



The Foothills Flyer: *Keeping the Church on Mission*

Who Are We?

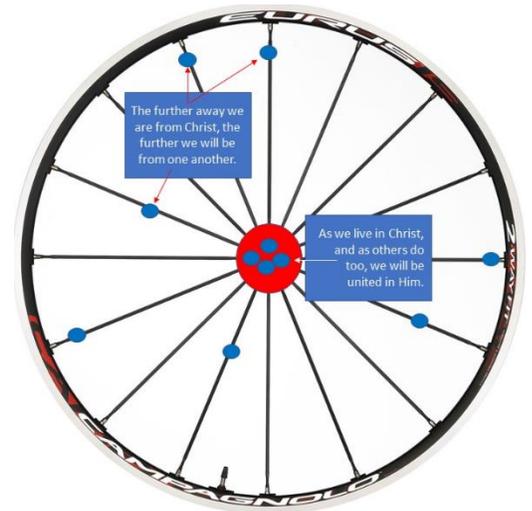
By Mike Potter Values: Biblical Leadership, Global Missions, Hospitality Without Exception, Everyone A Minister



I'm leading us through a summer sermon series that I believe is very important for us to press into as a church family. As you know, the sermon series is entitled, "Who Are We," and it's a review of our core values. A few years back, the elders landed on 9 core values that we feel are essential for us to own as a church family if we desire to accomplish our mission. In July, I covered 3 of them in sermons entitled "Undivided Ministers Who Send and Go," "Followers of God's Design for the Local Church," and "People Who Are Relentlessly Hospitable." If you missed any of these, I highly recommend you go to our web site and take a listen at www.thefoothills.us/media. Here's a short synopsis of each sermon...

Undivided Ministers Who Send and Go

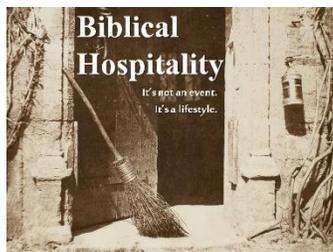
Michelle and I visited the Wolves in North Africa in April, and I began this 2-part sermon by reporting on the trip. I then challenged all of us to re-up our commitment and efforts to keep all of our missionaries in constant prayer. I also stressed that, although we are a church that sends people out to do specific ministry, the rest of us aren't off the hook! We're all called by Christ to be ministers of the Good News wherever He has planted us. So, I also challenged us to identify our ministry and do it! I reminded you that this isn't as hard as it sounds. Romans 12:4-6 shows us that God gives all of us gifting in the area of speaking or serving, so I encouraged you to evaluate your relationships and look for ways to join God as He works by either speaking to or serving others around you in the name of Jesus. I concluded the second part of this sermon by stressing the importance of us - as a church family - being undivided. We looked together at Jesus' prayer in John 17 where He prays for unity among His people. I reminded you that the key to Christian unity is NOT trying harder to like the people you don't like. The key is *to live in Christ*. If we draw near to Christ, He promises to draw near to us - and in so doing, we will draw nearer to one another. I used the bike tire to illustrate this crucial biblical principle.



Followers of God's Design for the Local Church

Church government may not be the most exciting topic to cover on a Sunday morning, but the Scriptures have a lot to say about it, and following God's Word in this area is vital for our church. I reminded us that Foothills Fellowship strives to be a Christ-ruled, elder-led, deacon-served, member-engaged church. My goal was to stress the absolute supremacy of Christ over our church and to show how we – as elders – strive to structure our church according to His instructions - while also recognizing that the first century culture into which this plan was revealed is different than ours. I wanted to show how seriously we strive to implement God's design into our current church culture. It also worked well that Dan Rodgers was presented as a deacon candidate for youth ministry that morning (see below) so we could see first-hand how the process works. I concluded the sermon by stressing the importance of formal church membership which allows the elders to know for whom we must give account to God based on Hebrews 13:17. Formal membership solidifies each person's commitment to the church family and the church family's commitment to them. If you would like more info on church membership, visit www.thefoothills.us/membership.

People Who Are Relentlessly Hospitable



Four years ago, I preached a 7-part sermon series on biblical hospitality (which is still available to listen to on-line). In this sermon, I attempted to highlight the key concepts of this entire series in less than 40 minutes! The main point was that when we're told to be hospitable in the Scriptures (which we are multiple times), the word translated "hospitality" consists of two Greek words that literally translates "brotherly love for strangers."

I challenged us to consider that "strangers" in our society today are the poor, the orphan, the widow, and the immigrant (legal or illegal: God does not differentiate) and to take seriously God's call on us to show brotherly love to them. Just because we planted a church in a part of our city where many of these modern-day "strangers" live does not mean we're off the hook! I implored each of us to avail ourselves to the "beautiful discomfort" of following Jesus by engaging with and ministering to these precious people in our city.

