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## The Foothills Flyer: *Keeping the Church on Mission*

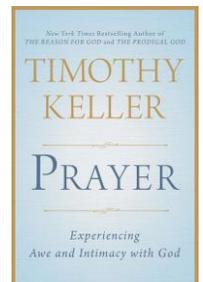
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### Third Spiritual Discipline of 2016 Announced

By Mike Potter **Values: Holistic Discipleship, Christ the Head**

July begins the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2016, and with its arrival comes our third spiritual discipline that we will focus on as a church family: *prayer*. We began the year focusing on the spiritual discipline of simplicity, and we were encouraged to adjust our calendars so as to make some consistent margin in our daily lives to spend time with the Lord. We spent the last three months focusing on the discipline of biblical meditation. Several resources were offered to help your experience with God's Word grow deeper and richer. And now, our focus turns to prayer. If you've made more time to be with God through the discipline of simplifying, and if your time in His Word is characterized by rich and meaningful meditation, then the natural progression should lead you to passionate prayer.

In his book, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God* (a book I highly recommend you read this quarter!), author Tim Keller rightly points out that "our prayers should arise out of immersion in the Scripture. We should plunge ourselves into the sea of God's language, the Bible. We should listen, study, think, reflect, and ponder the Scriptures until there is an answering response in our hearts and minds. It may be one of shame or of joy or of confusion or of appeal – but that response to God's speech is then truly prayer and should be given to God."



On Sundays July 10 and 17, Pastor Joe will kick-off our prayer focus by preaching two sermons on the Lord's Prayer, encouraging us to use it as a model for our prayer lives. There will also be opportunities this quarter to prayer together through additional prayer walks in the International District, the re-establishment of monthly Operation Prayer meetings to pray for our missionaries (starting Sunday, August 14 at 9AM), and more.

*One of the purposes of prayer is to bring our hearts to trust in God's wisdom, not in our own. It is to say, "Here's what I need—but you know best." It is to leave all our needs and desires in his hands in a way that is possible only through prayer. That transaction brings a comfort and rest that nothing else can bring. - Tim Keller*

# The Significance of the Trinity

By Joe Eastman **Value: Holistic Discipleship**



Last month we had the very first meeting of the “Men’s Mosaic Theological Discussion Group.” In that meeting we discussed the theological significance of the Trinity. *Trinity*, as you may know, is the word we use to describe and explain how the three persons of the Godhead interact with one another and with the physical world. The Bible is clear that there is only one God. (Isaiah 43:10-11, 1 Timothy 2:5-6) It is also clear that God has revealed himself in three distinct persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit - each of which are referred to as God and as “He.” One of the things I learned while doing research for the discussion was that the early church was very Trinitarian – as evidenced by what they wrote. For them, it seems, the Trinity wasn’t an outside concept that was irrelevant to their faith and practice. It was something that deeply impacted the practice of their faith.

During the discussion, I raised three separate questions that I would like you to ponder. 1) *How important is it for people to believe that God is a Trinity?* We know that exercising faith in Christ is how people become Christians, but after that, how important do you think it is for Christians to be taught the concept of the Trinity? 2) *How does the understanding of the Trinity impact your prayer life?* If we fully accept the implications of the doctrine of the Trinity, namely that all three persons are equal in essence but are responsible for different aspects of administering the Kingdom, should that realization modify or effect your prayer life, and if so, how? The final question to consider is 3) *How do you think the incarnation impacted the Trinity?* When Jesus was born into this world (the incarnation) through Mary, do you think his relationship to God the Father and God the Spirit was changed in any way and if so, how?

I’d love to bring you into this conversation – perhaps by using these questions in your small group or one-on-one. Below are two links to resources that will help you wrestle with the significance of the Trinity. It has been said that “thoughts about God are the highest ones we can have,” and I strongly believe that the more we think about and consider who God is, the more we will draw near to Him and the closer we will be to Him.

[www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-is-the-doctrine-of-the-trinity](http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-is-the-doctrine-of-the-trinity)  
[www.rightnow.org/Training/Post/View/190648](http://www.rightnow.org/Training/Post/View/190648)



**The next Men’s Mosaic Theology Discussion will be Wed., July 27. Watch for more details coming soon.**

# Lots of Ministry Opportunities with ISI Coming Up!

Values: Everyone A Minister, Hospitality Without Exception, Global Missions



Our close connection with International Students Inc. provides a plethora of opportunities for us to serve the Lord by ministering to international undergraduate and graduate students at the University of New Mexico. Our own Joan Lasche is the director of ISI at UNM, and you'll be hearing a lot from her this month about the opportunities available for ministry to incoming students this fall. Here are 3 ways you can get involved...

## Low-Level Involvement (Individuals or Small Groups)

Prepare and deliver food as needed for occasional parties and/or weekly Bible study luncheons.

## Mid-Level Involvement (Individuals or Small Groups)

Prepare and deliver food as needed for occasional parties and/or weekly Bible study luncheons AND attend the parties and/or luncheons in order to visit with and build relationships with international students.

## High-Level Involvement

Commit to being a friend to an international student. This entails connecting with the student at least once a month for meals and/or social events. Befriending an undergraduate student will involve a 4-month commitment. Befriending a graduate student will involve a 9-12 month commitment. Training (at Foothills Fellowship) and on-going coaching will be available to those who make this level of commitment.

Joan will have a table set up in the foyer this month on Sundays where you can get more information about these ministry opportunities and sign-up. You can also contact her directly by emailing her at [jlasche@isionline.org](mailto:jlasche@isionline.org).



*The Foothills Flyer* is a monthly newsletter under the oversight of Pastor Joe Eastman that is aimed at keeping Foothills on mission and keeping us 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

# Building Renovation Pictures!

The renovation of our worship center and nursery are underway and should be finished by the end of the month. In the meantime, please be careful around the construction sites and please keep your children from exploring these interesting but dangerous areas. Here are the latest pictures!



Back of the worship center. The new floor is being installed and will be ready Sunday! You can also see the “cry room” and new sound room taking shape.



Here’s a closer look at the floor. It’s a very durable wood laminate.



The view from the front of the sanctuary!