



*"... Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* Mark 10:43-45 (NIV)

Jesus came to serve and to give his life. The early Church followed His example. A hallmarks of the followers of the Way (what Christians were first called) was their love and care for each other and their love and care for the lost, hurting, lame, sick, and dying. Their love become so obvious to all people that the Romans would exclaim "look how they love".

Today a new trend of books on living the Christian faith are appearing. A trend calling us to back to service and sacrifice for the sake of the Jesus Christ. Calling us to recapture the passion of the early church to love and care for the poor by re-evaluating our lives, discerning the difference between wants and needs, and forgoing luxuries in order to be generous in mission and ministry.

In similar fashion, a new ministry is beginning to take shape. A ministry to serve children during the summer months. Opening our hearts and lives to children by opening the church a couple of hours, a couple of days each week, for children to come and have a safe place to hang out, play, and learn some skills too.

Plans are coming together, but we need your help. We need help from adults who will give an hour or two a week to be present when the we're open. We need help from people who would like to teach children some skills, such as baking chocolate chip cookies, or how to build a rubber-band powered model airplane, or put together a model kit, or teach knitting or guitar, or other craft skills. And we need prayer partners to commit to prayer for this new ministry.



## The Joyful Noise

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others... 1 Peter 4:10a (NIV)*

More details to come.

A servant of Christ Jesus,

**Pastor Jeff**

### **Discipleship**

1. Learn what Jesus taught - Study the Scriptures of Old and New Testament.
2. Do what Jesus taught - Live what you have learned from the Scriptures
3. Spread what Jesus taught - Go and make disciples of All Nations.

### **Prayer Moment: Prayer of Saint Jerome** (A.D. 342 - 420)

Lord, thou hast given us thy Word for a light to shine upon our path; grant us so to meditate on that Word, and to follow its teaching, that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Building Churches in partnership with Gospel for Asia**

We are partnering with Gospel for Asia and raising funds to build churches in Asia. By God's great grace, we have raised funds to build one church already. Our goal is to build a second church and be a blessing for a second Christian community of faith in Asia. Offerings for the five Thursday's

of Lent, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday were designated to this ministry.

**\$3,112.57** raised so far towards building a second church!

Praise God!

### **Walking in the Word – Tuesday Night Bible Study Will Meet April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

We meet in Pastor's study and conclude by 8:15 p.m.

### **Men's Outdoors Group heading to Cabela's Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.**

We'll leave from church at 9:00 a.m. for the Cabela's Outfitters new store in Columbus. We'll also eat lunch in the area and be back around 2'ish.

Loyal Followers of Christ - (LFC) -- Will meet on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> in Perkins Restaurant on North Limestone at 12:00 noon for lunch, fellowship, and a brief meeting.

Sewing & Service Circle -- Will meet on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 noon at the church to work on their regular projects. Remember to bring a sack lunch. Drinks and dessert will be furnished.

Ruth Circle --Will meet on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00, in the church. .

Women of Today – Will meet for their regular meeting on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 in the church.



### *Upcoming Events:*

Watch for more information coming up on our  
**\*Blessings in a Bottle Fundraiser** for  
the Parent Infant Center of Springfield  
- start collecting your spare change  
today!



**\*Undie Sunday Fundraiser** for IHN Men's Shelter  
-we will be collecting **new** men's undergarments of  
all kinds - under shirts, under shorts (boxers or tidy  
whities) and socks! We will cap off the project with  
special ice cream sundies during fellowship time  
that day!

The children in the Thursday Nights Together (TNT) ministry have been studying the parables of Jesus for the past 7 months. They are going to share many of these parables with the congregation during worship on Sunday, April 14. Please plan to attend and support the children and their ministry.



Jesus was asked why he spoke in parables. His reply is found in Matthew 13: 11-16.

*11 He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. 12 Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.*

*14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:*

*"You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. 15 For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them."*

*16 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. 17 For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.*

In Matthew 13:44 Jesus tells this brief parable:

*44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a*

*field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.*

Many people read the Bible (the field from this parable) and fail to find the treasure (Jesus) that is contained within its pages. Others attend worship on a regular basis, hear sermon after sermon and yet are little touched by the gospel of Jesus Christ. How can this be? How is it possible to read and hear God's word and never see or hear God's voice? How can we be seeing and yet blind, hearing and yet deaf?

It is the condition of our hearts. If our hearts are earnestly seeking the Lord, we will find Him. If however, we seek the Lord only half-heartedly (or less) we may pass the field and miss the treasure. Deuteronomy 4:29 states:

*29 But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

One of the songs the children from TNT learned this year comes from *Jeremiah 29:12-13*, which states:

*12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*

Again we see the importance of seeking Jesus with all our heart. My prayer for this congregation is the same as my prayer for the children of TNT. I pray that we find the treasure in the field and that we treat that treasure as the man in the parable. Everything we have we willingly give up to take hold of the treasure, to take hold of Jesus Christ.

God bless you,

**David Hare**

