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Covenant Church of Easton

The Salt Shaker

Discipleship & Discipling: Fellowship & Mission Part II

Fellowship and **mission** are two aspects of discipleship. Learning and healing comes from being with Jesus. Such time with the Master will equip us for mission. Jesus then called His disciples to fellowship so He could send them out on a mission, a mission to evangelize and heal.

When we look at the context of Hebrews 10:25 which warns us about ignoring fellowship, we see that the writer speaks of the three great virtues of **faith** (10:22), **hope** (v. 23) and **love** in three successive verses. The mutual encouragement that our author has in mind can occur, of course, only in the context of Christian fellowship. Concern for one another is through active participation in fellowship, on the one hand, and through **mutual encouragement**, on the other. The concept of "mutual" is impossible apart from others. This is why consistent attendance is so crucial.

“ Let us not give up meeting together... let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25 ”

How many of us would keep a car that started 70% of the time? Or 80%? Or 90%?

Inconsistent attendance **deemphasizes the importance of the local church**. While it is true that the Church of Jesus Christ transcends any organization or institution, it is also true that in biblical times the church expressed itself in the form of local congregations. These local churches were structured with leadership and such stated practices as instruction, fellowship activities, regular giving and compassionate ministries.

In the beginning of Jesus' ministry we find Him **calling individuals into community**. For three years He spent the bulk of His time molding together the lives of twelve men. This band of disciples was organized with a common treasury, training sessions, ministry assignments, and a leadership structure that set Peter, James and John in the forefront.

At Pentecost we see the Holy Spirit drawing people together to hear the Word preached and to participate in corporate ministries. The book of Acts documents the birth and organization of local churches throughout much of the ancient world. The letters of Paul address the

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Discipleship & Discipling: Fellowship & Mission Part 2

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needs and concerns of those local churches—and others to follow.

The church is God's idea. There never has been and never will be a satisfactory substitute for it. And the Holy Spirit continues to call persons into the life and work of the local church. How can we obey God and evade it?

God has given us this gift—a special place to worship and serve and grow. We show our gratitude to Him by affirming our loyalty and faithful support, and by giving ourselves to others who are partners with us in God's great work in the world.

The mission is the task of **making disciples** of all nations (Matthew 24:14; 28:19; Mark 16:15).

Discipling others is critical in order to continue the same tradition of teaching that Jesus handed down to His disciples. Paul makes this clear to his spiritual son Timothy:

"You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to reliable men** who will also be **qualified to teach others**" (2 Timothy 2:2).



Paul says that Timothy is to "**entrust to reliable men**" the things he had heard from Paul. **Reliability** or **faithfulness** is a fundamental characteristic of a disciple. Only such faithfulness will make it possible to be "**qualified to teach others.**"

This way Christianity is handed down from one generation to another. And we are called to hand down the Christian message to our generation with the hope that the next generation will do the same.

APPLICATION

- **Follow** Jesus in the gospels with a **teachable spirit**.
- **Watch** Him and then **follow** Him (put into practice), in attitude, thought, word and deed.
- **Put into practice spiritual disciplines** such as worship, praise, prayer, meditation, fasting, giving, etc.
- **Ask** the Holy Spirit to help you be reliable or faithful.
- **Ask** God to make you into a discipler so you can reach your generation for Christ.

Pastor Lars

Children's Ministry

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Harvest Party happen! It is one of our biggest outreach events of the year and we couldn't do it without you!

Please continue to pray for our children, our volunteers, and for opportunities to support and share Christ with new families. We have our Sunday morning children's room staffed, but we always needs subs and occasional help. Please let Roseann know if you are available.

3rd-5th Graders: Look for information coming soon about the Annual Trail Blazer Retreat. It's a weekend full of fun in the snow — sledding, broomball, awesome worship and much more!

There will be **NO Friends Night Out** or King's Kids on Tuesday evening, November 20. Have a *Happy Thanksgiving!*



Pastoral Search Committee Update

It has been one year since the Pastoral Search Committee started meeting to look for our next Senior Pastor. We have spent countless hours meeting together, praying together, looking over resumes and profiles, and conducting interviews, both on the phone and in person. The bad news is that we haven't yet found the person God has chosen for us. The good news is that we are still very motivated and excited to be doing God's work! We've had a few candidates that we knew right away were not the one. We've been excited about other candidates and have been disappointed when they decided we were not the right match for them. We continue to accept resumes from anyone who expresses an interest in the position. Some of you have mentioned that you like the chart we placed in the Welcome Center but were wondering why the arrow has not moved. That's because until we find the right candidate to move forward, we must continue to stay in that place of interviewing.



