

### Upcoming Youth Events

- **Youth Group**  
Beginning May 27th  
Sundays 6:30 - 7:30pm  
Middle & High School
- **Vacation Bible School**  
July 30th - August 2nd  
6:30 - 8:30pm



### The Meaningful Life

by Dave Nelson, Pastor of Discipleship

All of us want to live a *meaningful life*. Deep down, we want to make our mark, make a difference, leave a legacy, be important, or leave the world a better place than we found it. Such desire gives us more reason for doing things than we might imagine. One problem with this - few have seriously dealt with the question: "What is a meaningful life?"

Notions of living a meaningful life abound. For some, meaning is sought in money, fame, beauty, or power. Though the pursuit of these things fill one's days, direct one's energy, and provide measurable evidence of "success" or "failure," do they provide the ultimate *meaningful life* we desire? Consider Halle Berry's comments on physical beauty. When being interviewed for the opening of her 2004 film, *Catwoman*, this People Magazine 50 Most Beautiful People designee said,

*'Beauty? Let me tell you something, being thought of as "a beautiful woman" has spared me nothing in life, no heartache, no trouble. Love has been difficult. Beauty is essentially meaningless, and it is always transitory. I can't believe what people do to themselves [to make themselves look beautiful], the excess, and then they end up distorted. Worse, they still have that hole in their soul that led them to change themselves to begin with.'*

There we have it from the horse's mouth - not that she looks like a horse - but, she has made her career, lots of money, etc. on her good looks; yet, she rightly says, "Beauty is essentially meaningless ... I can't believe what people do to themselves ... and ... they still have that hole in their soul..." This is no guarantee Halle has found the true *meaningful life*; but she knows some of what *meaningful life* is not.



What about us? In what do we put our hope for *meaningful life*? I don't know about you, but I put my hope in all sorts of things - even things I know are wrong. For instance - why do my kids play soccer? There are lots of legitimate good reasons: they want to, they like it, it's good physical activity, they learn what it means to be on a team, they make new friends, etc.

But, if you're even a little like me, don't you ever envision your child becoming a star - God's gift to soccer... where he or she will kick the game winning goal in an Olympic championship game, a world cup, or the NCAA finals and be hoisted on his or her teammates shoulders and carried to the winner's circle? What about college scholarships, professional soccer, or fame & fortune like David Beckham or Mia Hamm?



While such success and accolades would be great - very few, if any of us will know such experience. If we put our hope in that for our *meaningful life* we will likely be either disappointed by our child's not becoming one of these select few OR if such success does come, we'll find it doesn't provide the ultimate *meaningful life* we thought it would - much like Halle Berry above.

As you consider for yourself this question - "What is a meaningful life?" - consider the plans and words of the One who made you. The writer of Ecclesiastes fully develops the theme - "Meaningless! Meaningless! ... Everything is meaningless!" Then he ends his short book with these commands,

*Remember your Creator in the days of your youth...<sup>6</sup> Remember Him-- before the silver cord is severed...<sup>7</sup> ... and the spirit returns to God who gave it.<sup>13</sup> ...here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. Ecclesiastes 12:1, 6-7, 13*

Which of God's commands is most important? One time a crowd asked Jesus, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the One He has sent." (John 6:28-29) If you do that, you'll find the ultimate *meaningful life*!!

## Explanation of God 😊

Danny Dutton (8-yrs. Old)  
Homework assignment to "Explain God"

"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers."

"God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off."

"God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have."

"Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K."

"His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important."

"You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time."

"If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids."

"But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And...that's why I believe in God."

Isaiah 40:8

The grass  
withers and  
the flowers  
fall, but the  
word of God  
stands forever.

## Soccer News

Our last games this year will be played on Thursday May 31<sup>st</sup> and Friday June 1<sup>st</sup> to accommodate our finale schedule on Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

	Date	Time	Visitor	Home	Field
Div I	Thurs., May 31 <sup>st</sup>	6:30pm	Peru	Sudan	Matthew (A)
Div I	Thurs., May 31 <sup>st</sup>	6:30pm	Chile	Brazil	Matthew (B)
Div I	Fri., June 1 <sup>st</sup>	6:30pm	Germany	Belize	Matthew (A)
Div II	Thurs., May 31 <sup>st</sup>	6:30pm	Bulgaria	Philippines	John (A)
Div II	Thurs., May 31 <sup>st</sup>	6:30pm	Japan	Ukraine	John (B)
Div II	Fri., June 1 <sup>st</sup>	6:30pm	New Zealand	Romania	John (A)
Div III	Thurs., May 31 <sup>st</sup>	6:30pm	Mexico	Taiwan	Paul
Div III	Fri., June 1 <sup>st</sup>	6:30pm	USA	India	Paul

### Finale Schedule

**Division I (4.5 - 6 yr olds)**  
Sat., June 2nd 9:30 - 11am

**Division II (7 - 8 yr olds)**  
Sat., June 2nd 1:30 - 3pm

**Division III (9 - 11 yr olds)**  
Sat., June 2nd 1:30 - 3pm



Photos provided by James Guffey



Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

#### Morning Service

- 8:30 Worship Service
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship Service

#### Evening Service

- 6:30 Worship Service

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at  
[www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org)  
Team Rosters  
Game Schedule  
Parent's Corner

