



Rev. Rob Purdy
Pastor

Church Newsletter

Joanne Wells
Editor



A friend recently posed the following question on Facebook: What is the purpose of the church? The conversation that ensued was very interesting and challenged my thoughts on the subject.

Acts 2:40-42

⁴⁰And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." ⁴¹Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were

added to them. ⁴²And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

I believe the above scripture to be an excellent outline of the purpose of the church. In fact, I see this passage as an excellent way for us to examine ourselves, both as a church and as individuals.

"Continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine" speaks directly to the discipleship of the church.

Are we making disciples? Are we teaching well from the pulpit, in Sunday School and in our small groups? I believe for the most part we are doing well in this area. Certainly, there is always room for improvement but this is not our weakest area of ministry.

"Fellowship" is mentioned next in verse 42. We excel at Fellowship. In fact, I think sometimes our skill at Fellowship interferes with the other purposes of the church! Our next special time of Fellowship is the annual Valentine's Day banquet. This event is always very well put together with awesome food catered by El Toro's and home grown entertainment! Sign-up is available on the bulletin board in the hallway of the main building.

"In the breaking of bread" appears next. I don't interpret this to mean just eating (we're good at that, too!) but rather, the Lord's Supper. This brings to mind the celebration of the two ordinances of the church (and aligns with the rest of the scripture in this passage.) I'm challenged about the authenticity surrounding our Lord Supper services. I'm praying about ways for us to better prepare and participate in both the Lord's Supper and Baptisms.

"And in prayers." Fellowship is our strongest point, continuing in the apostle's doctrine is our next strongest point and then the breaking of bread. That means that prayer is our weakest point. Does that sentence hurt your heart like it hurts mine? Prayer is our weakest point. We are one of the few remaining churches with a Wednesday night prayer meeting. Prayer should be our strongest point! When I study the history of the church, when I read of all the folks who gave their lives for the gospel, when I learn of all the sacrifices being made to just be able to meet as a church and then look at our prayer life, I wonder what God thinks. I wonder what our community thinks. Prayer should be our strongest point. I'll be at the prayer meeting Wednesday night at 6:30. Please come.

The Acts passage ends this way: *⁴³Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

God bless,
Pastor Rob

February Calendar

Sunday, February 5

- Lord's Supper Services

Monday, February 6

- Quarterly Report Deadline

Sunday, February 12

- Youth~Deliver Valentine Grams

Wednesday, February 15

- Annual Valentine Banquet

Thursday, February 16

- Ladies Lunch Bunch

Saturday, February 18

- Youth Pizza/Movie Night

Monday, February 20

- Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, February 22

- Quarterly Business Meeting

Sunday, February 26

- Youth to teach Children's Church
- New Women's Ministry Study Begins

Weekly Schedule

Sunday

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| 8:15 am..... | Adult Bible Study | 1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)-Portable Bldg |
| 9:15 am..... | Berean Adult Fellowship (studying Philippians) | 1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)-Portable Bldg |
| 9:15 — 9:30 am | 1st Adult Coffee Fellowship | 1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146) |
| 9:15 — 10:30 am | Youth Bible Study | 1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)-Portable Bldg |
| 9:15 — 10:30 am | 1st Nursery | 1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146) |
| 9:15 — 10:30 am | Children's Church | 1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146) |
| 9:30 — 10:30 am | Young Adult Bible Study | 1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)-Portable Bldg |
| 9:30 — 10:30 am | 1st Worship Service | 1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146) |
| 10:45 — 11:00 am | 2nd Adult Coffee Fellowship | 1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146) |
| 10:45 am — 12:00 pm | 2nd Nursery | 1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146) |
| 10:45 am — 12:00 pm | Children's Church/Pre-K Church | 1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146) |
| 11:00 am — 12:00 pm | 2nd Worship Service | 1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146) |
| 1:15 — 2:00 pm | Retirement Ministry Worship Service | Regal Estates, 500 Enterprise, League City |
| 5:00 pm | Women's Ministry Bible Study "Finding I Am" | (beginning 2/26) 1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146) |

Monday

| | | |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 6:30 pm..... | Men's Ministry Bible Study & Dinner Fellowship | 1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146) |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------|

Wednesday

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 6:30 — 7:30 pm | Youth Discipleship | 1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146)-Portable Bldg |
| 6:30 — 7:30 pm | Praise, Prayer and Bible Study | 1506 Bayport Blvd., (Hwy 146) |



Regular Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday
9:30 AM—1:30 PM

The Church office is open Tuesday through Friday, from 9:30 am - 1:30 pm. The main office phone number is 281-474-3281. If you call while the office is closed or after hours please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.

