

...of the guy who did not use the resources and opportunity given him to do something good in the name of the master.

Here's what I see: like those guys with the talents, we have been given something good to manage in the name of our master, Jesus. He's given us resources, abilities, opportunities particular to us and he wants us to use those things faithfully. He wants us to do something good in his name, and wants to find us doing that when he returns for us. And not for the sake of scrupulously keeping the rules (though I believe that avoidance of sin matters), but for the sake of using what he has given me to build his kingdom and please him, because I love him.

This suggests to me that we should not think about faithfulness in terms of simply not "breaking the rules," but in terms of doing what pleases my master. What good thing can we joyfully do in the name of our master today? Let's do that and keep doing it, in the hopeful expectation that when he comes for us, he'll be pleased.

-Pastor Jacob



## Church Library News

*Read this important update from our church library team!*

A change in leadership is occurring on our church library team. Vera Teach is stepping back from the position of Church Librarian and Ashley Oberholzer will be filling the role. Ashley is excited about this opportunity to serve our church, and she's asking for our input. If you have recommendations for topics or authors, the Library Team would like to know about it. Connect with Ashley and make a suggestion! Also, if you have any items checked out which you're done with, please return them to the library so that the team can conduct inventory. Finally, we would like to express our deep gratitude to Vera Teach for her years of service as our Librarian, as well as all those who have served and continue to serve on our Library Team. Our library remains a helpful resource to those who teach and lead, as well as those who wish to read books and journals or watch movies for leisure.

I don't know if you knew this, but I have the sort of personality that can be a little rigid and cautious. I like to have time to think about decisions before making them, I don't like last minute changes to my schedule, I like a routine, and I tend to be very concerned about keeping rules and expectations; because, well, "them's the rules..." In a word, I can be scrupulous.

Now on one hand, one could assume that this propensity could lend itself to my living a holier life, right? But the question naturally arises: "Is being rigid and scrupulous, especially about spiritual things, the same as being *faithful*?"

I've been chewing on the Parable of the Talents, from Matt. 25, for a bit. If it doesn't ring a bell, Jesus tells the story of a rich guy who, while preparing for a journey, entrusts large sums of money to several of his servants. The expectation is that they will manage his money the same way he would, and by the time he returns they will have seen a return on their investments on his behalf. He divides the sums of money up according to the abilities of each: to one he gives five talents, to another two talents, and to a third, he gives one talent.

When he returns, he finds that the guy with five talents put the money to work and doubled it. Likewise, the guy with two doubled his money. But the guy with one talent had dug a hole and hidden the money in the ground. Apparently he misunderstood the intentions of his boss; or he was lazy or fearful, because he opted for caution and didn't lose it. And it seems that when his master wants to know why, he makes excuses and tacitly implies that the master and his bad character is really to blame for his not turning a profit.

Is the master happy that the guy didn't lose his money? No. He's furious at the faithlessness... *Continued on back page*



**Apr. 6:** Allegheny Regional Conference  
**Apr. 7:** Ministry on Wheels  
 1:00 pm  
**Apr. 8:** Golden Heirs Luncheon  
 12:00 pm

**Apr. 14:** Guest Missionary, Bella Kauffman, visiting  
**Apr. 14:** Youth Sports Emporium Trip  
 12:00 pm – 7:30 pm  
**Apr. 27:** Men’s Breakfast  
 9:00 am  
**Apr. 21:** New Members Luncheon  
 12:00 pm  
**Apr. 28:** Stay and Pray Sunday  
 11:45 am



### Birthdays & Anniversaries:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 4 Susan Milford                               | 20 Chris Fulmer / Ray Oberholzer                          |
| 6 Don Cross Sr.                               | 22 Caleb Nowell   |
| 8 Cathy Butler                                | 25 Vickie Stouffer / Barb Keefer / Ariana Daywalt         |
| 10 Rachel Shaw                                | 26 Debbie Pitsnogle                                       |
| 12 Justin and Jourdan Kehr / Jorge Valez Jara | 27 Dave and Diane Armstrong / Scott and Crista Oberholzer |
| 19 Charles and Judy Moore / Alexander Kahuthu |   |

## News from the Church Board

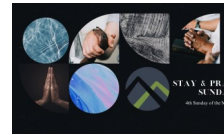
At our March meeting, the board re-elected Rod Miller as our Chairperson and Debbie Pitsnogle as our Secretary for 2024. A full listing of our church board and deacons board members may be found in our church directory. We are also excited to share the news of a new partnership with the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, via a clothing collection bin for recycling and resale. These donations benefit people in need of affordable clothing. You’ll notice the collection bin in our parking lot very soon.

## In the News

Look to this feature for important Paramount BIC news and announcements



On April 14, from 12:00 pm—7:30 pm our youth ministry is going to the Carlisle Sports Emporium! Teens, this will be a great time! Cost is \$40. Please RSVP to Pastor Caleb by April 9 if you would like to attend.



We believe that prayer matters: that God hears and answers, that our intercession is a practical and powerful way for us to work with God to change the world, our community, and our church. The 4th Sunday of every month, Stay and Pray with us.



Interested in becoming a member here at Paramount BIC, or maybe just getting a better idea of what that means? We will host a luncheon for anyone interested in membership, on Sunday, April 21, at 12:00 pm. We’ll see you there!



We are excited to share the news that the totals for our participation in the HAPC Baby Bottle Campaign for 2024 are in! This year we raised \$960.00! Thank you to everyone who participated and gave!



Our April Blessing Box Items of the Month are Tuna and Peanut Butter and Jelly—basic proteins that can be so helpful. Thanks for being a blessing!



Ministry on Wheels is a ministry to our shut-in members. Join us this month, on April 7, at 1:00 pm, as we visit Peggy Sword, sing hymns, and share communion with one another.