



# Moniteau Evangelical Advent Church

Worship service—9:00 am  
Sunday School—10:15 am

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2021

## From The Pastor's Desk

Bill Wilson was an alcoholic. Alcoholism had ruined his life—he had lost his job, his family, his reputation and his future if he continued. He knew that he had to do something. He felt he just needed to ‘control it better to show more self control.’ But he found that he couldn’t. He succeeded for a time and then relapsed—he would take one step forward and two steps backward and his life continued to spin out of control. He had been admitted to a rehab 4 times. While he gained new insight into alcoholism, it wasn’t until he met Bob Smith (another alcoholic) and they began to build a friendship and help each other to stay sober. Bill Wilson learned two things—each of us needs the help of others to make the changes we desire and to maintain those changes; and, it is in helping others to be better that we are helped to be better. There is an interdependence and a mutual care that is needed.

The same is learned in other areas of life. Recently I heard there is a group of individuals meeting for exercise twice a week at the Assembly church in Jamestown. Each of them has a desire to be better/healthier physically. Each has probably tried on their own to exercise and keep it up, to make it a way of life. And, probably each has at some point failed to persevere. But, meeting together, supporting one another, encouraging one another, celebrating each lost pound (success!) together, sharing times of stumbling together, helps them to succeed and to persevere and to reach the goal of being healthy together. People who drop out will, most likely, come to a point when they need encouragement but there will be no one there to cheer them on.

The same is true spiritually. As Christians, we want to do spiritually better, for ourselves and for our family and friends—but we find that no matter how much we desire to be better, we stumble along the way, we lose heart, we stop reading, praying,

growing—not because we don’t want to and not because we don’t realize how valuable it is but because God never intended us to ‘succeed’ by ourselves. There is an interdependence and mutual care that is necessary. It is only as we allow others to care about our spiritual well-being and for us to take the responsibility to care for the spiritual well-being of our brothers and sisters that together we reach our goal of spiritual health and moving in the right direction.

In March, we will be having a ‘Membership Sunday.’ Church membership is about different things to different people—but to me, it means, I want to publicly express my desire to belong, to care for others in the church and to give them permission to care for my soul. I can’t make it through life in a way that honors the Lord Jesus without you and without caring for you and you caring for me. Church membership is a public declaration of that truth. If you are interested in membership, please contact Pastor Steve.

### How to contact us:

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Pastor Steve Watson

Phone: 319-640-7009

Email: [ecmc.steve@gmail.com](mailto:ecmc.steve@gmail.com)

Website: [www.Moniteauchurch.org](http://www.Moniteauchurch.org)

Facebook page:

Evangelical Churches of Moniteau County

Pastor Steve’s office hours:

Monday morning at St. Paul’s

Tuesday afternoon at St. Paul’s

Please call to share a need, set up an appointment or request a visit.

## Who & What We've Been Praying For

Cyndi Puyear (surgery)  
Moore & Ernst Families  
Heather Sullard  
Norma Wood (2 compression fractures in back)  
Gary Schoenthal (back surgery)  
Paul & Shirley Baer  
Chris Schoenthal  
David Wittenberger  
Our country and our leaders

### Sermon Series

“Taking Inventory, Focusing Our Lives”  
We want to look at Colossians 1 as we begin the new year—

### *Memory Verses for February*

Be working on this important verse:

*By this shall all men know you are My disciples if  
you have love for one another.  
John 13:35*

Be working on this verse as a family. Blessings.

### Youth Groups

We have begun for the spring. We invite and need your prayers for the teens, the leaders, the health in the community (when school is canceled, youth group is canceled). The Senior High is working on answering questions that the teens asked, “How to get the most out of your Bible reading”, “How to make a difference for Jesus”, “How do we put science and the Bible together” They are having guest speakers help, Karen and Nat Smith on Bible reading, Ben Smith on creation and the Bible. It is exciting that we have so much talent and knowledge in the church and people willing to share.

The Middle School is looking at ‘Great Stories of the Bible—How God worked in and through lives.’ We have a number of people that are sharing their ‘present day’ stories—showing that God didn’t only work in lives in the past, but He is working in lives today. If you would like to share or help, please contact Pastor Steve.

We do need people who will consistently pray—the work of God begins on our knees.

