



New Dawn

New Beginning Evangelical Presbyterian

Volume 2, Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2009

SEPTEMBER



09/12 - Angie Peens
09/14 - Tina Johnson
09/23 - Diane Richardson
09/24 - Susanne Dusing
09/26 - Mollie Evans
09/26 - Alexa Hodge
09/26 - Steve Riser
09/27 - Bob Aardema
09/28 - Michael Smith
09/29 - Carolyn Hall

September 27, 2009

BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH
DAY



Labor Day
September 7, 2009

Patriot Day (remembrance of Sept. 11)
September 11, 2009

Church Work Day
September 12, 2009 8:30 AM

Breakfast at the Matchett Shelter
8:30 AM
September 13, 2009

What If Thirty Days Could Change Your
Church
September 13, 20 and 27th

National Grandparents Day
September 13, 2009

Women's Bible Study at the Richardson's
September 15, 2009 7:00 PM

National Hispanic Heritage Month
September 15-October 15, 2009

First Day of Autumn
September 22, 2009

**2009 September Sermon Series
Becoming a Healthy Disciple**

Date	Time	Meeting
2	6:30 PM 6:30 PM	Prayer Mtg. @ Library Girl Scout Meeting
6	9:30 AM 10:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:00 PM	Sunday School Praise Team Worship Service Congregational Meeting
7	Labor Day - Church Closed	
9	6:30 PM	Prayer Mtg. @ Library
12	8:30 AM	Church Work Day
13	8:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 11:00 AM	Breakfast - Shelter Sunday School - 30 Days #1 Praise Team Worship Service
14	7:00 PM	Session Ministry Teams 16
15	7:00 PM	Ruth Circle @ Richardson's
16	6:30 PM 6:30 PM	Prayer Meeting @ Library Girl Scout Meeting
18	6:00 PM	Crafts with Jen Bozman @ NBEPC
20	8:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 11:00 AM	Leadership Training # 1 Sunday School - 30 Days #2 Praise Team Worship Service
23	6:30 PM	Prayer Mtg. @ Library
27	8:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 11:00 AM	Leadership Training #2 Sunday School - 30 Days #3 Praise Team Worship Service
28	7:00 PM	Joint Officer Meeting
30	6:30 PM	Prayer Meeting @ Library

6 - # 1 - Becoming a Healthy Church/Disciple Communion

In this sermon series we want to broaden and strengthen our understanding of what it means to be a fully devoted follower of Christ. What is a healthy disciple? What is the proper context for becoming a healthy disciple of Christ? What can we learn from the “beloved” disciple?

13 - # 2 – Experiencing God’s Empowering Presence – John 14:26

What kind of posture does God desire for His followers? A healthy disciple understands the essential role of the Holy Spirit and he lives daily with a fresh reality of His presence and power. What is the role of the Spirit? We have all of the Holy Spirit but does He have all of us?

20 - # 3 – Engaging in God Exalting Worship John 4:23-24

An important characteristic of a healthy disciple is that he engages wholeheartedly in meaningful, regular, God-focused corporate worship with the family of God and daily personal devotions. What is Christian worship? True worship enlivens the spirit and expands the truth of God within the family of faith.

27- Grasping the Declarations of the Cross Romans 5:6-11 (Evangelistic)

The Cross of Christ is a declaration of God’s love. It declares the magnitude, uniqueness and depth of God’s love. Today, we want to consider the declarations of the cross and how God would have us respond to His love. This evangelistic sermon is for your un-churched friends, please bring them with you! Thank you!

Women in Ministry Prayer and Bible Study

All women of the church are invited and encouraged to attend our monthly bible study and prayer sessions beginning again on September 15, 2009. These meetings serve as a wonderful time of sharing and laughter, in addition to bible study and prayer. Women who attend enjoy the support of one another (and who doesn't need that?!) and develop close friendships that are very rewarding. Much like Christ and His disciples, we meet as a small group to bond and grow spiritually. We can "download" our concerns, and "upload" encouragement and strength.

We meet the third Tuesday evening (watch the bulletin for locations and times) during September through November and January through May – only 8 times before 2010 summer break. We also have a couple of very special get-togethers that you won't want to miss. Surely you can find the time to be a part of our ministry. Every woman of the church (whether or not you are a member of NBEPC) can add something by your presence. Friends are welcome, too!

