

I've been binge-watching episodes

of the crime-drama *Bones* recently. It's an interesting look at crime fighting through forensic anthropology. But what's more interesting is the character development and interaction throughout the series. The main character, Dr. Temperance Brennan, begins the series as a cold, super-rational but highly intelligent scientist who is propelled into an unusual partnership with a faith-oriented, emotional and personable FBI agent named Seeley Booth. Their growing relationship is a significant part of the series.

However, after years of working together, the rational Brennan slowly softens to a more emotional and personable woman. And though she is an atheist and sees all religion as myth, she realizes there is something important about the nature of Booth's Christian faith: forgiveness. In Season 8, Episode 22, here's a conversation they have:

Brennan: *The Jesus myth is all about forgiveness, isn't it?*

Booth: *It's not a myth.*

Brennan: *Absolution, the ability to transform ourselves. So you grew up suffering. In the myth, Jesus suffered and he forgave those—*

Booth: *Not a myth.*

Brennan: *Please, Booth. Water to wine, raising the dead, walking on water, these defy the basic laws of physics, but forgiveness, that's its value. That's why the myth has endured.*

And though I agree with Booth, it's not a myth, I also believe that as important as the miracles are to Jesus' work, his message of forgiveness is even more important. And that message is clear in all Jesus does and says.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "Those who love their

dream of a Christian community more than they love the Christian community itself become destroyers of that Christian community even though their personal intentions may be ever so honest, earnest and sacrificial." What he means by that is that we often have an image of community (our marriage, family, work and especially our church) that we have in our minds. We desire for it to look a particular way. However, that dream of how a community will look needs to be held just as that: a dream. He says that if we push and pull and force and demand to have the community we want (even if it's honestly and sacrificially done) we *destroy* that community. And we miss being a part of that community by our efforts.

But in order to have any community, from a partnership of two to a congregation of 5000, forgiveness is essential. But forgiveness often starts with realizing that we might be seeking (even demanding) something that the community was never meant to be.

Bonhoeffer continues:

"We must confess [God] builds. We must proclaim, he builds. We must pray to him, and he will build. We do not know his plan."

My prayer is that as a community we recognize our role, how we can fit into it and strive to make it a more loving, gracious and caring group, all while being willing to live within God's leading in it. The community is best when we chose to live in it well, not forcing it to be something it isn't. And as an essential piece to living in that community (NOT our dream of that community) is forgiveness.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Newsletter Issues

We apologize for the delay in distributing this newsletter, we had some details to work out with the Post Office. We will send another newsletter on December 12th before returning to our usual monthly rotation.

Christmas Caroling

We want to encourage everyone to participate in our community Christmas caroling on **December 9th at 6:00pm**. This will be a fun evening as we travel around town to spread some Christmas cheer. Refreshments to follow.

October Financials

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
Oct 7	\$1,198.95	\$55,144.55	\$63,910.40
Oct 14	\$1,183.00	\$56,327.55	\$65,508.16
Oct 21	\$995.00	\$57,322.55	\$67,105.92
Oct 28	\$1,910.00	\$59,232.55	\$68,703.68
Totals	\$4,088.00		



Prayer List

Tina Althiser (Judy B's friend) – cancer treatments (9-30)

Debbie Bailey – auto-immune disease (10-7)

Beckie Beaird (Laurie M's friend) – chemo treatments & salmonella poisoning (10-7)

Mary Belville's friend – cancer (9-23)

Evelyn Carlock – continued recovery (10-28)

Shelly Claxton (Pam K's friend) – cancer spreading (8-19)

Cory Chockley – leg issues (10-28)

Mike & Jody Dean – both recovering from surgery (10-28)

Gene Griffin – tests (10-28)

Todd Hamm - cancer treatments (7-30)

Doris Harper (Cindy M's mom) – hospice (7-22)

Miranda Hoppock – breast cancer surgery (10-28)

Frankie Jones – additional tests (10-28)

Leonard Kaufman - cancer (10-16)

Garry Myers (Dusti H's coworker's dad) – late stage cancer (9-23)

Jed Rhoades – surgery went well, recovery (10-28)

Kim Rodgers – stroke (9-23)

Brandi Rudd – cancer treatments (7-29)

Roberta Oest – collapsed lung (10-7)

Marissa – cancer (Letha Stambaugh's friend) (11-5)

The lady who Pam K takes care of has severe back pain issues (7-29)

Hailey (14 y/o friend of Carlocks) – cancer (8-26)

Pam Klinebough's uncle – lung biopsy (10-14)

Condolences

Family of JoAnn Miller

Family of Sheila Belville

Family of Sharon Gabbert

Praises

Amanda Rennert – tests came back clean

