



## *A note from Pastor Todd*

We have been stretched lately. We have spent the last month or more praying and planning to stretch ourselves and challenge you to stretch this fall. So while I look eagerly ahead to a new season with you here in the Kiski Valley, I share my heart. Today's sermon was very personal to me because it seems to be a culmination of the motivation and plans God has led me to.

First, look at the ideal we seek to follow. 1 John 3 contrasts the evil example of Cain who would not bend or humble Himself and Jesus our perfect example who adapted and completely humbled Himself. I shared how I believe God is asking us as a church to adapt and humbly change anything necessary except for His gospel message to show His love to the lost. Even more than that, I have asked you to "buy in" to becoming a contributing part of the church. A church full of contributors will fulfill God's commission while a church filled with consumers will not. I am asking us to decide to be intentionally predisposed to love all: to see others' needs, adapt to meet their needs when possible, and even become like them without sinning. That's what our example, Jesus did.

Next, we will implement these principles in ten specific ways: 1) We will develop a "We" mentality rather than a "You" mentality – this is our church and WE will take responsibility and not expect God to do something He's waiting for us to do or the leadership to meet the ministry needs. 2) We will raise our expectations – living in a "hard to reach" religious area that is reluctant to the idea of being born again does not mean God's kingdom can't be furthered here. God did not put us on a treadmill. 3) We will see needs and adapt to meet them – everyone be a part of noticing, connecting, and knowing new people. 4) Build infrastructure – We will make it easy to be a part of clearly defined ministry opportunities; we will make it a safe and structured place for new people, not just the "family." How every one of us treats people matters. 5) Flex on style – the only thing that can't change is the gospel message, everything else can adapt to show lost people they are loved by us, then by God. 6) Be personally involved with no excuses – contributor not consumer. 7) Reach Out – the ideas are endless. 8) Deepen your passion for God – The point is God: Save the lost, disciple the saved. We serve a knowable God! 9) Pray for growth and health – Ask and keep on asking. 10) Walk in Unity – "Buy In" because your cooperation is a big deal and it matters.

Now, let's get down to business.

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## **Grow This Fall by Tina Pugh**

Do you want to see specific growth? Consider Growth Groups this fall. God's plan includes meaningful connection to others and in many cases growth is made possible by the support and cooperation of fellow believers. We were created to be deeply connected to God and one another, to be free of regret and binding sin, and to fellowship with God in perfect trust and obedience. Because we are fallen people living in a fallen world, our tendencies are just the opposite. "Growth groups" provide opportunities for reconciliation to God's ideal for us. We'll invest time to experience God's grace and truth with the connection and support of others. The result will be personal spiritual growth. We hope you will participate.

**We plan to begin the first set of groups the week of September 13<sup>th</sup>** as a "fall semester" ending before Christmas. All leaders will need to train on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30. The following groups are planned so far. **Sign Ups begin this Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.**

- **The Alpha Course** – an introduction to Christianity for seekers – hosted & facilitated by Marie Hilty at her home.
- **Intimacy with the Holy Spirit** – Wednesday Night elective with Pastor Todd
- **Dr. Chuck Missler Bible Studies** – at the Gaillots' home, *Begin Oct. 1*
- **Men's Group** – at John Horneman's home
- **Marriage Course** – led by Bill & Lisa Bell.
- **The Truth Project** – be educated on issues related to Christian World View - Hosted by the Collins at their home (daytime group)
- **A Woman's Unlimited Potential** – Bible Study hosted by Tina Pugh

## Meal Ministry by *Diane Swank*



“Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” Romans 12:13 (niv)

The Care Ministry is being retooled and will now be called the Meals Ministry. The new format will accomplish several goals.

- 1) Meals will be more readily available when needed.
- 2) More people can contribute to the ministry using their specific talents and interests (lots of people who like to visit/deliver don’t like to cook and vice versa, etc.)
- 3) The work load and ministry opportunities will be assumed by many rather than a few.

Cheryl Gaillot will supervise the making of different healthy meals which will be frozen and used as needed. For this ministry to be a success, many volunteers will be needed to do all kinds of things from purchasing ingredients to prepping items at home to preparing the meals together as teams. The individual meals will be packaged, labeled, dated, frozen, and delivered as needed. The ministry is primarily to provide meals to families of people recovering from hospital stays.

For those who want to volunteer, there will be an orientation and planning meeting on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. For those who can’t attend the first meeting, a second one is being planned for Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 a.m., also at the church. Those of us who have had meals delivered during our times of need know what a true blessing this ministry can be.



