecting, and never something to take for granted. Yet as significant as America's independence is, Scripture points us to an even greater freedom—the freedom Christ has won for every heart.

Before Christ, we lived under the rule of our old nature. Fear, guilt, shame, bitterness, pride, and regret often dictated our thoughts and actions. We were not living as God designed us to live. But through Jesus, a declaration far greater than any earthly document was made over our lives: **you are free.**

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come." — 2 Corinthians 5:17

Just as a nation leaves behind the rule of another kingdom, we leave behind the dominion of our old selves. We are no longer defined by yesterday's failures, old

habits, or past mistakes. Our true identity is found in Christ.

Freedom, however, is more than being free *from* something. It is being free *for* something.

We are free to love instead of hate.

Free to forgive instead of keeping score.

Free to build relationships instead of walls.

Free to encourage instead of condemn.

Free to become the people God always intended us to be.

That freedom is not meant to isolate us - it unites us. The cross removed every barrier between God and humanity and continues to remove the barriers we build between one another. As we walk in Christ's freedom, we become ambassadors of reconciliation, bringing peace wherever we go.

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." - 2 Corinthians 3:17

This Independence Day, celebrate your country with gratitude, but also celebrate the greater liberty that Christ has placed within you. The greatest act of independence is not political—it is spiritual. It is becoming independent from the old self while becoming completely dependent upon the love and life of Christ.

May we never return to the chains of fear, division, or condemnation. Instead, let us walk confidently in the freedom of grace, extending that same freedom to everyone we meet.

Father, thank You for the gift of freedom. Thank You for the blessings of our nation and for the even greater freedom You have given us through Jesus Christ. Help us leave behind our old ways and walk each day as new creations. May our lives reflect Your love, bring reconciliation, and inspire unity wherever we go. Let us use our freedom not for ourselves alone, but to serve, encourage, and bless others. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Hello Family,

I hope and pray that everyone has had a great year so far. It seems like 2026 has gone by so quickly.

Things around here have certainly been changing. If you haven't noticed, the outside of the church building has been changed; it was beautiful before and it is even more beautiful now.; If you are reading this and have not been here, you might want to take a swing past and see for yourself. The landscaping is exquisite as

well. There is always someone working hard to keep this place beautiful and we thank you.