February 2017 Tellers

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Feb. 05..... | John & Cheryl Harrison, & Norma Keeler |
| Feb. 12..... | Mary Johnson, Jackie Lally, Kathy Slater & Pat Smartt |
| Feb. 19..... | Don Cartwright, Gene & Heather Engel |
| Feb. 26..... | Karen Broyles, Michelle Hazlett & Linda Long |

Tithes & Offering

A look at the church finances...General Funds

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| November 2016..... | \$21,855.24 |
| December 2016..... | \$23,748.60 |

Thank you for your faithful giving!

We would love to pray for you!

Activate our 24-Hour Prayer Chain



*Please Click Here
To send a Prayer Request*

February Birthdays

Jan Clark
Mary Huls
Keith Abernathy
Olivia Harrison
Robin Boudreaux-Bell
Chloe Penton
Karen Broyles
Elizabeth Clark
Gerda Purdy
Gloria Henry



Raymond Coker
Kimberly Rowland
Renelle Singleton
Emma Dumas
Marina Mewborn
Stephen Wall
Jaelynn Forrest
Gene Modlin
Aaron Augustine

Quarterly Report Deadline

Monday, February 6, 2017

Reporting on November, December & January

(The Quarterly Business meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22)

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Three Adult Sunday School Classes Available

For you early birds... The **Adult Bible Study Class** is led by Bob Wilk and meets every Sunday at **8:15—9:15 am** in the #2 portable building directly behind the main church building.

The **Berean Adult Fellowship** meets every Sunday at **9:15 am** in the #2 portable building directly behind the main church building. This group is starting a new Max Lucado study on the book of Philipians.

The **Young Adult Sunday School Class** meets every Sunday at **9:30 am** in the #2 portable building directly behind the main church building. (18—30 yrs. olds)

Sunday, February 5, 2017



OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

9:30 & 11:00 AM Service

UNFOLDED

BY ERIC GEIGER

Men's Monday Night Ministry

Bible Study & Dinner Fellowship

Every Monday

Snacks/Fellowship at 6:30 PM

Bible Study begins at 7:00 pm, followed by dinner

Hey Guys!!!

I'm excited to announce a new study for Men's Monday Night! Beginning February 6th we'll be doing LifeWay's new 8-week study for men, "Unfolded". Together we will explore the story of God. This is a perfect opportunity to check out Men's Monday Night!



Young Adult Small Group

Meets Every Thursday at 6:45 PM

At the Woodworth's home,
2515 Clover Ridge, League City

This small group is for high school graduates through 20-something year olds. We are focusing on life lessons, Biblical teachings, mission work and having a whole lot of fun and fellowship. For more information please call 281-316-0917.



R.E.F.U.G.E. Student Ministry

(6th through 12th grade)

R.E.F.U.G.E. Student Ministry Sunday School meets every Sunday, 9:15—10:30 am in the #1 portable building directly behind the main church building.

R.E.F.U.G.E. Student Ministry Wednesday Activities start at 6:30 pm, ends at 7:30 pm, and meets in the #1 portable building.

February ~ Military Care Package

The youth are collecting items to send to a former youth, Dusty Pressley, and his unit stationed in California. We are asking for candy (that won't melt), gum, ramen noodles, socks, snack chips, peanuts, sunflower seeds, sports magazines, water flavor packets, beef jerky, razors, deck of cards, small Bibles, cards and notes of encouragement/appreciation/thanks.

Sunday, February 5 ~ Valentine Gram

(last day to order)



Choose your package:

- "Dog House" \$15 (card, box of chocolates)
- "In Love" \$20 (all of the above and flowers)
- "True Love" \$30 (all of the above and a stuffed animal)

You can personalize all packages with cards that you can fill out for your loved one and selecting your favorite stuffed animal. You may choose your *preferred* delivery time too! Packages can be picked up on Sunday, February 12th after the 1st or 2nd service or you can choose to have your gift delivered at 2:00-3:00 pm, 3:00-4:00 pm, 4:00-5:00 pm on Sunday.

Saturday, February 18 ~ Youth Pizza and Movie Night

The youth will meet in the youth room (#1 portable bldg) from 4:00—8:00 pm. We will have pizza, watch a movie and play games. All youth (grades 6-12) are invited and encouraged to join us.

Wednesday, February 22 ~ The youth will meet at 6:30 pm to prepare themselves to teach Children's Church on February 26th.

Sunday, February 26 ~ The youth will be teaching Children's Church during the first service. This is always a fun time for the kids and an opportunity for the youth to be servants of the Lord. YOUTH please be in the children's church room no later than 9:15 am.



Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 6:00 PM
FBCS Worship Center

Adults - \$15 / Children - \$5
(11yrs. and under)

Come join us for a Fajita Buffet with all the trimmings served by El Toro Mexican Restaurant. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board located on the hallway. Payment for your meal will be collected at the door. For more details please see Mandy Stilwell.

