

# Connecting Point

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## Getting Started

This month's articles focus on God's great work being done in our midst! There are many things to celebrate and that's what Pastor Brian is focused on. Pastor Derrick's article focus is our faithful response to God's goodness. Enjoy!

## Home & Hospitality

*By: Pastor Brian Larson*

Our current sermon series is called "Home Sweet Home." Last Sunday we were privileged to welcome our newest communicant members home to Atonement. All three have been worshipping with us for many months. We celebrate Matt Gephart, Niko Love and Nancy Roof and their confession of faith along with our 8 junior confirmands: Jeremy Collins, Jayce Fryman, Nick Herridge, Jake Kappeler, Joel Kappeler, Nicold Kappeler, Ben Leseuer, Betsy Rechel. We also celebrate our opportunities to practice hospitality with others.

Nancy moved to Dublin about a year ago and is the proud mother (of Martha Barley) and grandmother to Timmy and Ellie. We understand that she also thinks the world of Jon. Niko's family became Atonement members last September and Niko has now publicly confirmed his faith to become a communicant member. We look forward to watching his faith grow through the rest of his high school career. Matt is a firefighter in Westerville and has been coming to worship with Angela Crook for several months. We were overjoyed to hear that Matt and Angela were recently engaged. We look forward to celebrating their marriage soon.

## Generosity Lived Out

*By: Pastor Derrick Hurst*

I know many people who are very generous. I love it when I am generous to others unfortunately I'm not always as generous as I know I should be. But what does that word even mean? Miriam-Webster's online dictionary states that generous means – "characterized by a noble or forbearing spirit, liberal in giving, and marked by abundance or ample proportions."

One of my favorite scripture passages is 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. In this section Paul talks about generosity. Often we tie this strictly with our giving of money to the church but I think there is a bigger context to this passage. Continued pg 2

Connecting  
People to Jesus  
by Meeting  
Needs!

We have also received the membership transfer of Naomi Hutcheson from our brothers and sisters at Emmanuel Lutheran in Columbus. Naomi lives in the neighborhood around our main site. We look forward to getting to know Naomi and participating with her in ministry and mission.

As we celebrate each of our newest members at home with us, we also celebrate that we are given so many opportunities to practice hospitality, opening our worship home to guests. I encourage your prayers for people who have been worshipping Jesus with us. Many of them have been returning for months and we are thankful for their participation and our connection to them.

Please pray for these worship guests who have been taking our Refresh class: Gary & Autum Belyk, Betty Brown, Elza & Krista Marks with daughters Makalah & Aubrey, Belay & Sihin Meti with children Mary & Helen, Scot & Monifa Reese with children Callan &

Tala, Laura Schaller, LaToya Wheeler with children Karizma, Michaela, Dakari & Makai

We also pray for these guests who frequently participate in worship and ministry with us: Anne, Dwayne & Angela with daughter Taylor, Rand, Cody, John & Sara with daughter Lizzie, Mike & Diana, Scott, Andrew, Ben & Jennifer with daughter Rylee, Susanne, Ryan, Ruby, Tameia with daughter Cali, Jane and Emily, Rae, and a few one time visitors we are yet to connect with.

I am amazed and thankful that God allows us to touch so many lives and to be touched by them. Pray that their faith in Jesus becomes stronger and that, because of their participation, our efforts are stronger as we connect people to Jesus by meeting needs.

## Generosity cont.

*By Pastor Derrick Hurst*

As we look at Paul's words about sowing generously and reaping generously, we would be well to think about our entire lives as Christians from our giving to our time spent with the Lord. I'd like to encourage you to think of generosity by looking at the word T.E.R.M. There are four very important areas of our lives that God demands we live generously in: time, energy, reflection, and material resources.

Now we all know what these are, but how generous are we in each of these areas? Undoubtedly we can all grow in our generosity drastically! And the great thing about generosity is that it doesn't refer to an amount of time or money or energy or anything like that! It's pretty subjective if you really think about it. Generosity is about your heart. The passage referenced above reminds us that God loves a cheerful giver! How amazing would it be if we would give cheerfully! It would be awesome to hear someone cheer when they placed their gift to God on His altar. It is amazing to see people get excited about their time spent in God's word!

Generosity is about all of these put together. When we are truly generous, we are overjoyed to give more of ourselves for every task that is before us. We are rapidly approaching summer and there's a pretty normal problem that shows up every summer at nearly every church in America – we become less and less

## Summer Sermon Series

- Our Generous Life Series starts on May 30<sup>th</sup> and includes these themes: Generous Jesus, Joy from Generosity, and The Grace of Giving.
- Kick-off Father's Day with 3 Sundays about the Fathers Among Us! Themes for this series include: A Parent's Pattern, Crying Out Abba, Father, and God of Our Fathers.
- July brings some time with the Parables. We'll look at Dirt: It's For Growing, Big things in small packages, More fair than you realize, and Use it or lose it! Can you guess which parables these are?
- We'll wrap up the summer with peace as we dive into a four-week series on Peacemakers. These themes are: Glorify God, Get the log out of your own eye, Gently Restore, and Go, Be Reconciled.

generous with our T.E.R.M. We spend less time in the Word, less time in worship, less energy on things around our worship centers, less of our material belongings find their way to support the needs of others, and less of our offerings show up at church.

As your Missions Pastor, I'd like to encourage you – perhaps challenge is a better word – to be more generous this summer. I'm challenging you to give more cheerfully! Give more of your time to personal study of God's word, not because I told you or because you have to but because there's nothing better you can think of doing! Give more generously with your offerings as you see the many people being connected to Jesus through the ministry of this church as we meet the needs in our communities. Give more generously of your energy as you participate in the host of opportunities that are planned for this summer. Give more generously of your reflection as you prayerfully consider the specific ways that you will use your God-given gifts to connect your friends and neighbors to the life changing truth of Jesus!

## Connect !

This month's connecting point is VBS. Vacation Bible School at our Mission Site in Marysville is just around the corner. Talk to Pastor Derrick about how you can get involved in bringing the love of Jesus to the children of Marysville!