Dan Rodgers: Deacon Candidate of Youth Ministry



On July 23rd, the elders presented Dan Rodgers to Foothills members for their prayerful consideration as the next deacon over our youth ministry. Our current deacon of youth ministry, Tom Routson is a fireman and has a promotional exam that he needs to take in order to move up to Lieutenant. This will necessitate many hours of studying, and he feels that he cannot juggle working two jobs, family, studying, and planning youth group lessons and events. Dan, who has served in ministry at local churches for over 20 years (with nearly 5 of those being in youth ministry) has been serving with Tom as a volunteer youth leader for over a year. If you are a member and have not yet "engaged" with the elders on Dan's candidacy, please do so at elders@thefoothills.us.

Women's Ministry Update

By Melissa Eastman **Values: Holistic Discipleship, Unity in Community**



In today's world, we have become quite "social." Despite this, it has been said that one of the most common complaints from women of all walks of life is that they feel lonely. It seems odd to think that in a world where we can have 500+ "friends" on social media that we still feel lonely. Sadly, this new norm of "social" is drowning out authentic relationships. The art of just sitting down and having real life, real you, real me conversations has become skewed and maybe even lost in today's social media world. Don't get me wrong, I believe social media can have a place, but I long for deeper and more candid relationships with my friends - as I hope you do too. After all, we were designed for relationship; designed to share the burdens and joys of life. The Gospel can't have its true purpose if we are sharing semi-true pieces of our lives on social media while hiding behind four walls and only spending mere minutes talking to a few people on Sunday. We should seek to become more aware of opening ourselves to new friendships and becoming more intentional with women in our spheres of influence who need friendship and encouragement. Another thing we must understand is that relationships are a 2-way street. If I don't share my real burdens and joys, then how would you know how to encourage me, and vice versa? Building authentic relationships within the body of Christ portrays a powerful witness to the world. For those of us in the church, this means lifting our eyes away from our phones more often, sharing our hearts beyond social media, and examining ourselves to see if we've become exclusive in our current friendships - thus missing opportunities to get to know new women. At our last women's breakfast, I challenged the women there to exchange numbers with someone they didn't know very well and asked them to be intentional in learning more about each other. I hope you followed through! I have challenged myself in the same way, and it has been a blessing to find out more about the women in our church. With this attitude in mind, I want to tell you about a couple of women's events coming this fall. More details about when and where will come soon...



Ice Cream Social & Recipe Swap. We'll spend an afternoon together enjoying ice cream and leave with a new recipe book full of recipes from all of us!

Saturday Morning Hikes. We'll walk and talk in the cool of the morning!

Friday Morning Bible Study. Childcare will be provided.

IF: Table. In an effort to facilitate more and deeper relationships, we will be joining together once a month for a shared meal, study, and discussion. We'll break up into groups of 6-8, share a meal, watch a short video, and then discuss 4 questions around our tables.

If you have questions or specific needs/prayer please feel free to email me jmkd811@yahoo.com or call/text me at (505) 440-9482.

“My Message” Fall & Winter Program

By Shellie Koons Value: Holistic Discipleship



Summer is coming to an end and soon our children will be back in school! We’ve had a great summer learning about what God wants us to do, about His creativity, and about using the gifts that He has given us to bless others. We’ll be wrapping up these lessons in the month of August and starting a new lesson plan in September that will allow us to teach on the same subject to both age groups while keeping the material age-appropriate. We’ll be focusing on the role that the heart plays in our relationship with God, building confidence that the Bible is God’s Word to us, and learning to live according to Scriptures.

With the start of the school year, we have a few children that will be moving up from the nursery to My Message and from My Message to youth group. Please keep in mind that while we tend to follow the school grades, we are flexible based on the needs of the individual child. If your child is new to My Message, please make sure that a registration form is filled out and any food allergies are listed. Also, our youth group and My Message students will be collecting school supplies. Please look for the box in the foyer of the church if you would like to donate. We plan on doing a ministry project each month that the children can be directly involved in, teaching them the importance of being His ambassadors.

Thank you to all the parents, youth and teachers that volunteered their time this summer in My Message. The program wouldn’t have been as successful without you. We are always in need of more helping hands. If you would be willing to help once every 6 weeks, please let me know and I can give you more information on our program. My email is jrbjlb@gmail.com.

Ask Pastor Joe!

Do you have a spiritual or theological question that you’re hesitant to ask but are really wondering about? If so, then Pastor Joe would like to attempt to answer your questions in upcoming newsletters (and he won’t include your name!). During the month of August, write down your question (legibly please!) on the yellow card in the Sunday worship guide (which will allow it to be anonymous) or email it to Pastor Joe (not so anonymous) at joe@thefoothills.us. Please know that if you have a question, then it’s mostly certain that others have the same question as well, so ask away!

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