

WESTPORT WITNESS

www.westportchristianchurch.com

November, 2009

Thanksgiving Supper

Sunday, November 22, at 5:00

Following the meal we will have a short service upstairs.

We will also be taking up our Thanksgiving offering.

Community Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 24, at 7:00

We will be hosting this service so please come and show your support. We will also have a time of refreshments following.

Community Christmas Tree Lighting

Sunday, November 29, 4-7:30.

Our Church will have a booth set up to give away goodies as well as hand out information about our church. If you would like to help with this, see Carolyn or Kenny Blanton.

Mike's Message... All I can say is WOW! and THANK YOU! Thank you for all the wonderful cards of encouragement. Ronda and I enjoyed opening and reading each and every one. What a blessing! Thank you for the gifts as well. We enjoyed those very much. As a matter of fact, we used some on our getaway.

The cards on the fence were really cool. I left them up over night and I was surprised at the number of people who stopped to read them Monday. Ronda and I saw a few sit in their car and laugh! What a blessing and what a WITNESS. What a witness to this community of the love which flows through and from this congregation.

I have no idea what you all have planned for Sunday night. John told me that it was for you all to know and for me to find out. Well, whatever it may be, thank you in advance.

What a wonderful congregation God has given me to serve here at Westport. It is truly a blessing to be serving alongside each of you. Each and every one of you are very special to Ronda and me and what a blessing you truly are to us. You all understand how important it is to share words of encouragement, your love, your patience and understanding with your preacher. And in case Randy is reading this, YES, I am the leader of the cry-baby club!

I would like to take a moment to praise our elders. Those who are currently serving as well as those coming on board. God has blessed us with men who understand the importance of studying God's word, praying and leading by example. What a great turn out we had for the elders and deacons training. *Continued inside. . .*

Mike's Message continued . .going on. One of them said, "good luck getting them to show up." I called him and shared with him the kind of turn out we had and he couldn't believe it. He stated, "God must really be working there for them to come to the class." To that I added, "AMEN!"

I'm reminded of a story which I read a few years back about a preacher who was leaving the church he was serving. At the going-away party, people brought gifts, cards, and many other things to the preacher and his wife. After opening the gifts and reading the cards, the preacher looked at the people and said, "If I had known you all cared this much, I would have stayed."

Thank you for showing me you care. Thank you for loving my family. Thank you for allowing me to grow with you. Thank you for allowing me to push you out of your comfort zone. (Just in case I need to tell you, I'm not done)

Again, THANK YOU!

Growing together,

Mike & Ronda

Elders Express

Several weeks ago, Mike preached on sin during our morning worship time. This past month for Christ Driven Teens our first topic was on sin in which I gave the following message below. I think it is important that we do in fact understand what sin is today as many people just want to ignore the topic because it makes them feel bad about themselves. I, however, feel the need for us to continually understand what sin is in order for us to be able to address it in our lives.

The Bible is the only authority in which we are to live our lives by. When it comes to defining sin we need to turn to scripture to define it. 2 Timothy 3:16 says: "*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.*" Sin is God's people practicing Lawlessness and behavior in an unrighteous manner. God has given us commandments to follow and not practicing them is going against his law or in other words sinning.

Jack Cottrell in his book "Faith Once For All" lists five ways the Bible describes sin according to New Testament scriptures.

1) Sinning = "to err, to go astray, to wander away from the truth" This is used in both the Old and New Testament in reference to sheep who have gone astray. The Bible talks about us as sheep often and as Jesus as our Chief Shepherd who can guide us in all ways. In Psalms 119:176 the psalmist David describes his sinning like a sheep having gone astray. "*I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, For I do not forget Your commandments*". Jesus clearly likens us to sheep who have gone astray or sinned against God. We of course could wander away from God by accident, but sinning is willfully going against God's commandments.

