



Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

April 7, 2019

Issue 14

Outstanding Job Young Men!

Ronnie Scherffius

Our young men did an outstanding job conducting and leading us in our worship services this past Sunday evening. I have received phone calls and texts as well as members approaching me personally to compliment and commend the effort of **all** of our young men! Their improvement is striking, their comfort level of standing before the congregation is evident, and their growth is heartening. Above all, seeing these young men begin early in life to focus on serving God and leading the church in worship is greatly encouraging. Let's take a little time and consider all that is accomplished when our young men are given the opportunity to conduct our services.

When our young men conduct our services they gain valuable experience in leadership. It is evident that the apostle Paul placed great emphasis on training other men to lead. From Acts sixteen we learn that Paul took the young man Timothy with him on his evangelistic works: "Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus...Him would Paul have to go forth with him" (Acts 16:1, 3). Timothy became a very important part of the success of the work and growth of the early church. We find Timothy with Paul at Thessalonica and Berea (Acts 17). In fact, Timothy was sent by Paul to Thessalonica to strengthen the brethren and to bring a report of their state (1 Thess. 3:2, 6). Not only was Paul a mentor to Timothy but we read also of such men at Titus (Gal. 2:1), Sopater, Aristarchus, Secundus, Gius, Tychicus, and Trophimus (Acts 20:4) who were a part of Paul's travels. Truly, Paul saw the im-

portance of younger men growing to serve as leaders in the church. What a blessing it is to see the young men of the congregation gaining experience and growing in leadership.

When our young men conduct our services they are fulfilling to the utmost the admonitions of Scripture. Jesus likened the kingdom of heaven to "a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability" (Mt. 25:14-15). The point of the parable was the importance of putting one's talents to use. By leading us in our worship, our young men demonstrated that they both have talents and that they are willing to use them for the kingdom!

Paul instructed Timothy that we are to "be rich in good works" (1 Tim. 6:18), and that by the Scriptures the man of God is "thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16). To Titus Paul wrote that we should show ourselves "a pattern of good works" (2:7); be a people "zealous of good works" (2:14); and "be careful to maintain good works" (3:8). Paul further instructed Timothy to "preach the word" (2 Tim. 4:2) and to let no man despise him because of his younger age, but rather strive to "be an example to the believers" (1 Tim. 4:12). What great zeal our young men have shown, and what a tremendous example they are to us by stepping up and leading our hearts and minds in worship.

When our young men conduct our services the brethren are encouraged. It sometimes seems that the “younger generation” is moving further and further away from the church. We often lament the fact that youth put more emphasis on recreation and worldly endeavors. To see our young men participating in worship services, developing their talents to serve the Lord and growing spiritually can only serve as a source of strength and encouragement! The psalmist wrote: “For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments” (Ps. 78:5-7). The thought of our youth setting “their hope in God” rather than the world and earthly treasures is a great encouragement and comfort to those who are older. Seeing our young men participating and growing in the work of the kingdom gives us hope for the future of the church!

When our young men conduct our services each of us is provided an opportunity to encourage the youth. The Hebrews writer admonished first century Christians: “let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” (Heb. 10:24). Solomon wrote: “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver” (Prov. 25:11), and “a word spoken in due season, how good is it” (Prov. 15:23). It is not only the adults among us who need encouragement! The local congregation is not made up only of adult men and women! Our young men and women also need words of encouragement.

The prophet Isaiah is known as the Messianic Prophet because of his many prophecies of the Christ. But consider what this great man of God wrote concerning encouragement: “The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary” (Isa. 50:4). We ought not wait till our youth are spiritually wearied out to encourage them.

Words of encouragement are rightly fit to be spoken and justly deserved to be heard by our young men when they have given themselves diligently to lead and direct us in our worship to God!

Outstanding job young men! You have encouraged us. You have strengthened the body. You have given us reasons to rejoice. Keep up the good work.

Christian Mirrors

The Norwegian town of Rjukan has been dealing with a problem for a very long time — darkness. The town is located in a deep valley and rarely receives direct sunlight. The solution to this problem is a system of huge mirrors. Three big mirrors have been built surrounding this mountain town. Using an electronic system, the mirrors will follow the sun and maintain the right angle to reflect sunlight into the town.

This town isn't so different from everyday life. So many are trying to navigate their way through life's dark valleys, looking for purpose and meaning. With so much information, so much noise, so many differing opinions, it just leads people into deeper darkness and confusion. Where is the light to guild people out? This is where Christians come in. Jesus is the light (John 8:12), but we are His mirrors (Matthew 5:14-16).

It's hard to know what people's reactions will be. It's often scary to even try. Some will come to the light and be rescued from their domain of darkness (Colossians 1:13-14). Others will just hate the light we shine (John 3:19-21). No matter what the reaction may be, we are still to be the Christian mirrors who display God's magnificent luminescence to others.

So just keep shining. Be the light. Let people see what's different in you. Then let's show them how wonderful and meaningful it is to live for God.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of April 7, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Sammy Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Mark FitzSimmons
Fruit of the Vine: Doug Jobes
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: BJ Davis, Scott DeDear, Manny Flonnory

Sunday Evening: Mark FitzSimmons, Doug Jobes

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Ron White
P.M. Closing: Lupe Escojido

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Ron White

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Bryant Siegel

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Jeffres

YOUTH NEWS

Be making plans for F.U.E.L. April 27, 2019! Our theme is: Faith On Which To Stand. The Youth rally is designed for Junior and Senior High School age youth. F.U.E.L. stands for Faith, Understanding, Excellence, and Leadership. The purpose of F.U.E.L is to inform, instruct, and encourage Christian young people and to prepare them for the future by building up their faith in God through a deeper knowledge of the Scriptures. Flyers are in the foyer.

SPECIAL NOTE:

If you would like to add items to the bulletin, please see Nina Siegel or email :
office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Bill Young, who has ongoing medical problems.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr. 9,16,23,30: Men's and Ladies' Bible Classes @ 10 am
April 13: GEMS girls meeting at the building @9am
April 14: Jr./Sr. High Devo at Ron & Mary Jo White's home. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.
April 14: Quarterly Men's Business Meeting @ 3:30
April 27: F.U.E.L Youth Rally hosted by MidTown

AREA EVENTS

April 7-10: Portland church of Christ gospel meeting

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Scott Barton, Jennifer Miles (7); Bill Davis, Shiloh Cammock (11)

Happy Anniversary: Desmon & Naomi Flonnory

Please sign up to prepare communion, open & close the building, and host youth devotionals for 2019. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of March 31, 2019

Bible Class.....	103
A.M. Worship.....	124
P.M. Worship.....	81
Wednesday Bible Study.....	76

Offering \$3,657

THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

Each week will focus on reading a portion of the New Testament, each reading will only take 30 minutes:

Matthew 10-16



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

GO PAPERLESS!

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