In the book of 1 Samuel we read the story of how Samuel was led by God to choose King David. Verse 16:7 says, "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'" Samuel went on to look at seven of Jesse's sons and God rejected them all. I'm sure they were all surprised when Samuel got to David and God said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one." We pray at each interview and meeting that God will show us the heart of each pastor and make it abundantly clear to us who He has chosen.

Thank you for your continued patience and prayers.
The Pastoral Search Committee

Treasurer's Report

The financial results of the Unified Operating Fund for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 were as follows:

INCOME

Unified Receipts	\$383,093
Investment & Other Income	156
Total Income	\$383,249

EXPENSES

Excess of Expenses over Income	<u>(\$8,747)</u>
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September is the second consecutive month there has been a deficit of expenses over income. The August deficit was within a few dollars of this month's deficit. These deficits are entirely due to a downturn in offering receipts. In order to meet the Financial Plan approved by the congregation at the beginning of the year, weekly receipts of more than \$10,000 are required. Actual receipts through May were very close to this amount, but receipts in the most recent four months have averaged less than \$9,000. This downturn has left us with a shortage of about \$20,000 in receipts.



Fortunately, expenses are also running below budget. A majority of the

savings is because much less than anticipated has been spent on the Pastoral Search process. This, of course, could turn around as the Search Committee moves through the process of finding a permanent senior pastor.

In view of the situation with receipts, please review your giving and, if necessary, bring it up to date. In addition, please consider if it is possible to contribute a little more.

The **3 More!** Capital Campaign has been underway since the beginning of September. Through the second Sunday in October, 13 pledges have been received for a total of nearly \$83,000. Thanks to everyone who has already pledged. Please consider joining them.

Bob Fiscus
Treasurer



- 11/1 Dillon Otten
- 11/2 Diana Ambrose
- 11/5 Justin Sharp
- 11/6 Lynne Sullivan
- 11/9 Gloria Pryde
Tyler Bachelder
Ryan Mirrione
- 11/10 Bob Lindahl
- 11/11 ♥Ron & Sandy Koenig
- 11/13 Lucy Gould
Tracy Mirrione
Amber Schaper
- 11/14 Bethany Lingl
- 11/15 Lily Shive
- 11/16 JoAnn Gibbs
- 11/21 Maxwell Kattler
- 11/22 Charlene Skok
♥Frank & Tracy Mirrione
- 11/25 Joan Bjork
Stephanie Wirth
- 11/26 Sam Nobile
- 11/27 Marilyn Steel
Bill Austin
- 11/30 Chris Logan



Youth Ministry

Oasis and JHAMS have spent the fall looking at what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. The first month, we took a look at three things that God desires of us in following Him: To love God, love each other, and serve the world. These are the basic expectations of following Him.

Now we are looking at the difference between being a follower of Jesus and a fan of Jesus (inspired by Kyle Idleman's book, Not a Fan). In our culture, there are a lot of people who claim to like Jesus but Jesus is looking for more than fans, he calls people to follow Him, to be disciples. We are dis-



cussing the cost of following Jesus by comparing some of the cultural expressions of Christianity with the actual expectations of Christ.

Our high school Bible Study is reading the book of James together. It is a practical guide to faith in action. It deals with issues that are the everyday experiences of our high school students. The class meets Sunday mornings in Cary's office at 9 am. The study is always open and can be joined at

any time.

We just held our **6th Annual Mish-mosh**. It is an all-night event for JHAMS and Oasis designed to be a comfortable introduction to youth group. Many of our core students in the past first got connected with the church through the Mishmosh. Once again this year, we had a good number of students for whom it provided our first contact. But the Mishmosh misses the mark if there is not further engagement with those students in the future. So please be in prayer that those students return and become active in JHAMS and Oasis.

Pastor Cary

Missions—Serving in Austria



Nate & Bethany
Johnson
SERVING IN AUSTRIA

Thank you for your support!

