

Newsletter for January 2019

Dear Church Family,

Let's do Sunday School! Yes, indeed, let's do it. A little differently, however, a Sunday School for us grownups. Here is the plan: I intend to teach a Sunday School class, on the couches in the back corner, each Sunday after lunch. We will assemble, all those who wish to be students, on the couches, and for 45 minutes I will teach on a variety of things. Want to start at 12:45 and end at 1:30. This is called "disciple making," which according to Matthew 28:19–20 we are commanded to do by none other than Jesus. So we will, beginning the second Sunday of January. The topic will be a carry-over from the sermon, since the material that needs to be presented is way too much for the sermon alone. This is vital info for all Christians to be completely up to date on. We may also study the major cults.

We are constantly in need of a place for people to stay, temporarily. Idea: find a used trailer/camper, not a motorized RV, smallish, and sit it in the back by the garage of the parsonage, where folks can stay temporarily. This means that a lot of pressure is off the Philpotts, and in the long run it would be cost effective. And it was suggested last night at our gathering for the 10th anniversary that Craig's List might be a place to find one. Anyone out there have a used trailer?

I want to set forth for this first newsletter of 2019 what it is that moves us. Two passages of Scripture describe what we are called to: Matthew 28:19–20 and Acts 2:42. First, the Matthew passage:

“Go there and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

You know that I describe myself as a Gospel preacher and a Bible teacher. This is one of the reasons for the way we do our Sunday morning service. Two preaching and teaching opportunities each week on Sunday morning. The core Gospel message is presented each week, and we have opportunity to do teaching. And this is one of the reasons for the Sunday School.

The second passage, Acts 2:42, describes how the first assembly of believers conducted themselves: **“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”**

In terms of the passage's grammar, the apostles' teaching and fellowship are linked as are the breaking of bread and the prayers. And as best we can, not that this cannot be improved, we attempt to do this. The apostles' teaching would have to do with all that we find in Scripture, especially with the four Gospels and also the letters from the called apostles and their disciples. The early church apparently met often, we in our culture

less so due to other necessities, but they spent goodly periods of time together. And we see this in the “breaking of bread.” Likely the Lord’s Supper was celebrated during these communal meals and it was also, apparently, a time of prayer. Regarding this last part, we have gone light.

One of the things, then, I would like to see added to our weekly agenda is a prayer time along with prayers for healing and even deliverance ministry, by that I mean the casting out of demons. The early church did this, Christians all over the world do this, and we can improve on this at MAC.

You have seen a focus on personal evangelism from me. Now that we have the Little Books, two of which are perfect as witnessing tools, I intend to visit the depot area in downtown Mill Valley and find people to hand them to. I have been doing this wherever I go and have not one time been turned down. Coming up we will have “broadsides” or tracts available also. Just about finished with two of these.

This month we begin a new television series, The Rabbi and The Pastor. Our rabbi is Rabbi Tsvi Bar-David, affiliated with Conservative Judaism. The format will be a little different, and I am working as hard as I can to prepare for this. It will be far more demanding than the series with the Imam. I would appreciate your prayer for this; my anxiety level is already on the rise.

Kent

Here are additional thoughts from Pastor Kent:

Hello Everyone,

We did not get to the class last Sunday due to guests from West Virginia. But we will start this Sunday.

I want to focus on theology. What I rely upon in the television programming is essentially theology. The program with the Imam forced me into going over what it is we really believe, bed-rock theology. Now working toward the programs with the rabbi, it is the same and even more intense.

During my beginning years as a Christian our pastor’s focus was educating the congregation about the cults, the Christian based cults. It was an incredibly perfect preparation for the seminary years and the work in the Haight-Ashbury with all the weird groups. For my ThM my major was theology.

First we will study what it is that makes a cult, and a sect. This is the subject for this coming Sunday.

Then, we will look at cultic groups which are present in our world in Marin.

One of the very best ways to learn something is to teach it. Forces us into a firm grasp of the subject. Therefore, I have 6 copies of Walter Martin's Kingdom of the Cults on my desk now. Six of us will present one of the cultic groups. Probably take 3 weeks to do even one of them. And what we will come away with is a good knowledge of what the cult teaches but also how it differs from mainline Christianity—thus theology.

Learning new things is like working out at a gym; the effort to do new stuff, learn new stuff, is a workout for the brain. Let's go do it.

Kent