## 2021 MONITEAU CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS

President – Andrew Rohrbach  
Vice-President – Kevin Coffelt  
Secretary – Kathy Gerlach  
Treasurer – Dale Taggart  
Communion Steward – Mark Baepler

Contact Information to reach them:

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Mark: 573-864-0517  
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The church would also like to express their appreciation to Beth Fennwald for her term on the church board and her service there the last 3 years.

### **SUGAR & SPICE and SIT & SPIT UPDATES**

Sit & Spit and Sugar & Spice met together Sunday, January 10, with 8 boys, 7 girls, & 9 adults present. Sarah Traub showed a video and discussed table manners with the group. Paul demonstrated life skills such as jump-starting a battery, checking tire pressure, changing a tire, & fluid levels. The group enjoyed tacos and discussed future activities they would be interested in doing. If you have a talent or an activity you would like to share with them, please contact Sarah or Paul.



## From Mary Kay

Our daughter gave Mary Kay a gift subscription to "Storyworth." Storyworth poses a question and then allows Mary Kay to answer it to share with her children and grandchildren (allows her to tell her story, what God has done in her life). One of the questions ask was, "What has made your faith stronger?"

*I think I would have to say that what has made my faith (and I often use the phrase "confidence in God") stronger are also the pivotal memories in life that I have. My first personal awareness and initial "falling in love with Jesus" at age 7 is certainly my memory of my faith. I remember going to Bible Camp several times as a child, but my strongest memory was going to Stoneybrook Bible Camp outside of Topeka, Kansas the summer I turned 15...the camp was in August I'm pretty sure, so I had just turned 15. During this camp I made some resolutions with the Lord to seriously follow Him with my whole heart. It was not long after I returned home from camp that summer that I chose to be baptized. As if I hadn't been awkward enough before this time and a total misfit among my peers, after this I was really focused! My faith was growing and changing as I was. I look back on my life from here on with mostly a genuine thankfulness that God gave me the experiences in life that He did to bring me through always in preparation for where He knew He had me headed.*

*There were two other incidents that come to mind as formative in my faith and walk with the Lord Jesus The first incident I want to share. While in Haxtun, CO I received "the worst spiritual advice ever"...which was "while you are in the 'having and raising babies stage' of your life, I don't know why you would even try to keep up on Bible reading, personal devotion and prayer." My inward response (which of course was God's Spirit speaking to mine) was "your husband and children cannot afford for you to check-out spiritually in these years!" I prayed and asked advice from anyone and everyone on ideas to actually "do" this through these years...I tried many different things...but the long and short of it was that God wanted His relationship with me enough that He always helped me find a way, even at my very worst, He found ways to speak to me, to teach me, to help me keep growing and knowing Him. Secondly, when we moved to Fremont, God launched me into a course of faith-growing unlike any I had known before in that He began to teach me to trust Him for things so far out of my control that I asked for things He put on my heart that I had absolutely no way to accomplish or even see a way that they could happen under my efforts. This is where I remain today. Faith and growing to know and trust Jesus and through Him, His Father, doesn't have an ending-THAT He has promised!*

## Simple ways to share the Gospel

**The gospel is simply the good news about the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (1Cor. 15:3-4)**

Last month we shared about the Wordless Book with each color representing a spiritual truth. This month, we want to share about your **Personal Testimony**.

**Our stories are not the gospel;** the gospel is the good news about Jesus Christ. **Our stories can incorporate this good news though!** Every believer should be ready in season and out of season to share what God has done in his/her life. If you're like me, something as simple as a personal testimony can seem overwhelming. **Never fear because this is actually super simple if you know the three simple elements Paul included** when sharing his testimony in [Acts 26:1-23](#).

**Here are the three elements to a basic testimony:**

- 1. Give a brief description of what your life was like before you received Christ.** (see verses 4-11) Perhaps you grew up in a 'Christian home' and so don't remember a time you didn't believe in Christ—but there was a time when it suddenly 'clicked' and set you in a new direction. Use that time as your before.
- 2. Describe how God spoke to your heart and opened your eyes to spiritual truth. Include the basic facts of the gospel and your response of faith.** (verses 12-18)
- 3. Finally, share how your life has changed since receiving the forgiveness available in Christ.** (verses 19-23)

Mary Kay's 'story' above is a good example of taking what God has done in your life and sharing it to point people to faith in God through the Lord Jesus.

