

St Paul's Evangelical Church

The Messenger

Edition 5, Volume 4
May, 2020

From Pastor Steve's Desk

Since I can't say it better, I want to share from Pastor Joe Stowell

"Through the years I have discovered how easy it is to tire of myself. I tire of the insecurities that hound me, of the sins that defeat me, and of the words I wish I could take back. I tire of the foolish decisions I have made, of being tempted to think too well of myself, and of my tendency to fail repeatedly.

Yet I never tire of Jesus. I find Jesus more compelling, more adventuresome, and more troubling (in the best sense of the word) than anyone I have ever known. Each day I serve Him He proves to be more worthy of my adoration than before.

And I love to tell others about Him. I love to help people wake up to the fact that when life is "all about me," it backfires. But when it is all about Jesus, even our greatest accomplishments become like dung, compared to the surpassing value of knowing and experiencing Him (Phil. 3:1-11).

I love to lead people to the true Jesus—to the Jesus who is more than a meek and mild hero of history. I want them to know the Jesus who was a tough and determined revolutionary, who came to overthrow the regime of hell and set the captives free. I want them to see Jesus as He really is, intriguingly radical and truly authentic—to recognize that He had nothing but warning for religious hypocrites and scorn for Bible bureaucrats. This Jesus loved sinners. He came to heal the sick, to help the hurting, and to restore the lost. He made losers winners. Tough men dropped everything to follow Him, and women felt safe with Him. By observing His life and listening to His teaching, we too can learn how to really live, right side up in an upside-down world, and how to really die. By knowing Jesus, we can die to ourselves and live to God.

I love to invite others to care for the kind of people Jesus cared for—the marginalized, the weak, the despised, and outcasts of this world. I love helping people get their heads on straight and their hearts back in line. I love being a part of the process of allowing Jesus to dominate our thoughts and our ways, so that our broken lives can announce the reality of His kingdom and the radiance of His glory.

I love to ignite the spark of hope in the unbeliever's heart by telling them that Jesus loves them and died so they might be forgiven. I tell them that Jesus will liberate them from their sins and that Jesus alone is someone they can follow without disappointment."

Church Events

May 17 – No Family Night

May 18 – Board Meeting
@6:30 p.m

May 24 - Communion

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Notes from Mary Kay
—continued from last month

Moving on in my Newsletter Stories about raising teens...When I was a teen, I had some very strong opinions about dating. My mother told me I had the strangest ideas about it that she had ever heard. These opinions became stronger the older I grew...and they worked well for me, so it is what I passed on to my children. Our oldest, Seth, told me at one point: "Mom, I can't disagree...but you sure make my life harder with those ideas!" These are my thoughts: As a teen myself, I had heard many say: "you must never date anyone who is not a Christian." Not such bad advice...except how do you know if someone believes the same way as you do? Asking the question: "Are you a Christian?" just really doesn't help you understand what another actually believes and practices. So...for myself, I was very prayerful about responding to a request for a "date". I mostly took it as an opportunity to try to develop a friendship with the person. I always made a point to, during the actual time together, explain how focused I was on 1. loving Jesus Christ with all my heart, soul, and strength and 2. developing friendships that helped me and others learn how to be a great friend. For those I went out with who had an interest primarily in how I looked on the outside...and how that looked on their arm...the first usually settled any further interest they may have had in "getting to know me". My opinions about the "American dating scene" when I was single did not change much as I moved to being the mother of teenage young men and young women. Our kids' friends generally were given some sort of "age" at which they would be allowed to "date". For good or bad, I didn't think that was helpful...as every child is very different, ready for things at different stages and ages. So, we didn't give our children an age at which they would be allowed to "date." Some of our kids appreciated this...and some, not so much. What I told them was: I can't really speak too much about the American dating scene, except it seems to have no real goals or solid values to help you develop good and healthy relationships. So I redefined my own way what I believed "dating" was about. Dating is primarily about learning how to be the very best friend you can be to another of the opposite sex (and, ohhh my goodness, if our kids use this with our grandchildren...they are in trouble right there!). As you grow and develop, your skill at becoming a great