If you are interested in being part of the entertainment team, please see Keith Abernathy as soon as possible.



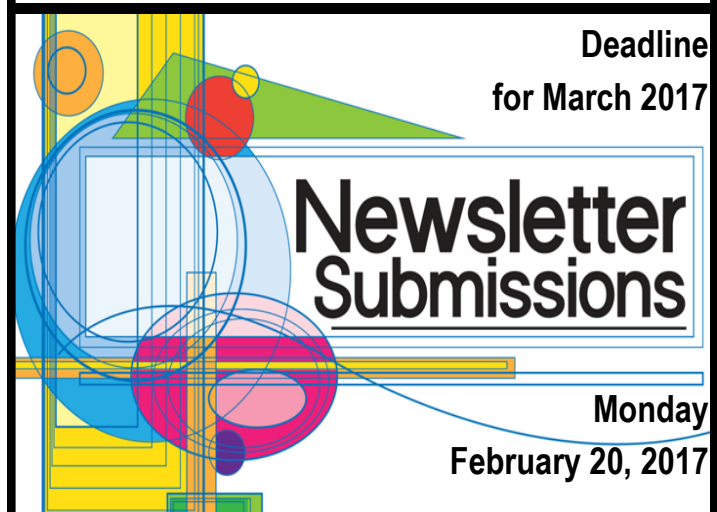
Ladies Lunch Bunch

All ladies of the church are invited!

Thursday, February 16, 2017
Carpool will leave the church at 11:15 am

This month the ladies will be going to Kelley's Country Cookin' on FM 518 in League City. If you want to carpool, the church van will leave the parking lot at 11:15 am or you can meet us at the restaurant at 11:30 am.

This is always a time of laughter and fellowship for the all ladies of the church, please join in the fun—the more the merrier!



QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:30 PM



Women's Ministry NEW Bible Study

SUNDAY'S ~ 5:00 PM
Beginning February 26th

What is the deep cry of your heart? The ache in your soul that keeps you up at night? The prayer you keep repeating? Jesus not only cares about this deep, spiritual wrestling, but He also wants to step in and see you through it.

Join Lysa TerKeurst on the streets of Israel to explore the seven I AM statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. Through this interactive, in-depth study we will be trading feelings of emptiness and depletion for the fullness of knowing who Jesus is like never before.

Sign-up today!! The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway. Cost of the workbook is \$15.00. For more information please see Gloria Henry.

Coming in April...



Interested in a LifeWay Women's Event?

Join women from around the world for this inspiring one-day event with Priscilla Shirer! You're invited to be part of this global, one-day simulcast that focuses on the power of prayer and learning to study God's Word for yourself. Each simulcast message is unique and tailored for a global audience.

When: April 8th - All Day

Where: FBC Seabrook

Who: All Women

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Right now we need to find out how many people are interested in attending a simulcast event. If we have enough people who want to attend we will move forward. If you are interested, please sign-up here! For more information, please see Gloria Henry.

UPcoming EVENTS

March — Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions (Week of Prayer: March 5-12)

- March 4 ~ Youth to the Kemah Boardwalk
- March 5 ~ Lord's Supper Services
- March 9 ~ Merry Widows Dinner
- March 11 ~ Youth Cleaning Day & Spud Run Prep
Youth will meet at 9:00 am to clean the church and prepare for the Spud Run Fundraiser.
- March 12 ~ Spud Run Youth Fundraiser
- March 12 ~ Day Light Saving Time begins
- March 20 ~ Annual Chili Cook-Off
- March 20 ~ Newsletter Deadline (April)
- March 22 ~ Youth prepare to teach Children's Church.
- March 26 ~ Youth teach Children's Church (1st service)
- March 26 ~ Singing Women of Texas
- March 31 ~ 2017-2018 Budget Input Deadline

- April 2 ~ Lord's Supper Services
- April 2 ~ Youth Bake Sale Fundraiser
- April 8 ~ Possible LifeWay Women's Event
- April 14 ~ Good Friday Service
- April 16 ~ Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 am
- April 16 ~ Family Easter Celebration Service at 10:30 am
- April 19 ~ Church Council Meeting
- April 19 ~ Youth prepare to teach Children's Church
- April 20 ~ Newsletter Deadline (May)
- April 23 ~ Youth teach Children's Church (1st service)
- April 29 ~ Youth Serve at the Houston Food Bank
- April 30 ~ 5th Sunday Hymn Sing



February 2017 Lamplight ~ Indefinable Love

Can you believe that it's already the second month of the year? What happened to January?

