

February 2017 FTF Report to the Congregation

SEEING OURSELVES AS OTHERS SEE US

The February Fanning The Flame Servant Team meeting with our Coach Joe Weatherly revealed several areas for this part of Christ's body (i.e., Westminster Church) to begin working on starting with....

...as the Team members have begun to dig more deeply into the culture of our congregation, the hard evidence begins to emerge: Westminster has become a place where we just settle in and get comfortable. We love the preaching & good bible teaching; we love the music, we love the order of worship, the atmosphere, our friends, and the food. Sounds a little like good place to spend a Sunday morning, doesn't it? Coach Joe has described us as a "consumer" congregation. In other words, we are here to see what we can get from the church as opposed to what we can give to Christ's Church.

Early on we studied the church as described in the opening chapters of the book of The Acts of the Apostles. The question raised here is clear: How does our church body compare to the example given in Scripture? Consider Acts 2:1, "*They were all with one accord in one place*" Are we gathering with one accord? Going further in Acts, we read that they continued "*steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers*" (2:42,44). As you read through Acts, a good exercise is to compare ourselves with the loving exuberance & sacrifice of those early Christians, all undergirded with continuous prayer & service.

And now we are approaching Month 11 in the Fanning the Flame process. You may ask, "What's changed?" As you've seen this month, the church has initiated the monthly Small Group Prayer Cells to bring together folks who want to learn more about being "*in one accord in one place...steadfast in the Apostles doctrine & fellowship...and in prayers.*" Yes, there's also the breaking of bread (not to be confused with Communion; it's mainly snacks or cookies & something to drink). It's not too late to join in if you haven't already done so! Check with Pastor Shelby to see where you may fit in.

Other news: The Lord has blessed our FTF Servant Team with a new member! Katy Bailey has stepped forward to serve as our Prayer Coordinator! Please join us in thanking our gracious Heavenly Father for this provision. It's been a matter of prayer for several months so this is an extra special blessing. Please uphold Katy in your prayers as she gets settled into her new role.

Carla Curtis has completed the official Westminster History. It's very revealing! It will soon be made available to those of you who are interested. Check with Session member Fred Schreiber for details.

Small Group Discipleship Task Force Servant Leader Cathe Prather reports that foundations are being laid and plans firming up for establishing permanent Small Group fellowships. The early reports on those plans look very good!

Fred Schreiber continues his work on discovering the Spiritual Gifts that the Lord has granted to each of His children. He will keep the congregation posted on how each of us can discover our special gift and then how to put that gift to work in furthering Christ's kingdom through our church. Remember, we are a body and each member of Christ's body has a very special function to perform! This will be an invaluable ministry to our church as more and more of our gifts are discovered and put into practice. A look at 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12 will show that none of us are here "just for show" – we have been bought with a price for good works and given at least one gift! What's yours? What's your passion and how can you put it into practice? Don't be shy. Contact Fred if you would like to discover your Spiritual Gift(s).

Our next Team meeting is scheduled for March 8th. Again, it will be a video conference with Coach Joe Weatherly. Remember, Coach Joe has issued an open invitation for "anyone who wants to talk" with him so call Bobbie Cover, 443-0361, soon and make your appointment to talk with Joe before all the slots are filled up!

For your encouragement, please take a few minutes to listen to a couple of short talks by Harry Reeder and Ligon Duncan at the Embers website. Just turn on your speaker, click on www.embersto aflame.org and then click on the two videos. Each takes less than 5 minutes of your time. Granted, they're encouraging folks to attend their next Seminar in April but as you listen to their messages you may find that you're encouraged in your relationship with the Church--whether or not you're interested in going to North Carolina in April.

"Finally, brothers, pray for us!" (And for Westminster!) The enemy of our souls & church is unrelenting in his attacks.

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