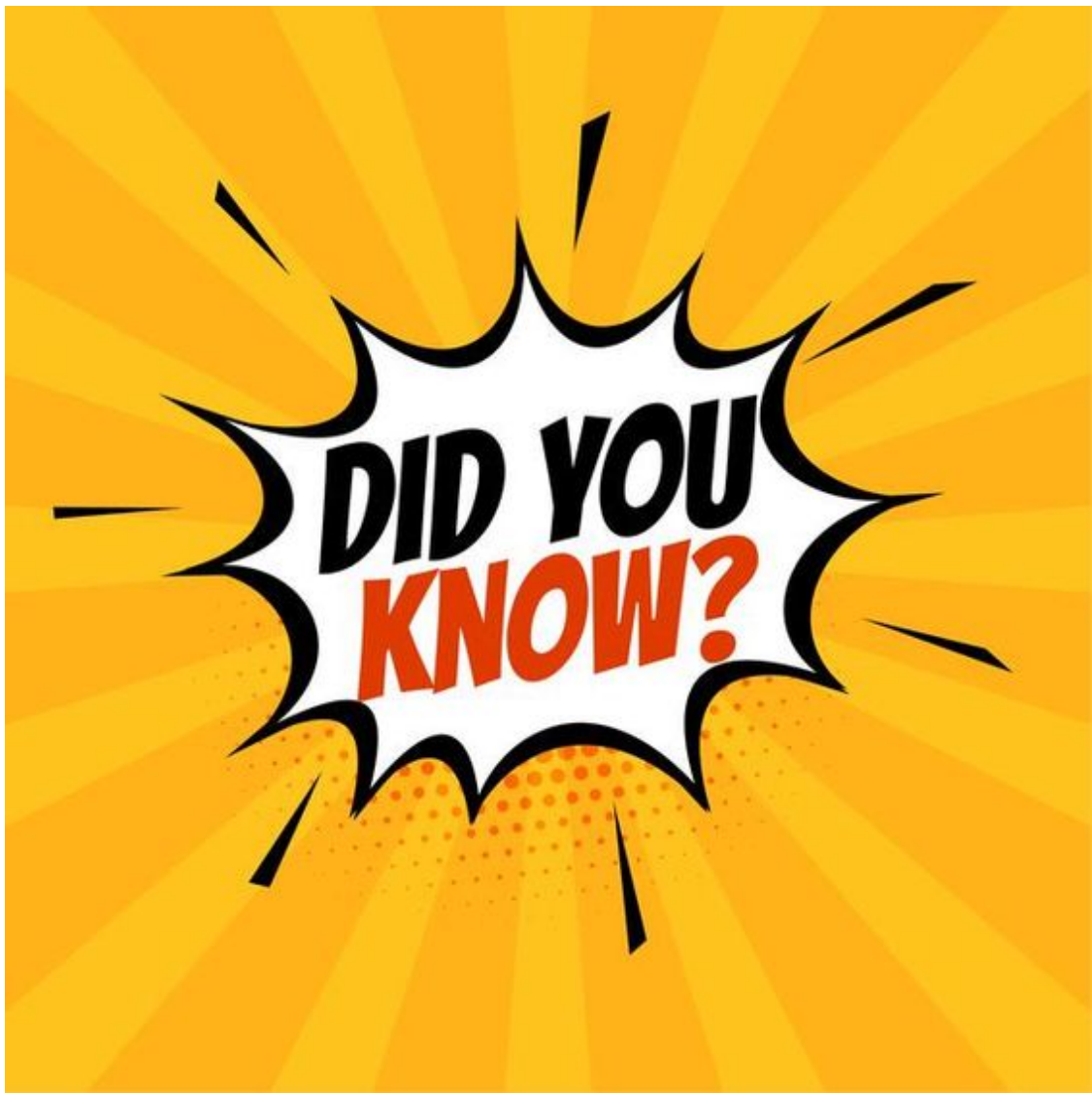
I want to talk a little bit about this Newsletter for a minute; “Getting To Know You” is a way for us to keep up with each other and also to get some information about what goes on around here. I do a column called “Who Am I?”; I interview someone every month and they go into the newsletter with no name and we can all guess who they are. Sometimes no one knows and sometimes lots of you will guess. I encourage you to try to figure it out, it’s fun. I would love to interview you so if you are interested, please call me in the church office and we can make a date and a time to sit down together.

Also there is at least one recipe each month (or 2). I have a couple of bible verses for encouragement and of course, we do find out the following month who the mystery person from last month is.

Pastor Michael and Pastor Phil always bring us an intriguing message on Sunday morning and believe me, they always get your attention in a great way.

Our new website is up and running so if for some reason you can’t make it to church on a Sunday morning; you can hear the message at home. Just a side note, there is nothing as great as being here on a Sunday morning and hearing it in person and being with your church family; what a blessing!
Can’t wait to see you Sunday

Until next month and always with love and blessings,
Deacon Helen J. Caliendo



**Stack your clothes vertically
to see them all**



**WHERE DID THE PHRASE "BARKING UP THE WRONG
TREE" COME FROM?**



Meaning: Be pursuing a mistaken or misguided line of thought or course of action.

Origin: This phrase refers to hunting dogs who chase their prey up a tree. Once it climbed the tree the dogs bark at them, yet sometimes the dogs would continue barking even if the prey was no longer there.



WHO AM I?

I was born in Dayton, Ohio
My favorite animals are dogs
Once I lifted a person's car to the roof with a forklift
I like to cook but I love to eat out.
I was in the Costa Loma earthquake in 1989 it registered a magnitude of 7.0
My favorite author is Stephen King
My favorite singer is David Bowie
My favorite movie actor was Robin Williams
I enjoy a good comedy or mystery
I like to travel and I have been out of the country
My favorite holidays are Christmas and the 4th of July
*An autobiography of my life it would be titled "Incomplete"
*The best part of waking up, is knowing that I'm still alive
If I could have one superpower it would be to fly
I would like to go to Europe one day.
I love funny movies
I would and have sang Karaoke
My nickname was "Jake the Snake"
I have a coin collection.