This year, we will not be following one particular bible study reference book, as we have in past years. In general we will be discussing overcoming various barriers to passionate spirituality. Among other resources, we will delve into a variety of selected topics from Breaking Free – Discover the Victory of Total Surrender, by Beth Moore, and Me, Myself, and Lies: A Thought Closet Makeover, by Jennifer Rothschild. We will also frequently review quotes from The Screwtape Letters, by C. S. Lewis. It is not necessary to purchase these books for our study sessions. No pre-work will be required, and no homework assigned, other than suggestions for personal prayer and reflection as desired. However, these reference books are excellent resources, if you are looking for more study material. They can be ordered through Amazon.com, in new or used condition. For purposes of our study, I will provide hand-outs each month to guide our discussions. All you will need is your bible.

The current study plan looks something like this (but will likely evolve a bit as we go):

Session 1	Overview of common barriers to passionate spirituality; Unbelief
Session 2	Pride
Session 3	Idolatry
Session 4	Prayerlessness; Learn to "pray" scripture
Session 5	Broken Hearts and Lack of Forgiveness
Session 6	Unrealistic Self-talk and Self-Image
Session 7-8	De-programming and Re-programming – It's not all about me

Please come and contribute, or simply enjoy the presence of God and the wisdom of other women of faith. These opportunities to laugh, cry, pray and study together are precious gifts from a God who loves us and wants us to lift one another up in His name as we seek His face. It has been said, "What gets scheduled, gets done." Make Women In Ministry bible study a priority on your schedule.

Ada Spegal, W.I.M 2009/10 Bible Study Leader



Words of Encouragement from the Worship Team

Going Through the Motions or Filled with Passion? Revelation 3: 2, 15-20 NIV

Webster's Dictionary defines *passion* as: "Something that is desired intensely; irresistible motive for belief or action."¹ So, what are you passionate about – your job, your family, your hobby, social concerns? Many are passionate about these good things. Many people don't seem to be passionate about much of anything. Only a very few people are passionate about their faith. Maybe you believe you are one of those few. After all, you come to church regularly, read your daily devotional (most days), pray daily (at least you quickly say "grace" at mealtime), and you can recite the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed, and you know the lyrics to many sacred hymns. You know what a Christian should say and how to act. Surely anyone this spiritual would be described as passionate about their faith, right? As we have heard Dr. Riser often say, "Sounds good; but is God convinced?"

God's Word tells us in Revelation 3:2, "*Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.*" Revelation 3:15-16 states, "*I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm-neither hot nor cold-I am about to spit you out of my mouth.*" Now, what does that mean? How will God do that? Perhaps, He will withhold His blessing from us and allow us to wallow in our own discomfort. Perhaps He will allow us to and reap just what we sow – nothing much.

Maybe when we take a more realistic look at our faith walk, we will find that we are often just going through the motions. This passage in Revelation 3 goes on in verse 17 to say, "*You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.* Wow! Now, *that's* a more realistic look at our faith walk - from God's perspective. We all experience peaks and valleys in our faith walk, but without concerted effort (i.e., passion) we will experience far more valleys than peaks. We will remain "*wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked*" in our faith walk.

Singer/song writer, Matthew West, writes, "*I was frustrated and tired of that constant settling for a stale faith. God is a God of passion. His true plan for our lives is anything but boring. Every day, the God of adventure beckons his sons and daughters to quit going through the motions and walk into a life filled with passion and wonder.*" That's why he wrote the song, *The Motions*. Here is a portion of the lyrics:

This might hurt. It's not safe;
But I know that I've gotta make a change
I don't care if I break
At least I'll be feeling something
'Cause just okay is not enough
Help me fight through the nothingness of life

I don't wanna go through the motions
I don't wanna go one more day
Without Your all consuming
Passion inside of me
I don't wanna spend my whole life asking
What if I had given everything
Instead of going through the motions?

No regrets; Not this time
I'm gonna let my heart defeat my mind
Let Your love make me whole
I think I'm finally feeling something
'Cause just okay is not enough
Help me fight through the nothingness of this life

'Cause I don't wanna go through the motions
I don't wanna go one more day
Without Your all consuming
Passion inside of me
I don't wanna spend my whole life asking
What if I had given everything
Instead of going through the motions?