To our friends at the Covenant Church of Easton,

Thank you so much for your continued support of our ministry, through prayers, friendship, encouragement and finances. It means so much to us to have a body of believers behind us as we begin our life and ministry in Austria. We are still getting settled here, but we look forward to beginning language study at the end of October. Your support was crucial in bringing us here to Vienna, and we look forward to sharing stories with you of how God is working. Thank you for being on our team. May God richly bless your ministry in Connecticut!

Your Partners in Ministry,
Nate & Bethany Johnson

This & That...

...a little of everything

SENIOR LUNCHEON

Sunday, November 11
12:00 noon
RSVP: Marilyn Steel
Cost: \$5.00
Hosted by the Early Bird Ladies Bible Study



Don't Forget to *Fall Back*
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
November 3rd at Midnight



Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

The Fellowship Ministry still has openings for you to help with in each of the Fellowship/Refreshment times after each Worship Service. Look for the TWO clipboards for signing up to help! And remember, "Goodies" are optional. Instructions are available OR one of the Fellowship Ministry volunteers is happy to "coach" you on your first time — but it really is easy. This is a great opportunity to serve your church family and get to know the folks at Covenant.

If you want to help with Coffee Hour, but would prefer to just "**leave a treat**", that's great too! Fellowship can always use non-perishable snack food to have on hand when items are needed.

Faith Promise

"I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." -- John 4:35

FAITH PROMISE SUNDAY—11/11

Faith Promise Sunday is November 11th. If you haven't picked up a 2013 Culture of Generosity Faith Promise Card, visit the Welcome Center or contact Gail Lent in the Church Office.

Thanksgiving: The Forgotten Holiday

Sandwiched somewhere between Halloween and Christmas is a Thursday holiday that is slowly becoming more miniscule in the minds of millions of Americans – Thanksgiving. If you search hard, you might find one small section of Thanksgiving cards, autumn decorations, and a turkey platter amid the aisles and miles of Halloween costumes, Christmas decorations, and toys.

For some, Thanksgiving is a day to get a list together prior to a day of marathon Christmas shopping. Somehow our perception of Thanksgiving Day has gone askew. We've forgotten the reason for celebration that first Thanksgiving. Gratitude for survival!



Historically we think of Thanksgiving as a time of feasting for the Pilgrims and Indians. In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims had been in America less than a year. During those months, over half their original population died from disease or starvation. The Pilgrims hosted the first feast not to try out their latest recipes, but to celebrate life with their Indian friends and give thanks to God for His provision in difficult circumstances.

Perhaps you'd like to redirect your family toward gratitude this year. Just as many enlist the help of an advent wreath to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth in December, focus on thanks-giving this November by doing the following:

- **Week 1** – Write Bible verses that name the attributes of God on fruit-shaped cut-outs. Place them in a basket or cornucopia. During a time of family Devotions or at a meal, have each family member select a fruit from the basket and read the verse aloud. Then discuss ways your family has experienced each of God's qualities.
- **Week 2** – Think about reasons for ingratitude. Most of us are incredibly blessed, yet we find reasons to complain. This week, any time family members complain about something, have them place money in a jar. Your family can decide the amount. Then at the end of the week, donate the money to the soup kitchen or mobile meals to help with Thanksgiving meals.
- **Week 3** – Think of someone you love and appreciate, but rarely see. Make plans to call, send a card, or visit that person. Find out if there is a special need, pray with the person, and provide materially or with an act of service.
- **Week 4** – Focus on praising God. Let each family member select a praise chorus or hymn. Sing a different one at each meal instead of saying a blessing. Thank God for material provision, physical health, spiritual blessings, our country, our church, and family.

These are just a few ideas to help you get started. Use your creativity to come up with others and enjoy making Thanksgiving a holiday to remember.

©Candy Arrington Guest Writer

http://www.cbn.com/spirituallife/devotions/arrington_thanksgiving.aspx

November



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Rooted in Christ - Reaching Out to the World

November Worship

TWO SERVICES EACH SUNDAY – 9:00 am and 10:45 am

November	4	1 Chronicles 29:12,14,16 2 Corinthians 8:1-12; 9:1-7 Matthew 6:21,24 Holy Communion	<i>The Stewardship of Our Resources</i> Pastor Lars
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FAITH PROMISE SUNDAY

November	11		Pastor Cary Preaching
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November	18		<i>Obstacles to Discipleship: ILLNESS</i> <i>Part 1</i> Pastor Lars
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November	25		<i>Obstacles to Discipleship: ILLNESS</i> <i>Part 2</i> Pastor Lars
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