



FOOTHILLS
F E L L O W S H I P

March 2015

The Foothills Flyer: Keeping the Church on Mission

SPIRITUAL GIFTS IMPERATIVE

sermons. small groups. online. at home.
EVERYONE!

March 2015



Value: Holistic Discipleship

by Pastor Joe Eastman

If you look at the nine core values we have established as a church, you will see that we are a church that believes in being on mission. In short, we believe we are a “sent” people. The fact is, there is one aspect of our lives with Christ, which is often overlooked, that is essential if we are to excel in our calling as a “sent” people. This aspect is in the area of spiritual gifts. For that reason, in March, we are launching the “Spiritual Gifts Imperative.”

It’s imperative because spiritual gifts are imperative to our walk with Christ, imperative for the fulfillment of our individual callings, and imperative to the life and effectiveness of the church. Because it is such a vital area, starting the first week of March, there will be a roll-out of several resources designed for everyone to study, and understand not just the theology of spiritual gifts, but their actual deployment for today. It starts with this article, rolls into a couple of sermons, and then more’s online. In addition, the hope is that all small groups will seriously consider taking a week in March to go over the material together. Additionally, the material will be made available for anyone to do from home via an online class connected to the Foothills website, www.thefoothills.us.

As a church we take seriously our status as “sent” people, so I am asking everyone who goes over the material to return the questionnaire (paper copies will be available at church and online) to me, so that we as a church family can take advantage of the spiritual gift profile of our church and help you to find opportunities to deploy them: in the church, community, and the world.

If we take the Bible seriously as the word of God, we can’t help but see that we serve a powerful God. Not only is He the God who desires to use His church to impact the world and grow His Kingdom in all His Glory, but guess what? He is our God who has equipped us in multiple ways for the task! Thank you for considering and praying about your gifting. I pray that the material helps you to: Discover your gifts, be Driven closer to Christ, and be Deployed for his service. That my friends is what we call the “Triple D”!

Youth: Engage Global Exposure Week

Value: **Everyone a Minister**

by Tom Rouston

As you know, our youth group has an amazing opportunity this summer to join up with Engage Global, in Minneapolis, and dive into the Muslim culture. Engage Global has set up an exposure week for us. We will experience Islamic food, be able to shop at a market place that has been compared to a market in North Africa, engage in conversations with people of the Muslim faith, and most importantly, learn how to bridge the gap between Christianity and Islam. Engage Global will be giving us classes on the culture, the faith, and understanding the differences between Islam and the western culture. This education will give our students a firm grasp and greater confidence in sharing their faith within a Muslim culture setting.

I am excited to go on this trip and be able to show our students what it means to live out some of our church's core values including: "Everyone a Minister", "Unity in Community", and "Global Missions". This is a great opportunity to show that our church's mission can be put into practical use in our community and on a global scale. It is extremely important to show our students that, though they are young, they still have the opportunity to make a significant impact for the Lord's Kingdom.

I am asking that you pray for us. Pray that those students the Lord is calling will be able to join us. Pray for safety during travel and while in Minneapolis. Pray for an open mind and heart, that Christ may teach us what we need to know to be a light to the Muslim people. I also ask that you pray about and consider financially supporting one of our students. This is a big trip, and unfortunately, it comes with a bigger than normal travel expense. If you can help, please let me know. Thank you for all your support and prayers.

Why We Observe Lent

Value: **Ancient Future Worship**

by Pastor Mike Potter

This is the 5th year that our church family is observing the season of Lent together. Each year, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is 40 days before Easter - not counting Sundays. On that day, Christians receive ashes on their foreheads as a reminder from the Scriptures to "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Therefore, consider yourself dead to sin and alive in Jesus Christ." Lent then ends on Easter Sunday when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. We may have begun this practice as a church in 2010, but since the beginning of the early church, there is evidence of some kind of Lenten preparation for Easter.

