

## **Mothers and Baptisms... Incentives to Worship?**

*Jesus was talking and a woman in the crowd cried out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."*

*Luke 11:27-28*

Dear Friends,

The sanctuary was overflowing on Mother's Day and we ran out of bulletins. We were blessed to celebrate three baptisms and receive two new families into our church family. The music, especially the anthem, "My Mother's Love," was beautiful and it was a joy to see all the children handing out roses to the moms in worship. Earlier in the week I posted on our church sign out front "Make your mom happy and come to worship this Sunday." I was HOPING I might "guilt" some folks into coming to church! Certainly a lot of family and friends were here for the baptisms and MAYBE the sign brought in a few folks, but I am glad to see that family is still important and baptism still means enough to folks in this community that we invite our extended family and friends to be here to celebrate this milestone in the lives of our children.

In our Reformed Tradition, Baptism is "entrance into the community of faith." The parents and the congregation make covenant promises to help those being baptized to grow in faith. What does that mean? Maybe it's helping in the nursery, or teaching bible school or leading children's church. Maybe it's knowing the children by name and making them feel like they belong when they are in the church.

Also, in our church tradition, membership matters. Not for record keeping and numbers, (though some find that important) but for pastoral care reasons and to give folks a sense of belonging. Mother's Day is a reminder for many folks that they no longer have "genetic" family ties, so for them, the church is a place where they can feel connected and know they are loved. Thank you all for making this year's Mother's Day service such a special day of worship!

It is a joy to be your pastor.

Blessings,  
Mike

## **Upcoming Events**

**Mother's Day Offering** will be collected May 14, 21, and 28. This offering will benefit residents of SC Presbyterian Communities needing financial assistance.

**Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting** will take place Sunday, May 21 at noon. We'll meet at the Episcopal Parish House on Oak Street across from the church.

## **Vacation Bible School - July 10-14**

This annual community event will be hosted by St. James Santee Episcopal Chapel this year. Please call Rev. Roy Hills (843-437-6366) to volunteer. Teachers, snack providers, helpers of all ages are needed.