

Pastor Kent's Miller Avenue Church Newsletter for March 2023

Dear Church Family,

Why do we do what we do? I can think of three reasons. One, because we have been born anew by the Holy Spirit and now have been graciously given the gift of eternal life. Two, we are given the job of presenting the Gospel of grace to others. Three, we have been given a love for the lost, even the worst of the worst, by Jesus Himself. That is enough for me, and this sustains me through difficult times.

We have recently been challenged money-wise—mostly by work on the property. We are only fixing the broken things, not doing fancy upgrades. I almost never say this, but I am asking each of us to be faithful with our money right now.

We are so blessed to have Leo arrive, and he is already putting new sealant on the shed and the parsonage. I have done this work twice over the years, but it would not be wise for me to get up on a ladder anymore. Yes, I am an old dude now. Just moments ago, I was informed that we have work to do on the parsonage roof, as tiles were blown off by a fierce wind.

Then we are having to put in new ovens in the kitchen at the church building. They are way past safe usage and cannot function at all. They are not safe for us and the school. This will not be a small expense, either.

James, taking over for Vern as treasurer, is coming to grips with the complexities of it all, and he, along with help from Katie, is very near to getting things stabilized. It has been a struggle.

Lately, I have been focusing with our preachers/teachers on how to go about preparing sermons and Bible expositions. It is the most difficult part of the ministry. Our goal is to present the Scripture as faithfully and accurately as we can. Since about 1990, I have committed to expository preaching for sermons both at church and television. It takes work, real focus, and I begin this every Sunday afternoon and then each day right up to Sunday morning. It is my chief work, and without this preparation I could not do the television work. This takes on more importance, because we are not far from beginning Sunday evening services again. More work for the preachers and teachers.

We have the best television crew—Katie, Judy, Mary, Gaby, and it is complex and includes the editing and preparing videos to be aired on local TV and on several digital streaming platforms. A whole lot of people view the programs, both locally and from far distant places. This remains our chief ministry. We began this work in September of 1984, when our denomination told us that we would be a small church, which turned out to be accurate. Despite the pandemic, we are growing some now, and new folks are coming into the work. My job is to involve everyone in some aspect of real ministry.

The new book, now titled *The Dark Side of Contemporary Spiritualities*, is being prepared for editing and publication by Katie right now. We feel it will be the most important thing we have or will ever undertake. Katie is just now feeling like she can get started on this very complex project. Your prayers are appreciated.