## FALL...by *Bill Bell*

WOW! It's late August already. It's hard to believe that it's time for the fall newsletter edition. Fall is my favorite season as I am a hunter gatherer. Soon the leaves will change color, crumple and FALL to the ground to decompose. It's that dust to dust thing those soon to come frosty mornings will cause other living things to become dormant, to hibernate in a semi-conscious sleep. But this season of FALL is not my main focus; I'd like us to consider the FALL of Man and Humanity. We only have to go back to the book of Genesis to shortly after creation to witness the FALL of man. Yes back to Adam and Eve. They communed daily with God while in the garden; they were in relationship with their and our creator. All their needs were met and provided for within the garden by their (our) creator; God Himself! However Adam and Eve were not enslaved to their Creator but were given their own free will and with this free will they chose and succumbed to the Serpent the Devil, as recorded in Genesis. Suddenly there was an immediate disconnect between God and man,

Adam and Eve deceived by the serpent had brought sin into the world the FALL was in full swing. An excerpt from my Zondervan Study Bible states “That act of rebellious independence was the first sin! This turning to self instead of God had infected every human since the garden” and into our world as we know it today! So when our lives and faith seem to be dormant and heading toward a season of FALL we need look no further than to the original source of creation, God Himself, who had a plan all along, sacrificing His own son Jesus to pay the price of the FALL. As the Fall leaves turn to crimson remember the blood of Christ that was shed for our sins and as the first white snow of the season blankets the ground remember His pure sinless flesh that was broken for us, for you and for me. Fall need never return to our lives after we have accepted Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior.

God Bless

### Reflecting...by Tina Pugh

The end of summer always brings us to a place of considering what the fall should look like, especially in our church. These reflections led me to wonder what others think of church. Facebook is now a pastime I enjoy, so I posted a request to my "friends" to tell me what church is to them. Granted, I do not have a lot of friends that do not go to church, but not one of them posted. I'm a little disappointed because I have come to learn that, really, the main focus of the church needs to be the unchurched. Namely, removing all road blocks "church culture" might unknowingly put up for them. But church-going believers or not, we are all just people and the answers I did get say a lot about what church, specifically the local body, means to people.

The answers were, the church is: "my second home, gas station, repair station, family reunion, place to worship, fellowship, and be fed by the Word, a glimpse of Heaven, safe place, another world, the people, the bride of Christ, Spirit filled presence of God, oasis, refuge, glimpse of the glorious perfection we can't comprehend..." My sweet cousin in Dallas' pastor says it's like an ice cream shop where you could just come in every Sunday and get a sample, but you'll never fully experience it until you fully engage with God and your friends in Christ and just have the whole big bowl. Being a preacher's wife who craves an effective church, I agree with him. Then, appropriately, a couple of young thinkers I'm related to said in a nutshell, "the Church is each of us every moment of every day." Being most of all a woman who wants people to live free and effective lives, I think that says it best.

Most of you know, I'm from Northwest Texas. My childhood included church (our local church) and lots of it. Back then, I thought everyone went to church and listened

to the Sunday school teacher and the preacher (with a lot of "amens") just because it was the right thing to do. We participated in all the events and work days as a family and mowed the lawns of the elderly and picked them up for church (I remember holding my breath as long as I could to avoid the perfume smell). I also remember precious times of worship, when I realized I needed Jesus to save me when I was 11, and when the Holy Spirit filled me when I was 17. As an adult, I found out that I had great parents who had servants' hearts and instilled the same in my sister and me, but boy did we enjoy being together with our church friends, especially at the Pizza Hut or Dairy Queen after church. I also now know there was great protection in our commitment to God and our involvement with our church family.

But, I am finding more and more, the safety of my upbringing also narrows my understanding of nonbelievers, the unchurched, and those only casually connected to the local body. We have sought the Lord for His ideal church over the years, and words like relevant and refuge have surfaced as ideals we seek. I love working together with church family to accomplish goals because it has been a joy all my life. But, I want to come to the place where I can more widely communicate and share the safety and freedom of a life given to God. I really want to see God's Word and work making a difference in the lives of the people we serve. I most want to see God's Word that doesn't change and His Spirit that can do anything working to realize His potential in you.

I thank God for granting me a whole life in His church, but I now know it isn't the norm and He wants to grant life to those without the "churched" perspective. So, that's where I'm at right now...



## Second Annual Fiesta!

Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the church.  
Come enjoy Mexican food, a Piñata, Mexican Dominoes,  
Crafts and Prizes for the kids!



### Missions Reflections by *Sheree Collins*

Fall. The carefree days of summer are ending. Children go back to school. Church activities ramp back up. Even though I haven't been giving my usual monthly missions reports thru the summer, our missionaries have been hard at work. As we receive newsletters, copies are made and placed into the rack in the lobby outside the sanctuary. They are there for the taking. It is a wonderful way to keep abreast of the missionaries we support.

Our yearly Missions Conference is coming up in October. Planning has begun and materials have been ordered. Many people have requested the books that we have provided in years past, and we are planning to offer them again this year. The Missions Conference is a time to focus on the awesome outreach our church has always had through the missionaries we support. We get to re-familiarize ourselves with the individual missionaries and the work they do, as well as the places that they serve. We also renew our pledges of support at that time. I hope that it will be an exciting time in the life of our church.