Take me all the way (I know I'm finally feeling something real)
Take me all the way ²

Are you ready to feel something real? Don't you want God to take you all the way? As we read on in Revelation 3: 18-20, God assures us with these words, "*I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*" What sweet communion and abundant living is ours to enjoy if we passionately seek Him. So be earnest and agree with God today (repent) about your "spirituality". Ask Him for an irresistible motive and an intense desire to be a passionate disciple of Christ in your daily living. Don't spend another day asking yourself, "What if I had given everything instead of going through the motions?"

Ada Spegal for the Worship Team

¹ (www.websters-online-dictionary.org)

² **Christian Music News & Reviews**, Story Behind the Song: Matthew West's "The Motions".

Author: CCMmagazine.com <http://www.kbiqradio.com/Article.asp?id=1384547&spid=18443>



Hi Pastor Steve

I just wanted to say thank you from all of us for helping with our dilemma in getting our furniture. I will never forget what you have done; I miss all of you so much and wish I was there. I am still church searching and we have been visiting a couple of churches, but the people over here are not as friendly. I realized that making someone feel welcome is what brings them back and we have not experienced it yet. I believe that we will find a church, but for now we are still looking.

Anton has had a couple of interviews and as I am writing he is at an interview and then he has another one tomorrow. Angie started school on Thursday and so far she is enjoying it. She also has a cooking class and I was thinking about Mrs. Alice, because that is what she is teaching. Tasha is doing fine and luckily it is easy living with my brother.

Please send my love to everyone at New Beginnings and thank you again for helping us.

Love You
Maria

LADIES CRAFT NIGHT

Every Third Friday of the month from 6:00 – 9:00 PM
Downstairs in the Fellowship Hall
@ NBEPC

(Excluding December)

Ladies here is a chance to learn and make a new craft.
Work on that unfinished project, scrapbook and enjoy some girl time!!

Various crafts will be taught throughout the year with a material list so you can be prepared for the featured craft.

October

Shannon Weihoff will show us how easy plastic canvas crafts can be. For those of you that like to get a jump on Christmas this could be available in September.

PLEASE SEE ME (JEN BOZMAN) FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION

I hope to see you there!!



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Making Resolutions to God

God approves of resolutions. Any and all resolutions for good have God's approval - *if we resolve by faith in Jesus*. I would like to encourage you to make some resolutions. Socrates said, "*The unexamined life is not worth living.*" Well, the *examined* life is not worth living either if the examination produces no resolutions. What examination and experience teach us is that the unplanned life settles into fruitless routine. The drifting life - the coasting, *que-sera-sera*, unreflective life - tends to be a wasted life. The opposite of this is self-examination - life-examination, routine-examination, schedule-examination, heart-examination - followed by "*resolves for good.*" That's what I encourage you to do. Here's why I think God will be pleased when you do this by faith in Jesus.

Paul says in [2 Thessalonians 1:11-12](#): *To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ*

I find this extremely encouraging. Paul prays for us - and I pray for *you* even as I write this - that God will "*fulfill every resolve for good*" that we have. This means that it is good to have resolves. God approves of it. It also means that our resolving is important, but that God's enabling us to "*fulfill*" the resolves is crucial. Paul wouldn't pray if God's help weren't needed. "*The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps*" ([Proverbs 16:9](#)).

But it matters *how* we resolve. When Paul says, "*every resolve for good and every work of faith,*" he's not describing 2 different acts. He is describing one act in 2 ways. It is a "*resolve for good*" because we will it. It is a "*work of faith*" because we depend on Jesus to give us power to fulfill it. That's *how* we resolve - by faith in Jesus.

So Paul says that the fulfilling of the resolve is "*by his power.*" That's what we are depending on. That's what we are looking for when we resolve. We are looking to Jesus who promised to be with us and help us. "I know that through . . . *the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ* this will turn out for my deliverance" ([Philippians 1:19](#)).

This explains the words "*so that*" in Paul's prayer: "*...so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you.*" When you resolve something good and trust in the power of Jesus to help you do it, then "*the name of our Lord Jesus is glorified.*" If you depend on *your* willpower, *your* name will be glorified.

So Christian resolutions are different from the world's resolutions. We believe that by grace alone we have been "called"- that is, captured by the truth and beauty of Christ. We resolve things not to make God be for us, but because he is *already* for us - that's what his call makes plain. He opens our eyes to see and trust Christ. He shows us, in the cross, that he is totally for us. All our resolves are to walk more worthily of this calling.

They are *faith* resolves - faith that we are loved and called and justified. *And* faith that therefore Jesus will help us do what we resolve to do. When we resolve like that, the name of our Lord Jesus is magnified.

