

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you worshipping with us today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and "at home."

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Rev. Brian Pingel

August 30, 2009

Ollie Ollie Oxen Free

"It is good to be home"

Hebrews 10:19-25

- **Community** ... A sense of **belonging**, where a group of individuals participate in shared interests.
 - Theology is based upon the glory of God
 - God exists in community
 - Perichoresis – a shared dance

"The future of the church depends on whether it develops true community. We can get by for a while on size, skilled communication, and programs to meet every need, but unless we sense that we belong to each other, with masks off, the vibrant church of today will become the powerless church of tomorrow. Stale, irrelevant, a place of pretense where sufferers suffer alone, where pressure generates conformity rather than the Spirit creating life – that's where the church is headed unless it focuses on community."

- Dr. Larry Crabb

Hebrews 10:19-25 "And so, dear brothers and sisters, **we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place** because of the blood of Jesus. This is the new, life-giving way that Christ has opened up for us through the sacred curtain, by means of his death for us. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's people, let us go right into the presence of God, with true hearts fully trusting him. For our evil consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

Without wavering, **let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting together**, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near."

1. WE HAVE BEEN CALLED **HOME**

- Through the supernatural work of Christ, we have been given access to that which was blocked from us before. God delights in you to give you access.

Hebrews 10:19 "We can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place"

- The essence of connecting is that we can accept who we are, and we can envision who we could be. We begin to taste Christ delighting in us.

“... that forgiven people have caught a glimpse of Christ and that the Spirit has used that glimpse to create goodness within us, a goodness that is more defining of who we are than our badness.” - Dr. Larry Crabb

2. WHEN TRUTH MEETS LIFE WE CAN **HOLD FIRM** TO GOD

• Life will get messy, and there are things that get in the way ... but Christ has defeated them and it is now safe to enter.

Hebrews 10:23 “Let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep his promise”

“Your quest stands upon the edge of a knife. Stray but a little and it will fail, to the ruin of all. Yet hope remains while the company is true.”

- Galadriel to Frodo

• “Are you looking for someone?”

• We must diligently search for what is **good** in each one – for Christ has made a way for all of us to come home.

• Look around ... do you see many friends or many strangers?

Despite our differences and faults ... let's come home together

3. WE ARE GIVEN THE FREEDOM TO **ENCOURAGE** EACH OTHER

• Disciples:

... understand that faith is lived out in a community of faith, hope and love

... they grow and resemble the glory of God in the little moments of every day

• Faith is **active** and participatory.

“The note struck in Hebrews 10 is that of provoking one another and of keeping together –both of which require initiative, the initiative of Christ-realization, not of self realization. To live a remote, retired secluded life is the antipodes of spirituality as Jesus Christ taught it.” - Oswald Chambers

• What would a church look like that provoked each other toward love and good works?

“Our relationship with each other is the criterion the world uses to judge whether our message is truthful – Christian community is the final apologetic.” - Francis Schaeffer

- Digging Deeper - “It's Good to be Home”

For personal or small group study

Week of August 30, 2009

QUICK REVIEW: Which point or scripture passage was the most significant to you personally in this week's message? Why?

GROUP DISCUSSION or PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Do you agree that everyone should be involved in a small group? Why? What value are small groups to a local church ... to New Life? What value are small groups to you personally?
2. What factors make for a “healthy” small group? To you, what is the purpose of a small group? How have the groups you have been a part of helped you move forward in your spiritual journey with Christ? [Proverbs 21:17; Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 6:1-2; Matthew 18:20]
3. Read Hebrews 10:23-26 in a few different translations. How does this apply to shaping a healthy small group? What would a church and small group look like that provoked each other to love and good works? How would it change your personal life and the lives of others in your group? How can you implement this personally and within your group?
4. What are you hoping to receive from your small group in the coming months? What do you plan to contribute to your small group? (Possibly break into groups of two or three and come up with a couple of things to share with the entire group)
5. How can a small group setting be a place where the following things can take place?
 - Opportunity to connect with a mentoring or peer-to-peer spiritual life coaching/accountability relationship.
 - A supportive type accountability system that encourages the practice of the spiritual disciplines. [On September 13, we will start a 6-week sermon series on spiritual disciplines called “**Fuel for the Journey**” with small group discussion questions.]
 - A deeper level of life sharing and more intense prayer time. [Perhaps assembling into groups of 2-3 for more personal prayer time]
 - The opportunity to connect with the unchurched and to also do some type of community service and outreach.

Take time in your group to discuss these objectives and how they may be accomplished in your group in the coming year.