Some recent news flashes:

- **Scott Bush** led a team to an outreach to the Sturgis, SD bike rally. There were 422 salvations in less than a week's time. Each one of those people will be followed up, and hopefully land in a church somewhere. Scott will be joining us for our Missions Conference on October 25.
- **Pastor Babu** is well. However, for those of us who have to prepare one or two children for the return to school, imagine the expense of 150 children. Children in India must wear uniforms, as well as pay for many of the services we take for granted, such as transportation, books, and tuition. Any contributions toward these expenses would be greatly appreciated, and very timely.
- **Jeremy Sweeten** and his family continue to grow with Forest Hills Community Church. The church, which has been meeting in a movie theater, has grown tremendously. They are beginning to search for a permanent location. There is an immediate need for \$100,000 to cover the yearly expense of renting a large enough facility for a permanent location. They ask that we prayerfully consider donating toward that daunting expense.
- **The Halls**, with Campus Crusade, have been ministering with the Summer Project Students. They will be returning to their regular activities soon, in addition to several new responsibilities and roles they will be filling.
- While **Kevin and Annie Folk** have been teaching at the Bible College in Spain for the past several years, they have now returned to the States, and are raising support for a new assignment in Mexico. Stay tuned for more details soon.
- We recently met **Michael Goodling** and his family, who are also itinerating to raise support in preparation for an assignment to Swaziland, a small country in Africa.
- Summer is a very busy time for the **Erickson's**. They have had several building projects during the warm season.
- **Greg & Debbie McKim** have been busy with the coffee shop in California, PA, and with Crossroads Community Church.

We have an exciting new season planned for our church, with the Spiritual Growth and Ministry Improvement strategies that are being implemented. As we concentrate on "internal improvements," let us hold on to the wider vision we have always held with our Missions Program. For it is that wider viewpoint that has always been a hallmark of our local fellowship, and of the Assemblies of God as a whole.



**Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 – 8:15 p.m.**

**Extreme Kids Club Begins**

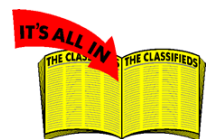
**All New!!**

**Learning to run the race of life with *purpose!!***

### **Advertisements!**

- The website has a new look & increasing functionality. Our goal is to make it so useful, it can be your homepage. Please go there soon and check it out at [www.kiskivalleyag.org](http://www.kiskivalleyag.org). It will get better and better...to include vital information for members and newcomers. It's easy to use and we hope the congregation and others will make use of it.
- Have you seen the youth room since it was remodeled? If not, check it out soon. Also, it will soon have a coffee bar. It will be a good gathering place for the teens as well as other growth groups, small events, and classes.
- Friendship Sunday will be September 13th this year. Invite your friends and family and plan to stay for the first fellowship lunch of the fall! Expect good things for your family and friends!
- Water Baptism Service – Sunday, September 20th. See Pastor Todd if you want to make this declaration of your “new life” in Christ!
- Small Group Facilitator Training – Monday August 31st at 6:30, Ushers, Greeters and Nursery Workers Training – Monday, August 31st at 7:30 – All existing, new, and interested volunteers please attend.

### **Wanted**



For our Christmas store at our annual Church/Angel Tree party we need donations of small gifts or crafts. Examples: Small toys, candles, winter items such as gloves/scarves/hats, decorations, small tools. (New items only, please)

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*If you have a need or a blessing and would like it advertised, please submit it to one of the newsletter team members: Bill Bell, Ruth Hazley, Tina Pugh, Diane Swank, or Bernice Wolfe.*



**September 6** – Women’s Book Group and Men’s Fellowship

**September 13** – Friendship Sunday and Fellowship Dinner

**September 16** – Adult Prayer/Bible Study and Kid’s Club resumes

**September 26** – Fall Cleanup at 8:00 a.m.

**October 15-17** – Fiesta Workday at 10 a.m.  
Women’s Meeting at 7 p.m.

**October 25** – Church Fiesta Party after worship Service

**December 13** – Church Christmas/Angel Tree Party

## Weekly Schedule

### Sunday:

- Sunday school 9:30 a.m.
- Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
- Nursery Provided birth - 3
- Children’s Church ages 4 – 12
- Youth Service 7:00 p.m.
- Men’s Meeting is the First Sunday at 6:30 p.m.
- Women of Purpose Third Monday at 7:00 p.m.

### Wednesdays (to resume 9/16):

- Growth Group – Intimacy With The Holy Spirit 7:00 p.m.
- Extreme Kids Club (4-12 years old) 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.
- Watch the website for days & times of other Growth Groups.

### 2nd Sunday of Every Month (September – April):

- Fellowship Dinner
- Benevolence Offering – Used to help those within the church body or those referred.



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