

DECEMBER FANNING THE FLAME TEAM REPORT

"[Jesus said] "You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." - Matt 5:14-16 NIV

Many folks are wondering (& some don't particularly worry about it) "where does Westminster stand now that we've had all these surveys & evaluations & Fanning the Flame reports?" In a nutshell, it's been observed that our little church is under tremendous attack from the enemy of our souls. This has been evidenced as we have seen that our folks' lives have been disrupted, others have been uprooted, relationships have been disrupted, over busy-ness; and in some cases, total complacency about our spiritual health has ruled the day. Satan does NOT want WPC to be a healthy church and is living up to Peter's warning, as he "goes about seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet 5:8,9). In one way, we should be encouraged that he takes notice of us—the evidence is that we're likely to be growing in grace & becoming more like Christ as we proceed; and therefore, the devil is ready to attack us and will start at our weakest points. It's time to gird up the loins and put on the whole armor of God (Eph 6:13-18).

With this in mind, at its December meeting your Fanning the Flame Servant Team members were challenged to move out of our comfort zone (also known as our 'comfortable pews') and begin to serve the Lord according to the examples given throughout Scripture. Sometimes, it's simply too easy to fall into the trap of having a "cruise ship" mindset about our Christianity where we are served without having to worry about serving—and are made very comfortable! Scripture presents an entirely different picture. Continuing with the metaphor of ships, Christians, and especially modern day Christians in America, need to re-think and re-tool to become engaged in outreach by taking on a "Biblical battleship" mindset – ready to do battle to win the world for Christ whether through church sponsored local outreach or personal evangelism or even missions "to the uttermost parts of the earth."

How can we begin to re-think our obedience & walk with the Lord to do that at WPC? We were encouraged by Coach Joe with the value of establishing prayer cell small groups in knitting our congregation together in love and zeal for Christ's kingdom. This will come about as we deepen our understanding of God and His word and prayer for one another through times of fellowship in close knit groups of 5-10 folks meeting once a month.

We'll "get our feet wet" in trying out prayer cell small groups beginning in February and continuing through May. As Christians focus together on prayer & scripture, experience in other churches has shown that our Heavenly Father opens surprising doors of opportunity for us to become involved in laying siege and bringing light to Satan's kingdom of darkness. The "battleship" begins to take the field (sorry for the mixed metaphor but you get the idea).

In other FTF business, the Crisis Planning Task Force has completed its work on the first draft of the proposed **Crisis Planning Manual** for Westminster. Your Session is currently reviewing it and will finalize it next. The **Communications Manual** Task Force has also presented its work to the Session for their approval. Final publication of these two vital materials will be forthcoming as soon as any remaining "bugs" are worked out.

Finally, if you were unable to attend the Open Meeting on Dec. 13th but have questions or comments on the Fanning the Flame process at Westminster, please ask any of the Team members who are more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

YOUR FTF SERVANT TEAM MEMBERS ARE:

Pastor Shelby Moon, Ruling Elder Fred Schreiber, Deacon Randy Steinhoff, RE (inactive) Les Cover, Members Bobbie Cover, Carla Curtis, Cathe Prather