

Family News

"For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." Ephesians 2:18,19

If you are a visitor to our church, welcome! If you have questions, we welcome them; please do not hesitate to ask Park Linscomb, our minister (the tall guy) or any other church member.

N . E . W . S .

OUR HOMECOMING EVENT

AN OPEN HOUSE & HOMECOMING EVENT Our Rock Hill Open House and Homecoming is just 3 weeks away, October 16th. We want this to be a great time to show off Rock Hill and what we are doing here. Please be 1) praying for this effort, 2) invite people to this effort, and 3) give a helping hand to prepare for the effort, when it is asked.

WELCOME to the newest and youngest Rock Hill addition, Emerson Shotwell. She arrived at a healthy weight and is being smothered with love care from mom, dad, sister, and Mimi.

OUR NEW OUTREACH PROGRAM We are collecting food and household items to contribute to various food banks in the area. There are collection tubs in the back of the church building by the water fountains. The current list of food and other needed items are on the table by the tubs. If you would rather contribute money, a money jar is on the table for your convenience. Please keep this outreach effort in your prayers.

THE BAUTISTAS are both a bit under the weather: John with a leg catheterization and Norma with a knee injury. Please pray.

SUE CARTER is in Baylor Hospital in McKinney for complications with her diabetes and blood issues

NEW WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY — When Park returns our Wednesday evening Bible study will be diving into the book of Revelation (starting Oct.5, Lord willing). If you're not a regular Wednesday evening attendee, consider coming in person to hear teachings and ask questions about this inspired NT book.

THE PITTSFIELD MA MISSION EFFORT: The group has arrived in Pittsfield and have promoted this event in the town and in the surrounding area. Please continue to pray for this effort including the Gospel meeting itself, Sept. 25-28 and the Rock Hill group that is is there: Charles, Park, Tom and Nancy R, Hugh and Trudi R, Linda S, and Elizabeth H. The Pittsfield gang will return Sept. 29. Park will be preaching on the subject of the afterlife. Pray for fruitful efforts.

LADIES' ACTIVITIES The fall ladies' Bible class continues each

Tuesday at 10AM. It's great time of sharing, Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Make plans to be there.

PRAYER LISTS...

Prayers needed

- Sue C. in hospital
- Chuck T. cancer treatments
- Betty Shaw, Doug's sister. Very ill, now in hospice
- Dianna C.'s cancer markers have gone up
- Recovery from eye surgery for Ora Holt
- Isela H.'s Jeff Barnett with stage 4 brain cancer.

Remember these often:

- Ora Holt, kidney
- Search for a PT youth minister
- brethren in India
- the churches in New England
- our congregational leaders

Long Term Requests

- Bonnie B.
- Carol P.
- Dale and Lavonia C.
- Julia's nurse friend, Michaela
- The Zapata's teenage friend Isabella with a heart lesion
- Travis Y. feeding tube
- Dianna C.
- Ken C.
- Mary H. and daughter Sharon
- Cheryl F.
- Ann S.

READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Sep 25, Nahum all
- Sep 26, Habakkuk all
- Sep 27, Zephaniah all
- Sep 28, Haggai all
- Sep 29, Zechariah 1-3
- Sep 30, Zechariah 7-10
- Oct 1, Zechariah 11-14
- Oct 2, Malachi 1-4

Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. (Psalm 56:3)

A Word of Encouragement

"For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it." Hebrews 2:1, NAS95.

Standing for 1st Century Christianity in the 21st Century

American culture (and most of western culture) is one that prides itself on being advanced, thoroughly modern, progressive, and sophisticated. If we're not changing, innovating, and tweaking things, we are stagnant, old-fashioned, or losing ground. We hold in contempt or pity those countries, societies, or groups that don't keep up with what we consider to be the leading edge, because change (it is thought) is always better, always to be preferred, and always good—that's why we mistakenly call any kind of change "progress".

For this reason, Christians live in times of great pressure to advance, be thoroughly modern, be progressive, and be sophisticated. Many wannabe religious sociologists read the current polls and offer dire warnings to churches about the need to come into the 21st century before we fall so far behind that we become "irrelevant" to our modern world and begin losing our membership by the droves—let alone fail to grow numerically. Worship services, it is argued, need to reflect our "entertainment culture"—more flash, more laughter, more applause. Sermons need to always be encouraging, positive, non-judgmental, and above all short. The music of worship needs to be catchy, upbeat, fresh, transcendent, and instrumentally electrified—rock and pop are preferred, please. Our messages must become politically correct; sins as defined by the Bible, must be soft-pedaled, and the new morality must be pushed as the official stance of the faithful. Words like discipleship, sin, Hell, and judgment must no longer be spoken; while words like spirituality, love, inclusion, and feelings have become the new "legal tender" of religious people. And many a church leader has quaked in his shoes at the grim prophecies of these poll-inspired "prophets", and obeyed the call to change! "After all," they say in their own defense, "these are extraordinary, unprecedented times!"

Yet, the Bible, in both the Old Testament and the New, virtually chants, "Stay with the pattern." The Scriptures tells us again and again to follow God's pattern or type:

- some verses calling us to be imitators (1 Corinthians 11:1)
- some verses: disciples (Matthew 28:19),
- others: calling us to hold fast (1 Corinthians 15:2)
- and to stand firm (Ephesians 6:11)
- to teachings (2 Thessalonians 2:15)
- to practices (1 Peter 5:12),
- and to faith (Revelation 2:13),
- still others charging us to do what other churches had also been taught to do (1 Corinthians 16:1),
- and still more warning us not to stray from the original teachings (Galatians 1:8, 9).

You can barely turn to a page in the Bible where it isn't commanded, praised, or exhorted that we should not change course from God's patterns, forms, and ways.

And if this last statement is true (and it is), it tells us something that you may not have thought about: the modern pressure to modernize is anything but unprecedented! That is to say, there have always been pressures for God's people to change, to be more "relevant", to leave God's pattern behind, and to come into the modern age—whatever century it might be. But God's command is, and always has been "stand firm".

Park Linscomb