

## Miller Avenue Church — Newsletter for November 2020

### Dear Church Family,

While entering the birthdays for the November Newsletter I realized that we do not have on record everyone's birthday. Please send it to me if you have not given it to me earlier. No need to include the year. Birthdays are a big deal, and we do not want to miss anyone.

Heading into the first Sunday of Advent that falls on the last Sunday of November, we will go with the traditional presentations this year. Both the sermon and the exposition will present a theme and/or passage of Scripture focused on the birth of Jesus.

During the first months of January, in place of the usual Bible Expositions, it is time to look at the basic doctrines of the Christian Faith. We have not done so for a number of years. We will be using the book I wrote some years ago, *Christian Basics*. It has 35 sections to it, all quite brief. We will not cover each chapter. We will order enough books for everyone, and a copy will be given to everyone as a Christmas gift. Also, week by week, we will send out the appropriate chapter in an email to everyone.

This emphasis fits hand in glove with our work on deliverance ministry. Just this morning we found out that Clayton in Mongolia does this work, since that culture is shamanistic and has been for thousands of years.

In the mixed religious/spiritual culture in which we live we must be solidly grounded in the basic theology of our Faith. This is why preachers will undergo three plus years in a seminary. I did ten years, but I would have gladly done another ten if that would have been possible. Paul warned Timothy, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). And this applies to all who engage our culture in the desire to present the Gospel. So then, we will have the book to study, and we will have teaching on each of the crucial areas.

The last major areas of preparing our building for the winter are behind us now, except for the taking out of two dead trees and trimming several others. It started with the mold issue, a bigger deal than we imagined at first. Then the painting, the furnaces, and much else happened that are too detailed for full descriptions here. Just last week Daniel finished up on a number of details, all at no cost. Total cost for all the work was about \$60,000, and we lost \$20,000 because of reduced rent from the Little School. Despite all this, we still have some money left. And we thank God for this.

I admit that I am shy, too shy, when it comes to talking about money and giving. But I am remiss as a pastor, if I do not remind us all that from day one, meaning the days of the early Church, Christians tithed, meaning they gave 10% of their income to the work of ministry. It is a mark of genuine Christianity. One of my heroes of the faith is John Wesley who reversed things. He gave 90% and kept for himself and family 10%. He is not the only one, either.

You know that I am not asking people to be faithful in giving in order to keep receiving my salary. I do so that our Christian lives will be glorifying to God. I challenge you to be faithful in giving. It will help you mature as a believer. The days we are living in demand it. I have found that the strongest believers are those who have learned to be cheerful givers of tithes and offerings. And yes, it often hurts. Katie and I also know about that. Not giving faithfully damages our conscience, too. It produces an inward guilt, which is also my personal experience.

In conclusion on this matter: I do not write this because we need the money. We have never been in the red. I write this because it is my duty as pastor to care for the sheep.

<b>NOVEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Sunday Morning Sermon</b>				
Kent Psalm 51	Kent Psalm 95:1-11	Kent Psalm 119	Kent Psalm 133	Jim Psalm 139
<b>SUNDAY MORNING EXPOSITION</b>				
Katie Matthew 7:21-23	Daniel Matthew 7:24-27	Vern Matthew 7:28-29	Bereket Philippians 1:1-2	Daniel Philippians 1:3-11
<b>Evening Service</b>				
Vern & Libby	Vern & Libby	Vern & Libby	Vern & Libby	Vern & Libby

### COMING EVENTS

**Thanksgiving Dinner, 1pm.** Please RSVP to Kent

**Women's Bible Fellowship: Mondays at 7pm Online**

**Tuesday night Bible Study - 7 pm      BACK ON**

**WATCH ON TV:**

**The Bible Study**—Friday 8 pm—Comcast Channel 26 or AT&T 99.

**Why We Are Christians**—Friday 7:30 pm—Comcast Channel 26 or AT&T 99.

**The Shaman and the Pastor**, Sundays 12 noon and Mondays 2:30pm.

Request MAC financial information by emailing [kentphilpott@comcast.net](mailto:kentphilpott@comcast.net)