

Pastor Brian's  
Mid Week Message  
October 16, 2019

**“MONKEYING AROUND?”**

Most of you don't know this (you have yet to visit our place) but our home backs up to a nature preserve. This allows for countless evenings sitting out on the lanai watching and listening to the sounds of the jungle. We have seen and heard all kinds of varmints, and some of the squeaks and squeals have me convinced that there are monkeys back there. I have no visual evidence as yet, and the Florida Department of Fish and Wildlife will only admit to there being a troupe of monkeys up in the Ocala area, but I am convinced that there are a few out there...laughing at me. Why just last evening I did finally get a look at one swinging on a vine hanging down into our yard.



I'm not sure just what kind of monkey that is (appears to be made of plastic and even speaks) but this is evidence of enough for me of their existence.

Now I know what you're thinking...where in the world is he going with this? I guess I have to wonder myself. Well, you have probably heard the phrase "monkeying around", but probably not for a long time. Does anyone use this anymore? Probably not...not considered politically correct! Even so, this phrase was used to imply that someone was just goofing off, not doing anything productive; like monkeys seem to do. The question that comes to mind is does that describe our church? Are we just "monkeying around" when it comes to our mission of making disciples of Jesus? Stick with me here because maybe that's not such a bad thing! You see, monkey generally do what God created monkeys to do. They grow, maintain their health, and make more monkeys. They do all this in what seems to be a very playful manner. There is nothing wrong with that. I think this mirrors the mission of the Church; OUR mission, of enabling Christians to grow in grace and faith, remain spiritually healthy in good times and in the not so good, and to make new Christians (disciples) through our proclamation of the Gospel. That is going to be our goal in coming months and years..."monkeying around" so to speak. As God works in and through us to accomplish HIS mission.