

the Connection

04 SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

THE COMMITTED CHURCH

WRITTEN BY KEVIN WILLIAMS

The birth and early growth of Christ's church is recorded for us in the Book of Acts. Luke chronicles a thrilling account of God's supernatural work in building His church. The beginning was an explosion of 3,000 souls responding to the Gospel (Acts 2:41). What did the early church look like? How did these new believers follow Christ? Luke gives us a snapshot of their activity in Acts 2:42: "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."

The early church was active. They "continued steadfastly," which means they were devoted. And their commitment was focused on two main activities: the apostles' teaching and fellowship. Although our church gatherings may appear quite different with temperature-controlled facilities and comfortable seating, our commitment to the same activities should be just as fervent as those early believers.

Devotion to the apostles' teaching is paramount. We don't gather to share opinions; we come to hear from God. Only the God-breathed Scriptures will equip us for every good work (2 Tim 3:16-17). At Meadowlands, we have many opportunities to be equipped for ministry by gifted teachers (Eph 4:11-12). Starting September 13th, we will have Sunday school classes for all ages. We will also resume our discipleship training on Sunday evenings this fall, continuing through the Foundations book. Training in the Scriptures takes time and commitment, but that is what Christ's church does: "continues steadfastly in the apostles' teaching."

The early church was also committed to fellowship (Acts 2:42). This involves eating together (breaking bread), but it also includes worship, prayer, and service. Even the word "church" refers to a group of people assembled together. Christ's disciples need each other. Godly relationships are extremely important. In fact, the reason for "not forsaking the assembly" (Heb 10:25) is so we can "stir up love and good works in each other" (Heb 10:24).

Our adult fellowship groups and children's classes are designed to foster edifying relationships as well as growth in biblical knowledge. I urge you to commit to joining a group on Sunday mornings this fall. In addition to our time of worship together in the auditorium, you can enjoy the fellowship of learning from each other and caring for one another.

I believe that we should be no less committed to Bible teaching and Christian fellowship than the early church was. We need the truth and each other. The sacrifice of time or an extra hour of sleep is well worth it. I'm looking forward to seeing how God will use our devotion to Him and His church for His glory in the days ahead!

September



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30 OR 11 AM

We offer two services in the auditorium. The services will simultaneously be live streamed in the gymnasium (no singing), or available to you at home.

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- CALL TO WORSHIP
- "PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY"
- PRAYER
- "I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED"
- "THERE IS A REDEEMER"
- CHILDREN'S STORY
- "HE GIVETH MORE GRACE"
- MESSAGE: "CHRIST'S LOVE FOR HIS SHEEP"
JOHN 10:1-21 PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS
- "IN CHRIST ALONE"

Adult Fellowship Groups: *Begin next week!*

9:30 AM

Pastor Jerry
Sandi Stephens

Church History: Forerunners of the Faith
Ladies' Class: Matthew Presents Christ,
the Son of the Living God

11:00 AM

Will Breckenridge
Manuele Russo
Bob Cook
Jeff McConnell

Young Couples' Fellowship Group
The Epistles of John
Acts: The Birth of the Church
College & Career



WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY 7 PM

This service takes place in the auditorium. In addition, you may also participate in a Zoom group that will follow the same format at the same time (Please email kwilliams@meadowlandsbaptist.com for a Zoom invitation). For our Bible study we will discuss the following questions that relate to the Sunday morning sermon:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR JOHN 10:1-21

1. Which three words in this passage do you think are most significant?
2. What is being said about those three important words?
3. What does this passage say about Jesus?
4. How do people in this passage respond to Jesus?
5. How does this passage challenge or encourage you?
6. What from this passage can you share to encourage a fellow Christian?
7. What from this passage can you share with an unbeliever?



MISSIONARY UPDATE

LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH

Lighthouse had an opportunity to purchase a large, old hotel and bar a few blocks from our own building. A number of things needed to fall into place for us to be able to redeem this building for the Gospel, but God seems to have closed the door on this particular location. Please pray with us that God would lead us to the right location at the right time for the right price.

We rent out our own church building to a smaller congregation and rent a facility large enough for our growing church family. Because the most recent building we were renting is (literally) connected to a senior housing and care facility, our rental of the building has been put on hold so as not to unnecessarily expose an already vulnerable population to the COVID-19 threat. During these days of change, pray with us that we would be joyfully flexible.

FOUNDATION BAPTIST COLLEGE

Classes at Foundation Baptist College resume in late August. There will be a combination of in-person classes and Zoom classes this semester. Because our student enrollment is low right now, there is plenty of room for safe social distancing in the classroom. Please pray for more students for this coming semester and for Bud as he carries the burden of being the main teacher.

WCBF

Bud and Debbie traveled to Saskatchewan in early August to minister at a WCBF church currently without a pastor. Please pray for three churches in Saskatchewan which need replacement pastors. Also pray for one church whose older pastor wants to minister as long as God allows, but he has health issues and needs to work a secular job as well as pastor the church. All of the regular WCBF gatherings have been canceled for 2020. We are keeping connected via technology and wait to see what fellowship and ministry will look like post-pandemic.

TALBERT FAMILY

We are grateful that our family members are continuing to minister in their churches and communities. Dave and his family were prevented from returning to North America this summer because of issues surrounding the coronavirus. Please pray for them as most of their teaching and ministry team remain stuck in North America, even as the semester resumes soon in Shanghai.



Bud & Debbie Talbert

CALENDAR ITEMS:

Monday: The church office is closed for Labour Day.

Tuesday: Meadows Baptist Academy begins.

Wednesday: Kids 4 Truth begins at 7 pm.



Next Sunday: A baptism and new members' testimonies and joining service will be held at 6 pm.

Discipleship Training, *Foundations: Bible Truths for Christian Growth*, begins Sunday evenings, September 20th.

Deacon nominations continue until September 27th.

Guidelines for in-person gatherings may be found on our website.



Need to contact us?



Church Office

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Pastor Kevin Williams

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Pastor Jerry Ascher

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Pastor Mark Richmond

587-635-2752

David Treau

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GIVING

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