Ah, February... we only have 334 shopping days left before Christmas; however, before we turn our sights towards blinking lights... let's pause at the halfway point of February – Valentine's Day.

Last year, the National Retailers Federation reported that 54.8% of all Americans would spend an estimated \$19.7 billion on Valentine's Day gifts. Wow, that is a lot of sparkly blings, flowers and sweet nothings!

Since the love month is on the horizon, I decided to take a look at one of the most familiar verses in the Bible --

Οὕτως γὰρ **ἠγάπησεν** ὁ θεὸς τὸν κόσμον, ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκεν, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπόληται ἀλλ' ἔχη ζωὴν αἰώνιον.

I know, I know... it's all Greek to you, but maybe you will recognize it in English:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

I bet you recognize it now! And here is another fun-fact...if you read a red-letter Bible, you also know that Jesus spoke these words.

The Greek word for "loved," **ἠγάπησεν** (ay.ga.pay.sen) is a verb—*Aorist, Active, Indicative, Third Person, Singular*— meaning "he loved." The Aorist form in the Greek language is "past" tense in form, but does not define or limit duration.

Most of us are familiar with the Greek word "agape." This word means love, and on many occasions we have been taught that it refers to God's *unconditional* love. Even though most Greek Lexicons do not reflect "unconditional" as part of the parsing, we do find that "agape" indicates a "higher" form of love. Agape is the only lexical form associated with God and God's love.

1 John 4:8 - θεὸς **ἀγάπη** - God is love.

Romans 8:38-39: τῆς **ἀγάπης** τοῦ θεοῦ τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ τῷ κυρίῳ ἡμῶν

*For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from **the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

One more thought... We also find several forms of "agape" in John 13:34-35 where Jesus commands us to love one another:

ἐντολὴν καινὴν δίδωμι ὑμῖν, ἵνα **ἀγαπᾶτε** ἀλλήλους, καθὼς **ἠγάπησα** ὑμᾶς ἵνα καὶ ὑμεῖς **ἀγαπᾶτε** ἀλλήλους. ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκονται πάντες ὅτι ἐμοὶ μαθηταί ἐστε, ἐὰν **ἀγάπην** ἔχητε ἐν ἀλλήλοις.

*A new commandment I give to you, that you **love** one another: just as I have **loved** you, you also are to **love** one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have **love** for one another."*

In this passage we find two "Present-Active-Subjunctive" verbs, one "Aorist-Active-Indicative" verb, and one "Accusative" noun...

You may wonder why this is significant. Well, it clarifies something very important to all of us...

During this day and age when love seems to have grown cold, temporal human love doesn't accomplish much. For this reason we must rely on God's supernatural ability to love through us. Then, with His help we can *actively* love one another with His "*indefinable, indescribable*" love.

Remember this... not only did you learn a bunch of Greek today, but you are **loved** and you are always in my prayers.

In Christ,
Cheryl



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---------|--|---|--------|---|
| | | | 1 Wednesday Evening Prayer & Bible Study 6:30-7:30 PM Youth Bible Study & Adult Praise, Prayer & Bible Study | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5  9:30 & 11:00 AM Lord's Supper  Last day to order Valentine Grams | 6 6:30 PM Men's Monday Night Bible Study and Dinner Fellowship Quarterly Report Deadline | 7 | 8 Wednesday Evening Prayer & Bible Study 6:30-7:30 PM Adult Praise, Prayer & Bible Study & Youth Bible Study | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12  Valentine Gram Delivery | 13 6:30 PM Men's Monday Night Bible Study & Dinner Fellowship | 14 | 15 6:00 PM  At FBC-Seabrook Worship Center Catered by El Toro Mexican Restaurant | 16  11:15 AM Ladies Lunch Bunch | 17 | 18 4:00 - 8:00 PM YOUTH Pizza & Movie Night  |
| 19 | 20 6:30 PM Men's Monday Night Bible Study and Dinner Fellowship  Newsletter Deadline | 21 | 22 6:30 PM Quarterly Business Meeting | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 5:00 PM Women's Ministry Bible Study "Finding I Am" | 27  6:30 PM Men's Monday Night Bible Study and Dinner Fellowship | 28 | Regular Sunday Services 8:15-9:15 AM.....Adult Bible Study 9:15-10:15 AM.....Berean Adult Fellowship & Youth Bible Study 9:15 - 10:15 AMYoung Adult Sunday School 9:15-9:30 AM.....1st Adult Coffee Fellowship 9:10-10:30 AM.....1st Nursery / Children's Church 9:30-10:30 AM.....1st Worship Service 10:45-11:00 AM.....2nd Adult Coffee Fellowship 10:45-Noon2nd Nursery / Children's Church 11:00-Noon.....2nd Worship Service | | |  Worship Schedule |