



Missionary Messenger

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The Call For Koinonia

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³A sense of awe came over everyone, and the apostles performed many wonders and signs. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they shared with anyone who was in need. ⁴⁶With one accord they continued to meet daily in the temple courts and to break bread from house to house, sharing their meals with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. ~ Acts 2:42-47 (BSB)

We have just finished a series on Sunday morning on the topic of Koinonia. Koinonia is the Greek word for "fellowship". This concept is deeper than just hanging out with other people. It refers to the spiritual fellowship that Christians are to have with one another. One way to understand Koinonia is that it is the blood flow in the spiritual body of Jesus Christ. His spiritual body is the Church in the world. All Christians make up this body. The uniting factor with all true Christians is the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit. When we interact with one another this produces healthy blood flow in the Body of Christ.

One of the best passages in Scripture that shows this type of spiritual fellowship is the passage quoted above from Acts chapter two. Notice from this passage the words devoted and the fellowship. There was a deep commitment held by each believer that they were a part of a living body of Jesus Christ in the world and that the way that they treated each other showed that the Holy Spirit was flowing from believer to believer.

This passage concludes with the words "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." There is such a strong witness to the lost when Christians devote themselves to Koinonia with other Christians. If we indeed want to see God save the lost around us, then the best way to begin is to strengthen our Koinonia. May God do an amazing work among us as we devote ourselves to our Koinonia here at NMMC.

In Christ, Pastor Ken

Koinonia
Koinonia



CONNECTION NOTES:

**Otherwise Known as
The Family of the Unsandaled!**

I have discovered that there were some really weird decrees in the Old Testament times! For example, if I was told that I now belonged to "the Family of the Unsandaled", I would reply, "Yah, so?". (My Mom loved to go barefoot and passed that trait along! I love going barefoot except on rocky ground. And I know I am not the only one.) But if you read Deuteronomy 25:7-10 you will find that this title is a condemnation on all who belong to this family.

I read this scripture the other day and I was so confused. I could not understand how the given title/slur could be a condemnation. I understood the action of spitting in someone's face and the rejection that action projected. So I did some searching and discovered just how important this title change was to them, and ultimately, to us.

What I discovered was that this had to do with a family's reputation. Now normally we are first known by the reputation of our families. "Oh that's Sammie Howard's daughter. You know, Sammie. He's that tall dude you see down town walking a tiny black and white dog. He's kind of a quiet guy." Later, in life, we gain reputation for our own actions. "Yah, That's Sue. She's that supervisor at Control's. She is hard to work for, constantly telling everyone to "grab a broom"! What a pain! You don't want to work for her."

In the case of this scripture, the punishment of becoming known as "The Family of the Unsandaled" affected their reputation, both current and future. The new title meant that this family would always be known as "stubborn, unwilling to honor their family duty, and disobedient to the law". This reputation would haunt all areas of their life. And it continued forever. No chance for redemption was given.

As I considered the application of this scripture, I wondered about the



reputation of our church. As Outreach and Connection director, I want to consider our reputation in these areas. Who do people outside our church think we are? Do they even know we exist? Are we approachable and are we loving? Are we fixated on rules? Do we care that there are those hurting and longing for answers? Are we willing to spend our time and our energy reaching out beyond our walls?

Guess what? Those same questions apply to those inside our walls!!! Are we approachable? Are we caring? Do we know who is hurting and longing for answers? Do we want to know and love our fellow brother or sister? Are we willing to spend our time and our energy reaching out beyond our walls?

These are the questions we must ask ourselves. These are the answers we must seek. It matters. Whether we do so or not, these questions and resulting actions will determine both our reputation now and our legacy. Let's not be "Unsandaled"! Let's do what it takes to act and to love as Christ instructed.

Seeking to make a difference,

Sue

CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:

Sept. 1 @ 6:00: Birthday Meal for Ken @ Sue Howard's back yard. Bring a dish for potluck and a lawn chair. Rain location is the Gather Room.

Sept. 12, 26, @ 5:30: the Telling Room

Sept. 17 @ 5:30: Gather @ the fire. Probably our last for the year.

Sept. 19 @ 1:00: Cookie bake for Teacher Simple Appreciation brings Joy

Sept. 22 Pm: Teacher Simple Appreciation brings Joy outreach for MES

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, October 1st.

Farkle Tournament.

Time to be announced.

Invite a friend!

Come and see who Farkles!!!





**Pew Time:
Where Your Heart Is**

Do you remember the story in the Gospels when Jesus was tested and asked what was the most important law? His response describes the basis of all of the law. In 2023 vernacular it is "Love God, Love Others".

Last month I wrote about ways we could love God, love others by getting a little uncomfortable and reaching out to our church community during our church services. I described small steps we could take by being welcoming to those we don't know well or who are visitors. I want to present another way we can love God, love others. A way that goes beyond the walls of the church.

We are going to have fall koinonia meals among our church attendees. This fellowship activity may be either held outside the church normally at people's homes or may be held in the Gather room. Volunteers agree to host a group of church attendees for a meal. The groups will consist of 6 to 8 attendees or less. The date for the meals will be determined through coordination by the hosts. If the Gather Room is desired for the koinonia meal, please see Joanne Sistrunk for availability.

The meals may be theme driven, potluck or any variation there of. There is no intent for the host to assume provision of the entire meal. If one has food driven health concerns, please be a good guest and bring a dish that meets your needs.

A sign-up list for hosting is on the Outreach and Connection board. Please consider volunteering and sign up by September 20th. This meal time will build community and connection within our church. It is an effective way of building up the body of Christ. Please sign up by September 20th. We will then supply the hosts with host/guest list. That will enable our hosts and guests time to have their koinonia meal prior to the holidays.

Please pray about this opportunity and be part of the loving body of Christ.

Thank you.

Sue

**September 10th
Homecoming Sunday**

**10 AM Worship Service Outside on the
East side of the church**

Carry-in meal after the service.

**YOUTH GATHERING
WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30**

The Nerf Battle a few weeks ago was a good kick-off to starting a weekly youth time. There were 6 or 7 at the Nerf battle. A few stayed for Gather @ the fire afterward. They have met 2 times since then on Wednesday evenings with a few new people coming each time. Please pray with us as this new ministry is getting started.



Who Are We?

Pastor: Ken Sistrunk 260-229-5949 (cell)
PastorKenNMMC@gmail.com

Elders: Dave Jackson (vice-chairman),
Tim Baker, Jon Gnagy

Directors:
Outreach: Sue Howard
Stewardship: Tim Baker
Worship: Jon Gnagy

Secretary: Joanne Sistrunk
manchestermissionary@gmail.com

Memory Verse of the Month!

Luke 12:12

*For at that time the Holy Spirit will
teach you what you should say. (BSB)*

