

The Pleasant View

PASTOR ED'S EPISTLE

Change is coming!! How do I know? Two things.

First, Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow on February 2nd, 2020 so he is predicting that spring will come early this year.

Second, we celebrate Easter on April 12th and that is the day we celebrate not only Jesus resurrection from the dead but our resurrection to new life. God is working His resurrection power in each and every one of us as Christ followers in order to glorify Himself and to make us into the image of His Son Jesus Christ.

Change comes to us when we begin by confessing our sin. Confessing is agreeing with God about our sin and asking Him to forgive our sin. Then, God grants to us the gift of repentance. Repentance is being remorseful for offending God by our disobedience to Him and His commands and doing something about it. Turning away from our sin and turning to the Spirit to fill us and take control of our lives as we obey God and His Word.

Change comes when we realize we are dead to sin. Romans 6: 5-11 tell us

"5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."

We must identify with Christ in His death. As our substitute, He took on Himself the penalty of all of our sins and when He cried out "It is Finished", our sin was dealt with as far as God is concerned. We are no longer slaves to sin!! It no longer holds power over us unless we allow it. We can say no to sin and allow change to occur by building new habits into our lives if we will see ourselves on that cross with Jesus and letting sin die in our lives. Boy, that is so hard to do. Easy to see but hard to do.

We struggle with temptation when it comes because many times it feels so good and our flesh wants to participate in it. But for our long term (eternal) good and for our good on this earth, it is good to die to ourselves.

Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

The great news is that we do not lose our identity when we are in Christ!! Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and other religions say when they die, they are absorbed into Brahma or another god but we will have our identity forever in eternity.

Why is that significant? Because God took special care in making you and I who we are and our identity is found in our position with Christ. We are all unique and have a very special purpose and work in God's Kingdom. Don't ever forget that and don't ever think your life is not valuable. We are much more valuable than we could ever imagine. He paid for our lives with the precious blood of Jesus. He was willing to die for us so that we could be holy and be in heaven with Him someday!!

ELDER REPORTS

Elder Report for January and February

The elders are Aaron Barfels, Mike Fendley, Dale Von Thun, and Pastor Ed Hedding.

The elders met on Jan. 13th, 27th and Feb. 10th of 2020.

The elders take time to pray for the needs of the church family and the elders needs at each meeting.

Follow up on our public relations endeavors to help with our online presence online:

Pastor Ed talked with two companies that specialize in removing negative web search results. These are expensive options. One would cost \$6000.

Hannah (Bland) DeAngelis suggests that we record positive testimonies from people regarding their relationship with PVBC. We will work on flooding the internet with testimonies and positive messages. **1 Peter 2:15 (ESV) For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.**

The elders believe the cost for professionally removing the negative search engine results was an unwise use of finances. We need to put our resources toward doing good.

A small group from the church met with the Immigration subcommittee of the One Human Family on January 21st at 5 pm. at the Catholic Dioceses office in Davenport by Assumption High School.

Kris Headington, Aaron Barfels and Pastor Ed from our church went and met with three representatives of One Human Family – Margie, Alta, and Loxy for an active listening discussion. It went very well after an hour meeting and the group plans to meet on Thursday – February 27th at 5 pm. for a time of dialogue concerning the immigration issue.

The elders decided to take on the project of installing a heater for Austin's office. Aaron Barfels will order the heater and thermostat. Mike Fendley said he can install it.

The elders plan to update the main church computer in Carrie Barfels' office because Windows 7 no longer will be serviced by Microsoft to avoid malware coming on to the computer. The library computer is too old to be upgraded so the new laptop that is used for scanning will be used at a time in the future as the way to access Power Church and for

use in the library keeping track of books.

Pastor Ed shared he wants an emphasis on prayer this year. He is forming a small group of people who will commit to praying for the church on a regular basis.

The elders set some measurable goals for 2020 and they were communicated to the church family on February 9th.

The Ministry Team Leaders meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 25th.

We received positive feedback from the Chili Cook-Off Fellowship Lunch held January 12th.

The elders decided to go with the Peacemakers book for a sermon series and the three Adult Connect Groups will facilitate a discussion time after watching the videos from a similar book to what was mentioned above – Resolving Every Day Conflict. There will be eight sermons and they will coincide with the video series that will be shown and discussed in our Adult Groups. At some time in the future, the Junior / Senior High School class will watch and discuss the weekly topics.

