

Newsletter for September 2019

Dear Church Family,

Being a healthy and biblically oriented follower of Jesus is no simple endeavor. I struggle with this on a regular basis. Though I thought by now that I would have reached some level of wholeness and maturity, I find that I spend a lot of time floundering.

I say these things as a way of making confession but also to help us understand that this is the normal Christian life. We must refuse to fake it. We are still broken people following along the narrow way. This is necessary for us to realize, or we will deceive ourselves and others who think we are simply wonderful. I recall the words of a song Pastor Bob Lewis sang, “Be faithful weary pilgrim, the morning I can see, so take your cross and follow close to me” and this while the Christian was complaining to Jesus about the difficulties of life.

Let me know, dear friends, if the following emphasis might be appropriate. In the evening worship service, which Vern has so faithfully led, there is often a time for people to be anointed with oil and prayer offered for healing. Vern has a little bottle of anointing oil on the communion table to this day. During the days of the Jesus People Movement this is something we regularly did, and literally dozens were healed and from real organic diseases and injuries. That powerful move of God called an awakening receded around 1972, and the healings waned. This, historians have observed, is typical of such awakenings. But now running through my beady little brain is a question: should we emphasize this again? I mean let others know they can come and receive prayer for healing, and of both kinds, physical and emotional. This outreach would be directed to people who live in our own community.

Currently, I am searching online for examples of services for healing. I am picturing a kind of formal, liturgical format, much like those found in mainline churches. After all, we don't have to depend on wild emotion for God to heal. Often, folks, and this in my personal remembrance and experience, people will claim healings that turn out not to be healings, chiefly because of undue excitement. We must remember that roughly half of those who show up at ERs suffer from psychosomatic illnesses. I will admit that as the awakening known as the Jesus People Movement came to a close, we resorted to tactics that were not either biblical or healthy, because we did not fully understand how God's Spirit works. And this error I want not to make again. Please let me know what you think.

I want to restate why we are developing the outreach to those without a church (CWC). There are so many people who, for any number of reasons, cannot attend a local brick and mortar church. And we are doing more than inviting people to view our Sunday morning worship service. We are hoping to be as much of a real church as we can possibly be. I suspect it will take us many years to realize this goal. So then, little by little, we move toward this work. And it is work. My favorite part of all this is the numbers of people who will be directly engaged in the work.

SEPTEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE				
1	8	15	22	29
Sunday Morning Sermon				
Kent	Kent	Kent	Kent	Jim
Evening Service				
Vern	Vern	Vern	Vern	Vern

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday night Bible Study – 7 pm—Romans

EVEN SONG—6 PM SUNDAY EVENINGS.

SUNDAY MORNING: Breakfast at 8:45am; Choir Practice at 9:30;

WATCH ON TV: The Bible Study—Fridays 8 pm—Comcast Channel 26 or AT&T 99.

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

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

IN THE TV STUDIO:

Bible Study: Thursday 9/5, 2–5pm

The Rabbi and The Pastor, Thursday 9/12, 2–5pm.

WWAC: Thursday 9/19 2–5pm; 9/26, 2–5pm.