



FOOTHILLS

F E L L O W S H I P

The Foothills Flyer: Keeping the Church on Mission

New Year Brings New Opportunities to Grow

Value: Holistic Discipleship

by Pastor Joe Eastman

As you know, it's the time of year when we all look to the opportunities that a new year presents. This is the time of year for New Year's resolutions, the time of year for getting in shape, getting our financial house in order, and for looking at how we can be better stewards of our families, our time, our energy, and our resources. As 2016 gets underway, it is a very good time for us to take a look at our walk with Christ, and see how things can be better, how we can be more devoted, and how we can really draw nearer to God.



We are told in James chapter 4:7-10, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."

Life is a crazy thing. It seems like it's goes so fast, and it can be over before we even know it. If we are truly trusting in what the Bible says, then we must take seriously the fact that we will give an account of our lives to Christ, and that the only things that are going to be there to testify or accuse us on that day, are the works we have done for the Kingdom. Jesus was very clear that the only way that we can progress in our walk with Him, and the only way that we can draw near to God, is to remain in Him. Remaining in Jesus means just that, staying with Him where He is. Remaining with Him day by day is what spiritual disciplines are all about.

Practicing Spiritual Disciplines doesn't need to be overwhelming. Drawing near to God can be as simple as taking 15 or 30 minutes a day, and just spending time in His presence. You can start with a little, and I guarantee you that if you invest even just a little bit of time and draw near to God, you will start to understand how much deeper your relationship with Him can be. With that understanding will come an infusion of His presence, spirit, and peace. The fact is, anything that we do in faith to draw near to God, God will respond in kind to us.

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While there are many spiritual practices we could practice, there are some that the people of God have been doing for a very long time. This year, I am planning on leading the church through four of these practices. They are simplicity, prayer, meditating on the word, and worship/celebration. Each quarter I will be covering one of these in a sermon, and then have follow-up materials available. My prayer is that through 2016 each of us will be diligent and intentional about building our relationship with God. I believe, if we are willing to draw near to God in faith, to sacrificially spend time and energy seeking Him, He will most definitely draw near to us. As He draws near to us, we will see Him move in new ways. We will also see Him enlarge us spiritually, and bless us with a greater measure of His spirit. So, it is my hope, that 2016 will be for us, a year of renewal, revival, and a year in which we will be changed.

Local opportunities for ministry

As the New Year starts to unfold I wanted to take some time to bring to your attention some opportunities for ministry here in the local community. Obviously, we are all looking forward with great anticipation to the development and birth of the church plant in the International District. However, before that starts to take shape later on this year there are some opportunities coming up sooner than that to stretch your ministry muscles in the International District.

The first opportunity has to do with something called “The Homework Diner.” The homework diner meets at Emerson Elementary school which is at 620 Georgia St., Southeast. They’re looking for volunteers on Thursdays throughout the school year, 5:30 to 7:30 PM. The homework diner is a family-friendly activity that provides homework help for students, GED and ESL classes for parents. There is also a day care for younger children. Bilingual volunteers are needed but it’s not a requirement. Various volunteer positions are available. To sign up or for questions, contact Rose Lopez at roselopez@bernco.gov or at 814 – 9001.

The second opportunity, is at East Central Ministries. They are always looking for some extra help cleaning up the garden or in general labor. Moreover, I have been investigating the possibility of starting a martial arts club for the kids and the adults in the area. The club will get started about mid January and will run on Tuesdays from 6 to 8 PM. The club will introduce interested people into the sport of tae kwon do and help build character and focus. The club is a ministry so it is led with a strong Biblical emphasis. I hope that this club will be instrumental in developing relationships with families who live in the international district. If you are interested in helping please let me know.

Finally, In the coming weeks I will be organizing a series of prayer walks into the International Districts. The intent of these walks, will be to go into the international district and start breaking up the spiritual soil for ministry. You don’t need to be an evangelist you don’t even really need to talk to anybody other than the Lord as you’re walking. However, prayer is most powerful weapon we have and this is one way in which we can directly wield it.

As the year gets moving and life gets back to normal after the holidays don’t forget to spend time with God and please go to Him on behalf of our city and the International District.

My Message Memo

Value: Holistic Discipleship

by Sarah Dumas

I'm excited to announce that Foothills Fellowship My Message time is going ORANGE in 2016!! This curriculum focuses on Biblical truths and themes, and uses the Scriptures to support real life application, even with our youngest learners. We will be using the 252 Basics plan of study for our Elementary class and the First Look plan of study for our preschool class.

252 Basics is structured around Jesus' example found in Luke 2:52, and teaches three main principles based on Christ's example: "I need to make the wise choice, I can trust God no matter what, and I should treat others the way I want to be treated." For January we will be diving into the basic truth of "I need to make a wise choice" and will be focusing on the real life application of self-control: choosing to do what you should do, not what you want to do. With the supporting memory verse of Proverbs 25:28

First Look meets our earliest learners at age 3 to offer a "first look" at the truths of, "God made me, God loves me, and Jesus wants to be my friend forever". In January the First look class will be focusing on the basic truth that: "Jesus wants to be my friend forever" while we look at miracles and wonders that only Jesus can do, with the supporting memory verse from Matthew 19:26.

Each month throughout the year we will transition to a new Biblical theme, while keeping within the structure of the 3 basic truths in each class. Look for Parent Cue cards from your child's teacher each week that summarize the basic truth and life application studied each Sunday. I'm excited for this year to come and pray that the Lord's blessing will be on our children as they continue to learn from the Scriptures and build a personal relationship with their Lord and Creator as they grow!



America's Providential History (History 301)

Come join a class offered by Noah Webster College which will study God's hand in the history of America. The course is a three-credit class and students may take the course for credit by completing the homework and assignments (Credit cost is \$390), or they can take the course for audit. (Audit cost \$180). Tuition Aid is available.

Download and mail the application at www.nwebstercollege.com or call John Kinzer 340-6569 for info.

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