The song that best sums me up is "Can't Get No satisfaction"



MEET CYNTHIA BUTCHER

I was born in "Fort Myers, Florida"

My favorite color is "Blue"

My favorite activity is "Going on walks with my Baby"

My typical day consists of "Taking Care of My Baby"

My most treasured memory is having "Giving Birth"

I have worked as a "Baby Sitter and did some
"Cleaning"

I would rather "eat out" than cook

Favorite food is "Sushi"

I listen to "Country Music"

My favorite singer is "Carrie Underwood"

My favorite movie is "Sweet Home Alabama"

My favorite actor is "Chris Evens"

My favorite actress is "Scarlett Johansson"

My favorite T.V. show is "Super Natural"

What truly makes me happy is “Hanging with my kids”

What makes me feel peaceful is “Relaxing and Fresh Air”

I have traveled to “Bahamas” which was my favorite vacation

My favorite holiday is “Christmas”

I love the “Smell of Cookies”

My autobiography would be titled “My Adventures in Babysitting”

If I could have one superpower I would choose “Telekinesis”

One thing I dream about doing one day is getting to “Travel the World”

The one thing I am most proud of is that I am almost finished with school; I want to be a nurse

The thing that makes me laugh the most is kids

The most important law I would enforce if I were ruler is

“Free Baby Products”

My warning label would say “Stop Do Not Enter”



The Beatitudes

The Beatitudes in Scripture

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of
righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you
and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of
me.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in
heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the
prophets who were before you.

STRAWBERRY SHRIMP SALAD



Ingredients

Salad:

$\frac{1}{3}$ cup thinly sliced red onion
 $\frac{3}{4}$ pound peeled and deveined raw shrimp
2 cups about 10 oz fresh California strawberries, stemmed
and quartered
8 cups mixed salad greens such as butter lettuce and
watercress
4 oz crumbled feta cheese
1 small cucumber sliced (about 24 slices)

Vinaigrette:

Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
2 Tbsp balsamic vinegar
2 Tbsp water
1 Tbsp chopped shallots
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp black pepper

To make Vinaigrette:

Combine the vinaigrette ingredients in a small bowl. Tilt the bowl to the side and whisk the vinaigrette quickly for a few seconds until emulsified; set aside.

To make Salad:

In small bowl, toss onion with 1 tablespoon of vinaigrette; set aside.

Over grill or in pan on stove top, grill shrimp 5 minutes, turning once, or until pink and cooked through.

In another bowl, toss strawberries with 1 tablespoon of the vinaigrette.

In large bowl, toss greens and onion with enough of the remaining vinaigrette to coat lightly.

Divide among 4 chilled salad plates and arrange strawberries and shrimp on top of greens.

Sprinkle with cheese and garnish with slices of cucumber.



Strawberry Chiffon

1 pkg (4 serving size) strawberry gelatin

1 cup finely diced strawberries

1 tsp lime zest

2 tbs lime juice

2/3 cup boiling water

1/2 cup cold water + ice cubes to make 1 cup

2 cups whipped topping

Stir gelatin with boiling water in a large bowl until gelatin is completely dissolved.

Add enough ice cubes to the 1/2 cup water so that it measures 1 cup. Stir into gelatin until all the ice has melted.

*Stir in the lime zest, lime juice and strawberries,
combining well.*

With a wire whisk, gently stir in the whipped topping.

*Place bowl in the refrigerator and chill for
approximately 1 hour -OR- until mixture will mound.*

*Spoon mixture into serving dishes and chill for 4 hours,
preferably overnight.*

Makes about 6 half-cup servings.

And be ye kind one to
another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another,
even as God for
Christ's sake hath
forgiven you

Ephesians 4:32

KJV

Forgiven
Forgiven

A photograph of two hummingbirds perched on a pink flower. The larger bird is on the right, facing left, and the smaller bird is on the left, facing right. They are both looking towards each other. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and pink.



*Though we
grow weary*

God

*will renew
our strength*

Isaiah 40:31

KJV

Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world.
Today I am wise, so I'm change myself

THE DIVINE SPARK

Eternity in the heart of humanity!



ECCLESIASTES 3:11

New Image Ministries
29 Homestead Road South
Lehigh Acres, Florida
33936

239-369-WORD (9673)

Pastor Phil Porzio
Pastor Michael Porzio



A direct and compelling headline

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!