friend to another needs to grow and develop as well. What "dating" is NOT really about is finding a life mate...at least not until one is at the stage of life to live on one's own and support yourself as well as another. With this information in hand, I thought I was helping our kids make good, healthy decisions for the short-term and the long-term. Two of our children met their future mates when they were young teenagers. Their friendships "grew up" with them. They delight us today as 4 who grew up in our home (in many ways). Three of our children built relationships with a number of different people along the way, but met who they married somewhere along the road in college. When you have 5 children over a period of 12 years, and your own life and circumstances change as they all seem to do, you find yourself raising children differently...this was true in our case. Sometimes our older children have communicated that they think I was softer on their younger siblings. I have given that a lot of thought. Our overall "job" of parenting didn't change, but who the younger ones were, as well as our life circumstances, did change...and this affected our parenting. Our youngest has always been "a take in the world around her...and RULE it" sort of person. She was in a tremendous hurry to be born, but then was perfectly quiet, eyes wide, taking it all in. We sent her to kindergarten when she was barely five...because we wanted the teacher to have some advantage in directing this tiny, but powerful, personality...who would, if she could, run the classroom! As a very young teen, she hadn't changed a whole lot from this. Having been given the same direction about Mom's Dating Ideas...she became enamored of her "soul-mate" whom she saw across the high school parking lot at age 14. He returned the admiration...and Ris was determined they be allowed to go on a "date." My other children were appalled...and at this point also, all out of our home. I told Ris that she could "date" her friend if they could figure out something they could do together at 14...neither could drive...and they had very little money. They ended up spending most of any "dating" time at our house with Steve and I interacting with them...and occasionally they could walk several blocks to an ice cream store to get a cone together. They did not become good friends...they were, in fact awful to one another. But our daughter learned some important lessons, she did not devastate her life long-term with childish impulses, and she learned to care about and be careful of relationships with people...men and women.

From Our Missionaries—Dettmans

Hello family and friends,

We pray you're staying safe and pushing through during these uncertain times. In Matthew 6, Jesus addresses peoples' concerns about meeting their physical needs. He talks about how birds don't plant, harvest, or store up food, yet God provides all the food they need. He explains how flowers don't sew clothes or work to buy clothes, and yet God dresses them more beautifully than kings. He concludes by saying: "So don't worry about these things, saying 'what will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?'... your Heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need" (Matthew 6:25-33).

Oftentimes, our plans for building God's church involve a lot of "doing": planning, organizing, advertising, talking, training, going, etc. However, from Pentecost to the Great Awakenings, church revivals have not started with programs or outreaches, but with prayer. A teammate sent this to us a few days ago, and I wanted to pass it on to you all: "Our plans may have changed for the moment, but that may be one of the best things to happen to us, to bring us in step with God's plan, which has not changed. Wouldn't it be like God to bring the greatest renewal the church of this generation has ever seen through the greatest trial we have ever faced? May God use this crisis to bring us to the end of ourselves. And there, in the place of confessed weakness, meet us with revitalizing power."

Please let us know how you're doing and how we can be praying for you!

together for His glory, the Dettmans

From Healing House

Greetings! We pray grace and peace for you from our Lord. As we're spending much of our time at our homes like everyone, we still want to share with you how the Lord continues to bless The Healing House and New Beginnings and are sending you our most recent Journeys Newsletter.

As a current status, some of our residents are blessed to still be working at what are deemed essential businesses such as health care and restaurants. Others are currently laid off. We are holding our classes in our homes and are connecting online to watch our church live-stream worship services. God is faithful!

Thank you for your interest and support in helping restore lives. We are praying and trusting God.

Senior High Youth Group

The only new news to report for the Youth Group is some unfortunate news. The mission trip for this June has been cancelled. However, Group Work camps is planning to push all of this summer's trips to next summer so the plan is take this mission trip in the summer of 2021! I appreciate the support from this church and the entire community to help raise funds and make this trip happen and we plan to put those funds to use next year.