So pause sometime soon. Pause and examine your life. Examine what is missing that should be there. What is there that should be removed? What new dreams for ministry might you venture? What new habits do you want to build into your schedule? What new steps can you take toward discipleship and disciple making?

Remember: God will be pleased with new resolves for good if you resolve by faith in Jesus. I am praying for you "*that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power.*"

Seeking to glorify the Lord Jesus with you, Pastor Steve

Date: September 13, 2009
Event: Church – wide Sunday School Kickoff Breakfast
Time: 8:30 AM
Where: Matchett Shelter

September 13, 20, 27 and October 4:

What If Thirty Days Could Change Your Church? Just imagine what might happen if every member of our church had the same goal and the same passion; if we were all moving in the same direction; and if that direction was the one Christ has set. In this special four-week series, we will come together as one adult class to regain focus on what our church ought to be doing, and how we can match our goal and passion with that of Christ. Beginning on September 6, you'll need to read a brief daily devotion; a booklet is available in the narthex for each family. In class, we will dive deeper in our understanding and application of the lessons with the use of discussion questions, in subgroups led by our ruling Elders. Come to the September 13th study having read the first seven days in the booklet.



Article by Deke Moffitt

When God Seems Silent

The most difficult time of my life is when God is silent about what is going on. We all have times of struggle when we don't understand what is going on with our families. Why am I struggling so much with my job situation? Why do people not understand what is going on with me? Why do other people seem to have things go so easily while my life is filled with pain and suffering?

Like Job's three friends, everyone seems to know what I'm doing or not doing that God would be so silent. We seem to forget that it was God who said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?"

Job 1:8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

To many it is unthinkable that God would suggest such a thing. Job, a man whose heart was totally dedicated to his God..perfect and an upright man that reared God and turned from all evil.

Job was all alone in his struggle. Even his wife didn't understand what was going on. She told him to just curse God and die.

Job 2:9-10 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die. But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

Well-meaning people try to offer "one-liner" encouragements, which is of course their attempt to help you through your struggles. However, unless you yourself have lost a child through a tragic accident or a terminally ill disease, it's difficult to really offer a word of encouragement. Not that we shouldn't try, but it might be more honest to say something like "I can't imagine what you are going through or how you must feel, but I know it's got to hurt. I will pray that God will shower you in His love and comfort."

How can we personally deal with the pain of silence and discouragement? Here are a few suggestions:

1. Tell God how you really feel. He already knows and can handle whatever you throw at Him. It's easy to ignore what's going on, or lie about it. But to do so can be emotionally deadly. Even Christ got depressed and told His heavenly Father that He didn't want to have to go through the cup of suffering which He was facing.
2. Begin meditating frequently on the Word of God. God's Word will bring into focus a clear picture of your struggle. His Word allows you to accurately judge between His will for your life verses personal feelings and attitudes. (Ps. 3:2-4; 16:7-8; 55:22; 63:6-9; 77:12; 119:15).
3. Take your area of suffering to God in prayer. Ask Him to reveal what He wants to teach you in this area of your life.
4. Focus on God, not your situation. Ask Him to help you see this struggle and its lessons from His perspective.
5. Understand that nothing comes to you that doesn't pass through His loving hands first.

Confess these three truths aloud:

1. The Father is with me in the struggle.
2. He's in control of my life and has allowed this for a reason.
3. He is a good God, who will turn this pain into a blessing to me and those around me.

Emotional pain and discouragement may seem harmless, but don't underestimate its destructive power. By keeping watch, you can avoid the deadly trap of not believing that God is in the details of your life and He has a purpose for it all. He will see you through it all.

Psa 34:17-19 The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.



Message from Session

In mid August, Session learned that Maria Peens and her family were not able to receive the household goods that they shipped to South Africa because they were unable to pay an additional \$1,191 charge imposed by the shipper. Session decided to help the Peens and paid the shipper so the Peens could get delivery of their household items. We are happy to report that they are now received.

We are glad that we were able to help the Peen family, but we do not wish to short-change other benevolence areas. Session has authorized a designated fund for the Peens shipping costs. Anyone who wishes to contribute to it may do so by clearly marking their contribution and putting it in the offering plate or by sending it to the church office. All money that is received will be used to reimburse the funds that were sent.

Thank you for considering this cause. Maria sends her thanks and her love for this congregation.

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