We agreed to continue with Mike Fendley facilitating the elders' meetings and Aaron Barfels continuing to act as scribe for the next 6 months.

The Deacons (Chuck Gipson and Mario Sy) and Deaconesses (Carol Urda, Janice Fendley) joined the Elders at 5:30 on January 13th. Mike Myer was also in attendance because he oversees a Circle of Concern.

The primary topic was that of Benevolent fund usage and if there were guidelines that would help make decisions in this matter. The question is how much do we help a family.

Discussion was had by particular families in need and the ministry to the shut-ins that is ongoing.

Pastor Ed shared that a Remodeling Team has been put together and the following people willing to serve. The Remodel Team is currently comprised of: Tina Keppy, Denis Bland, Deanna Gipson, Gage Petersen, Austin Fink, Ed Hedding, Nancy Barnes and Danny Gattton.

We discussed the need to intentionally involve the younger generation in our church services and ministries. Here are some ways of doing that:

Record announcements and use younger people to deliver the announcements and record the announcements. The younger people tend to read texts much more than email. Therefore, texting notifications is one example

of including them more in our information dissemination. We have a service that could do this very reasonably.

Pastor would like to start now trending to our younger generation as much as we can with decisions made in the next few years. He has been talking with some from the younger generation and it is apparent we need to be more up to date in how we approach things.

We discussed rebranding. Is it time to redo our logo and signage? Every ten years or so, most organizations and companies rebrand. We have a bid to do that. That will coincide with the Remodel Team project.

Ways to emphasize and equip people for Evangelism:

Give testimonies of people sharing their faith.

Bring in a person to share a skill or teach during a men's breakfast. Invite people who may be interested to intentionally introduce them to the gospel.

We need to keep track of first-time guests who come to XYZ event (men's breakfast, Ladies events, youth events, AWANA events, etc.)

Recent offering levels have been low. There was discussion as to why that may be and now preparations are under way for the new budget to be prepared for fiscal year 2020 – 2021 beginning on April 1st 2020 and ending on March 31st 2021. We know that several people are moving from the area in the Spring and that needs to be taken into account as we prepare the budget.

The elders discussed with Scott Lee, who is preparing our 2020 -2021 budget with the elders, as he gave us the first rough draft and there was much discussion and understanding how the budget is being built for this new fiscal year starting on April 1st. A second and final draft is forthcoming. The goal is to finalize the budget by March 2 or 9th and to get it out to the church family to look at and pray over as we prepare for our annual meeting on March 29th after the Connect Groups at 11:45 am.

The elders agreed to a request from Pastor Ed to reduce the QC Storm Hockey tickets to \$5 per person to make it more affordable for families to go to the game. The original cost was \$15 per ticket and the elders will cover the difference of each ticket out of elder discretionary funds.

Pastor Ed and Mike Fendley have been talking about giving

younger people more opportunities to be a part of the worship service and for leadership of the church. We want the younger generation to move toward taking over as time goes on. Ideas are being discussed and more discussion is coming in our March meetings.

Pastor Ed passed out goals for the church family on February 16th. These are measurable goals Pastor promised that would come from ideas of the leaders of the church. They were placed in the Sunday program and talked about in the service. Pastor will bring this up and remind people periodically through the course of calendar year 2020.

The goals are as follows

Vision 2020 Goals for Pleasant View Baptist Church

Each One Reach One – Invite / Share the Gospel

Ten salvation or rededication decisions for Christ

Ten new people to become a part of our church family by December 31st, 2020

Two specific events in the community for evangelism

New Safety Team

Completion of a safety team policy

Safety Team developed

Training for the newly formed safety team

Implementation of the policy formed by the safety team

Remodel Team

Develop three options and three price points for the remodeling of the following:

Recarpeting the entire church

Remodel the sanctuary

Remodel the lobby

Remodel the bathrooms

throughout the building

Develop a new logo for rebranding in our community

Prayer Warrior Team – Pray for our church five days a week with a weekly updated list of prayer needs.

The elders dealt with some confidential issues concerning our church family as well.

Submitted by Pastor Ed Hedding

PASTOR ED'S EPISTLE (continued from page 1)

Confession, repentance, asking God to fill us with His Spirit, and walk with God understanding our purpose in this life with our personality, talents and spiritual gifts makes for a very fulfilling life.

As God chisels away the flesh to reveal more of Christ in us through trials and tribulations, we know He is working all things for our good so that we can fulfill to the best of our ability the purpose God has us on this planet.