- 2) Sinning = "to miss the mark" This is the most frequently used terminology for sin in the New Testament. In reference to sin, this is intentionally, willfully missing the mark rather than attempting follow God's commandments.
- 3) Sinning = "unrighteousness" In 2 Corinthians 6 Righteousness and lawlessness are placed opposite each other. This comparison shows unrighteousness being described as sin. 1 Timothy 1:9 informs us the law is made for the unrighteous or those who have sinned against God. Sin is therefore unrighteousness.
- 4) Sin = "Disobedience" Ephesians 2:2 describes those who are disobedient as being dead in our sin. Romans 3:23 says that all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.
- 5) Sin = "to go over, go beyond or to pass over" In reference to sin, it means to transgress the law. What Laws are we talking about? Those commandments given to us by Jesus under the New Covenant. Jesus said as recorded in Matthew Chapter 5: "*I came not to abolish the law, but to fulfill the Law*". He went on then to describe some Old Testament Laws given to Moses and took them to a new level. Jesus was dealing with matters of sinning within your heart.

When did sin come into this world? In Genesis 2: We see God placing Adam and Eve into the Garden and telling them that they can eat from any tree of the garden, but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you cannot eat. The serpent tempted Adam and Eve as recorded in Chapter 3 and they did eat from the tree. As a result of this first violation of God's Law, sin first entered into the world. Now we are not all born sinners today because as Paul records in Romans 5:12-21 we are all covered under grace as long as we are obedient to Christ Jesus and are born again. We are born into Grace until the age of accountability when we know right from wrong. When we violate God's Law we then become sinners.

Who tempts us to Sin? Is it Satan? Yes, he is the master deceiver, but he isn't all knowing as God and is limited to this world. He isn't the only one that is responsible for sinning. James 1:12 informs us that God himself does not tempt but that we allow ourselves to be tempted by our own lusts and when we give into these desires, they give birth to sin in our lives which brings about death.

1 Corinthians 10:13 tells us that God will not allow ourselves to be tempted more than we can handle. Part of the problem though is that we allow ourselves to be taken away by our own lust and introduce sin into our own lives.

1 Timothy 2:22 says that we are to flee from our youthful lusts and pursue righteousness so we can be Holy and blameless before our God. So what does sin look like? Can we see it? In general we cannot see sin unless it is placed in front of us, such as Adultery, Taking the Lord's name in vain or we witness an angry outburst. We attempt to conceal our sin from others, but need to beware. What we think we can conceal is really written on us to be seen. What we think we conceal is seen by God always. There is freedom from Sin if we take Jesus as our Lord and Savior and are buried with Him in Christian baptism where we rise to be new creatures in Christ.

Watch yourselves daily. Walk in righteousness in the ways of our Lord Jesus as he commanded and taught us.

Serving Him John

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <u>Daylight Savings Time Ends</u> Family Sunday	2 Good News Club Encouraging Others 6:30	3 S.C.I.M.C.F. Women's Business Meeting 7:00	4 Bible Study 7:00	5	6	7
8 Ministry Outreach Skybird Manor 3:00	9 Encouraging Others 6:30 Board Meeting 7:00	10 WCC God's Men 6:15	11 Bible Study 7:00	12	13	14
15	16 Encouraging Others 6:30	17	18 Bible Study 7:00	19	20	21 Youth Thanksgiving Party at the Riggs 6:00-7:30
22 Ministry Outreach Morning Breeze 2:30 **Thanksgiving Supper** See below	23	24 Community Thanksgiving Service 7:00 We will be hosting.	25 No Bible Study	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27	28 Woodsmen Quartet in concert 7:00
29 Ministry Outreach Morning Breeze 2:30 Community Tree Lighting Celebration 4:00-7:30	30 Encouraging Others 6:30		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> We will have our ALL church Thanksgiving Supper at 5:00. After we eat we will go upstairs for a short program. We will also be taking up our special Thanksgiving offering. Make plans now to see what God can do through us! </div>			

Birthdays

10th Shirley Newland
13th Larry Glover
15th Lillian Murray
19th Louise Klerk
29th Carol Brown
30th Margaret Wiley

Anniversaries

2nd Kyle & Gloria Alumbaugh
10th Dennis & Shirley Newland