Please continue to pray for our youth during this time and as we head into the summer months.

Submitted by Seth Rohrbach

Alex Imhoff Memorial Blood Drive

The Alex Imhoff Memorial Blood Drive will be held on Thursday, June 25th from 3-7 p.m. at the Jamestown Community Building. The blood drive is sponsored by our church youth. The drive was renamed several years ago in memory of Alex Imhoff. Alex was active in the church youth group and played a large role in the annual blood drives. He passed away in 2013 and is greatly missed.

The Red Cross is behind on collecting units this year due to the Covid-19 virus. Donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment to reduce their wait time. Appointments can be made closer to the date online at www.redcrossblood.org/

Restrictions will be in place which including social distancing, mask wearing and no visitors. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided. Please read and follow directions on signs when you arrive at the Community Building. The Red Cross will be taking extra precautions with cleaning and sanitizing.

The Red Cross will continue to provide an assortment of snacks and drinks for the donors. We are not allowed to provide extra refreshments this year.

I will reach out to the youth as it gets closer to the blood drive. We will have a better idea of what help will be needed as it gets closer to the drive. The Red Cross is very self-sufficient and can run the blood drive themselves if need be. More information to come.

Respectfully Submitted by Heidi Eschenbrenner

A simple picture of the different aspects of the Christian Life—The Wheel



Each part of The Wheel Illustration represents a crucially important component of a vibrant Christian life—from the rim representing obedience to Christ, to the hub of Christ-centeredness, to each of the four spokes of witnessing, prayer, fellowship and the Word.

If you need a simple, effective way to visually explain the structure of a God-glorifying life to someone you're discipling, sharing The Wheel diagram can be as simple as drawing it out on a napkin or notepad. Challenge them to think deeply about how to be an obedient follower of Christ.

The Hub: Christ the Center

Total surrender to Christ's authority and lordship is not always a decision made right at conversion, but is a necessary act of will. For the believer, the "old life" has gone and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17), and Christ dwells through us instead (Galatians 2:20). God creates within us the desire to do what He wants us to do in order to express His lordship in our lives.

The Rim: Obedience to Christ

Some acts of obedience to God are internal, such as attitudes, habits, motives, values and day-to-day thoughts. But even these eventually surface outwardly in our relationships with other people. Keeping His commandments in obedience is our outward indication of inward health and love for Christ—our worship (John 14:21, Romans 12:1).

The Vertical Dimension: How You Relate to God

The Word Spoke

The Word of God is His direct voice showing us not only who He is, but how to live and interact with everyone around us (2 Timothy 3:16). This means an earnest personal intake of God's Word is essential for health and growth (Joshua 1:8). As God speaks to us through the Scriptures, we can see His principles for life and ministry, learn how to obey Him and become acquainted with the Christ who is worthy of our steadfast allegiance.

The Prayer Spoke

Prayer is the natural response to God as we hear Him speak through His Word. It is sharing our heart with the One who longs for our companionship and who cares about our concerns. Prayer not only trains our hearts and minds to know the power and glory of God, but also turns His ear towards action in our lives and of those who we pray for (John 15:7, Philippians 4:6-7).

The Horizontal Dimension: How You Relate to Others

The Fellowship Spoke

God has directed Christians to build each other up through inter-dependence and loving relationships with each other (Hebrews 10:24-25). Gathering together as the Body of Christ draws God close around us as we praise Him and encourage one another (Matthew 18:20).

The Witnessing Spoke

God has given believers the joy and responsibility of telling the world about the Good News of Christ's work on earth (Matthew 4:19). In fact, sharing this spectacular news with others should be the natural overflow of a rich, vibrant life in Christ (Romans 1:16).

St. Paul's Evangelical Church Board Meeting

April 20, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Don Gerlach and opened with prayer led by Pastor Steve. Those in attendance were Don Gerlach, Mark Rohrbach, Debi Baumert, Pastor Steve, Mark Oerly, Sandee Eschenbrenner and, via iphone, Lisa Porter.