So, as we change and become more like Jesus, it should become more and more apparent to us and the world around us that we have been changed.

Matthew 5:16

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Lastly, let’s remember and go back to as often as possible the source of the power within us that brings about change.

Philippians 3: 10 – 11

“That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”

The more we identify with Christ, the more our life is hidden in Christ, the more positive change we can see

growing in our lives as we surrender more and more to Him.

This is the way of change and the purpose of God conforming us into His image. May we turn to obedience instead of giving into temptation. May we choose the way of change more than just reverting back to our feelings and the way of the flesh that leads to death as we move into this Lent and Easter season.

The challenge throughout this Lent season is to decide what you will give up for the 40 days of Lent or what you will start doing during the 40 days leading up to Easter / Resurrection Sunday!! Christ is risen!! He is risen indeed!! May we walk in that power of change this Lent season and into the spring of 2020. I am faithfully,

Yours and His,
Pastor Ed Hedding



LENT BEGINS	March 1
PALM SUNDAY	April 5
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	April 10
EASTER SUNDAY	April 12

Annual Business Meeting
Sunday, March 29th after Connect Groups

2019-2020 FINANCIALS	
Giving to Date:	\$247,715
Total Expenses:	\$272,219
Savings	
General Fund Checking:	\$ 4,882
Cornerstone Savings:	\$ 40,914
* Amounts are for the general fund for start of fiscal year April 1, 2019 thru February 29, 2020	

WORSHIP TEAM NEWS!



Over the last few months the worship team has undergone quite a bit of change. We've lost members due to moves and gained old members such as the Sy's. This month both Melissa and I will be gone for 2 Sunday's while we're in Israel enjoying the Holy Land. Gage will lead the congregation on the 15th and the 22nd is TBD. As we quickly approach Good Friday and Easter, Pastor Ed and I, along with the worship team are preparing with ideas and songs that we hope will cause us to reflect on Christ's sacrifice and enjoy His presence in both the worship services and in our daily lives. We still plan to have a night of worship before the summer, date TBD. This has been a great first year and I'm looking forward to serving God and serving this congregation for years to come!

To the Glory of God Alone,

Austin Fink

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE WORSHIP TEAM?

Has the Lord given you musical, audio/visual, or computer talents?

If so, and you are interested in seeing what the worship team is all about, please contact Austin Fink.


Men's Iron Sharpens Iron

March 28 at Coram Deo Church ~ 8:30am - 4:00pm
 Cost is \$58 per person (\$49 for groups 10+) by March 18

(or \$65 after March 18) Optional add-on lunch is \$8

Sign-up sheet and flyers are on the table in the lobby.





STUDENT MINISTRY

Since the first week of the school year the students have been working through "Visual Theology: Guide to the Bible". We closed out this series last week with the students providing feedback. They really enjoyed the aspect of studying things in the Bible that they already knew about but didn't have as deep of an understanding as they thought. One student remarked that they thought it was cool to see how God had a plan from the beginning to send Jesus to save us and how the whole Bible is connected. From now until summer we will be discussing and hopefully answering some tough questions such as "What is wrong with me/humanity?", "How can I share my faith with others (atheists, people of different faiths, etc.), "Why does the Bible say *blank* is wrong?". I'm very excited to move into a more discussion-based format and we have already spent a few weeks in this format. A few weeks ago we had a youth leader's meeting in which we discussed games, food, cell phone policy, what our goal is as youth leaders, and how I believe God is leading me in this ministry. We want our youth group to be a safe and loving environment for students where they are taught the truth of God's word and encouraged in their walk with Christ. We also plan to have a parent meeting before summer where we'll discuss this and another leader meeting where we'll plan out the summer activities. I've looked into a regional short-term mission trip for the summer which I hope will teach the students to serve others selflessly as Christ would. We'll also plan many other exciting summer activities for the students to enjoy! I'm looking forward to what God has in store for us in this next season!

- Austin Fink

**Pregnancy Resources
 30th Anniversary
 Gala Dinner
 Mar. 26 - 6:30pm**



Come and celebrate 30 years of ministry with Pregnancy Resources. This will be a special night to honor our heritage and look to our future. Seating is limited to adults only. ***There is no cost to attend the event but there will be an opportunity to give a donation in support of Pregnancy Resources.***

*PVBC will be hosting a table at this event, please **RSVP** to Pastor Ed or the church office as soon as possible if you are interested in attending so spots can be reserved.*