## **Moniteau Evangelical Advent Church - December 2020 Board Report**

The Moniteau Evangelical Advent Church board met on December 28th, 2020. Present were: Pastor Steve Watson, Kevin Coffelt, Beth Fennewald, Dale Taggart, Andrew Rohrbach, Mark Baepler, and Kathy Gerlach. Mark gave the opening prayer.

### **Secretary's Report:**

The December 2020 meeting minutes were taken by Mark and submitted for review. Dale made a motion to approve the minutes and Kevin seconded the motion, the motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The November treasurers report was submitted by Dale. An error was found on the report and will be resubmitted after correction. Updated report was emailed to the board on 12-29-20. November's income was \$6,331.85, expenditures were \$9,176.10, total assets were \$87,480.50. Mark made a motion to approve the report and Beth seconded. Motion passed.

### **Old Business:**

-Discuss church building projects and options

-Review and approve the 2021 calendar of events for Moniteau and the Evangelical Council

### **New Business:**

-Discuss input from the annual meeting

\*The board will ask the building committee to evaluate the bush's in front of the church and submit 3 options to the board for consideration.

\*Mark to lead special building meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup> following the service.

-Camera for the online service

\*Pastor Steve purchased and donated a camera

-Contact home school group about using the church

\*Mark will contact

-Clean/organize the balcony

\*Storage options for the items in the balcony were discussed.

-Reorganize the board for 2021

President, Andrew Rohrbach

Vice President, Kevin Coffelt

Secretary, Kathy Gerlach

Treasurer, Dale Taggart

Communion Steward, Mark Baepler

### **Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Beth and seconded by Dale. The meeting was concluded with all joining in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mark Baepler, Secretary



**We're having a . . . .**



Our next Family Fellowship will be a fish fry on Sunday, February 28, following Sunday School. Put the date on your calendar to join us for some good fish! The fish and drinks will be provided. Just bring a side dish and/or dessert and your appetite!

## Sharing your story

It is encouraging to hear how God has worked in your life. If you would like to write a short article about how God has provided or protected, or led, or strengthened, please take the time and write it down. Send that part of your story to pastor Steve at [ecmc.Steve@gmail.com](mailto:ecmc.Steve@gmail.com) to be included in the coming newsletters. The Gospel of Mark tells the story of a man that was delivered from demons. *“As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. <sup>19</sup> And he did not permit him but said to him, “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” <sup>20</sup> And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.”* (Mark 5)

When we tell others what He has done for us, it glories Him, it encourages others (“What He’s done for others, He’ll do for you” principle) and He uses it in their lives. If you don’t know how to start that conversation try this: “I am just so excited, I have to tell somebody. You will never believe what the Lord did for me . . . “

## Good Books

You might encounter a good book, buy it, read it and then it sits on your shelf. It is too good to throw away and it collects dust. If you have a good book that has especially helped you in your walk with the Lord Jesus and would like to make it available for your brothers and/or sisters in the church, please bring it into the pastor’s office with a brief note including your name, how it helped you in your spiritual life and whether you desire the book to be returned to you. When you find a book that helps you, be assured that it will also help others.

A great book that is helping me spiritually is, “When the Soul Listens” by Jan Johnson. You can get it on Amazon Kindle. Another book that I would recommend is Ann Voskamp’s “1000 Gifts” also available on Kindle.

## Update on the Jesus Storybook Bible

We have given out nearly 60 of these in the last few months. I have asked for ‘testimonials’ from those that have received them. This is the one that I received from Nancy Haldiman.

*“The kids loved reading the Storybook Bible each night. They loved the stories and beautiful illustrations and I loved how each story ties back to Jesus. It was a great read that we will enjoy several times over!”*

Another story from Karen Smith on the Jesus Storybook Bible.

*When I am tutoring, one of the activities I ask of my students is to read a portion of a good book and summarize. I am doing this with a young lady from Korea (in 6th grade). Her English vocabulary is fairly small, so I gave her a copy of The Jesus Storybook Bible. I was thrilled when her Dad told me that she reads and writes a summary from it daily, without having to be asked.*



THE Joy OF THE Lord IS MY Strength