The Secretary's Report was presented, discussed and approved. Motion was made by Debi Baumert and 2nd by Lisa Porter.

The Treasurer's Report was presented. A discussion followed regarding 4 C.D.'s up for renewal. The Board decided to renew all 4 for 18 months at an interest rate of .85%. The motion for approval of the Treasurer's Report and the C.D. renewal was made by Debi Baumert and 2nd by Lisa Porter.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Seth Rohrbach spoke with Don Gerlach prior to the meeting regarding the Mission Trip scheduled for June. Seth just received word that said trip has been cancelled. A refund is expected in May and said funds will be returned to the Mission Fund Account.
2. Don gave a report on the upstairs renovation. Walt Imhoff is presently painting the sanctuary. Steve Duncan will begin the altar area work on Wednesday, April 22nd. Dutcher's will lay carpeting when the altar work is completed. The original sconce lights will be installed whenever the aforementioned work is completed.
3. Vacation Bible School materials have arrived. The dates for VBS have been changed to July 13th through the 16th. No definite decision regarding cancellation has been made to date.
4. Mark Rohrbach presented the April bills. The motion to approve payment was made by Debi Baumert and 2nd by Lisa Porter.
5. The Baccalaureate Service and Reception scheduled for Wednesday, May 13th is pending.
6. Regarding the quarantine situation, regular Sunday Worship Services will continue to be available on line until future notice. In the event we continue having services on line, the Board and Pastor Steve suggest you might like to consider remote communion in your home. The tentative date for our next communion is Sunday, May 24th. To participate, simply have some bread and juice/wine available during the worship service.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Prior to the meeting, Heidi Eschenbrenner spoke with Don regarding using the church to assemble the Care Packs for May delivery. The Board was agreeable to her request. Through a written notification, Heidi also advised of a current coordinated effort (among the churches and the school) to continue Care Packs through the summer months. Nothing definite has been decided and she will inform the Board when a finalized request is known.
2. The Board discussed and came to the conclusion that all cleaning of the church will remain on the usual schedule.
3. The Board also discussed congregational offerings. Should you desire to stay current with your giving, you may send your check to Debi Baumert. Her address is 21981 Carolina School Road in Jamestown, MO 65041.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Steve reported that he is attempting to stay in touch via the telephone. He also advised that he would be receptive to any suggestions regarding additional methods of reaching out to people. Also, the Watson Family Reunion previously announced has been indefinitely postponed.

Don announced that the next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18th.

Following reciting the Lord's Prayer, the meeting was adjourned. Motion made by Debi Baumert and 2nd by Lisa Porter.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandee Eschenbrenner

May 2020

| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|-----|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Vacation Bible School – VBS is still on the calendar for July 13-16. The COVID-19 situation may alter these plans (cancellation, modifications, etc.) so watch for updates on Facebook, website, and/or e-mail. | | | | | 1 Elaine Ernst | 2 Randy Glenn |
| 3 | 4 Jayden Klund Audrina Schoenthal Tristan Schoenthal | 5 | 6 | 7 Tyler Dowell | 8 | 9 Isabelle Rohrbach |
| 10 | 11 | 12 Stephen Oerly | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Paige Fain |
| 17 No Family Night Nicholas Schoenthal | 18 Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. | 19 Sandra Eschenbrenner Walt Imhoff Gatlin Marshall | 20 | 21 | 22 Wilma Knierim | 23 Denny Dietzel |
| 24 Communion | 25 Lexi Baumert Smith Evan Croy | 26 Owen Gentsch Rachel Brickey Lisa Porter | 27 | 28 Julie King | 29 | 30 Jarrett Gorman |
| 31 | Those needing our prayers: Those recovering from surgery: Larry Borts, Kirby Baumert, Geraldine Taggart, Jackie Cowgill, Chris Schoenthal, Those in high risk conditions in addition to those recovering from surgery—Grayden Gatlin Tyler Therrien, David Knierim, and those working in health care. Those that have lost loved ones—Holly McDannold, Brock and Aiden Heiland | | | | | |