Lent became more unified and more widely practiced after the legalization of Christianity in A.D. 313, and by the end of the 4th century, the 40-day period of Easter preparation known as Lent existed - and prayer and fasting constituted its primary spiritual exercises. Before the English word "Lent" was used, the word used for it in Latin and Greek literally meant the "fortieth day" before Easter. Over time, the church worldwide began observing the season of Lent in order to prepare for Easter by calling Christians to 40 days of repentance and renewal.

Today, we are encouraged to view this season as a time to re-establish, maintain, repair, and transform our relationship with God by fasting (giving up something), praying (more deliberately and more consistently than usual with a focus on confession of sin and repentance), and by giving (sacrificially of our time and/or possessions to help those in need). Simply, it's a time when we more deliberately choose to model our living off of the life of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This is to be done NOT as act of willpower, but as an act of worship and preparation.

During Lent, Sundays are considered special and are to be days of celebration. We'll celebrate when we gather for worship, and you are encouraged to celebrate with your small group and/or your family. If you're fasting, you're encouraged to break your fast. The mourning we engage in during the week as we remember our sin is to turn to joy on Sundays as we remember the resurrection of Jesus who paid the price for our sins. And then on Resurrection Sunday (April 5th), we will gather together to worship and celebrate like on no other Sunday of the year. It's then that we'll proclaim together, "He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!"

Evangelism at the Foothills –Part 2

Value: Everyone a Minister

by Rod Pauls, Elder

Last month I gave you two reasons why evangelism gets a bad rap. A third reason is that many people feel very inadequate when it comes to sharing their faith. When they see people like Billy Graham or Ravi Zacharias who are very articulate and who speak with power and persuasiveness they feel that they could never measure up. When they hear stories of how other people walk up to perfect strangers and share the gospel or have conversations regularly with their neighbors and co-workers they think that it must only be those who are out-going and gifted with words who can do evangelism well.

At Foothills we really want to encourage everyone to find their place in the evangelistic ministry of the church. We've created a framework called the Seven Orbits of Evangelism to help shape our strategy. It's an "all-play" strategy, when means that there is a place for everyone, regardless of their personality or gifting. The first and largest orbit is Prayer because prayer is foundational to all that we do and because prayer is something that anyone can do. If someone prays regularly for friends and family, neighbors and co-workers to hear the gospel and to respond they are participating in the strategy. They are "doing evangelism." Other Orbits include Training, Meeting People, Proclaiming the good news, Inviting others to faith, Celebrating and then Discipling. Not everyone will be called to proclaim or invite, but everyone in the church can be involved in the strategy in some way. And we hope also that as our church engages with the Seven Orbits that our people will find new ways to move in all of the orbits... not just ones that feel most comfortable.

Even though Christians and non-Christians may both be uptight about evangelism, it doesn't have to stay that way. The more comfortable a Christian becomes with bringing up spiritual topics in a genuine and engaging way, the more likely it is that a non-Christian will enjoy being part of those conversations, too. The more that a person engages with the Seven Orbits, the more likely it is that he or she will grow in his or her love for evangelism. So keep on orbiting... and finding the joy of sharing your faith with your friends. You can access several evangelism resources at www.thefoothills.us. Go to the bottom of the page and click "resources".



The Foothills Flyer is a monthly newsletter under the oversight of Pastor Joe Eastman and designed by Rachel Gard that is aimed at Keeping the Church on Mission and committed to our 9 Core Values.

OUR MISSION: Foothills Fellowship exists to be a worshipping community of God's people whose lives are shaped by the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and who participate in the mission of God's kingdom by proclaiming the good news locally, nationally and globally.

OUR CORE VALUES: 1) Jesus Christ, the Head 2) Biblical Leadership 3) Everyone A Minister 4) Ancient/Future Worship 5) Hospitality Without Exception 6) Unity in Community 7) Intentional Families 8) Global Missions 9) Holistic Discipleship