
Is Ours a Church Where We Are Growing Into Healthy Christians?



March
2011

From a book I am reading.....

Jenny surprised me when she started crying during the membership interview with the session of the church. The first twenty minutes of the interview were fairly routine. She recounted her childhood growing up in a Christian home, her high school years filled with fear and a period of living as a prodigal during college. Then she recalled with some joy her conversion experience in a hometown local church.

So I did not expect her to sob at the question: "How was that church for you spiritually? Did you grow there?"

After pausing for a moment, she explained, "I expected that after my conversion someone would have helped me to grow as a Christian." She continued with a distinct trace of confusion and anger: "But it was as if people put me in a corner somewhere, as if they expected me to figure things out on my own. It was a terrible and lonely time."

How many Jennys have you met in your lifetime? Perhaps you are a Jenny. Perhaps you have spent considerable time in a local church, or several churches. And perhaps your Christian life is not too dissimilar from Jenny's. You came to the faith bright eyed and bushy tailed, bouncing with energy and zeal to do great things for the Lord. But soon you found yourself wondering, "What exactly am I supposed to be doing as a member of this local church"

The author went on to write...

Whether your Christian life began yesterday or thirty years ago, the Lord's intent is that you play an active and vital part in his body, the local church. He intends for you to experience the local church as a home more profoundly wonderful and meaningful than any other place on earth. He intends for his churches to be healthy places and for the members of those churches to be healthy as well.

Wow, what a challenge. As the under-shepherd called to lead this church I feel somewhat intimidated by the statement: *He intends for you to experience the local church as a home more profoundly wonderful and meaningful than any other place on earth. He intends for his churches to be healthy places.* I feel responsible for leading us to be such.

Is New Sterling that kind of church? Are we a *profoundly wonderful and meaningful place*? Elders and deacons, as you read this, how would you respond?

Beginning March 13 on Sunday evenings, I would like to address this issue. Last year at Synod each pastor and elder representative was given a little book entitled, [What is a Healthy Church Member?](#) It is a follow-up to the book, [The Nine Marks of a Healthy Church.](#) We discussed this earlier book some years ago and now I want to lead us through this latest book.

In the book author Thabiti M. Anyabile, points out ten characteristics of a healthy church member. We will discuss these attributes.

I want to encourage each of you to join us on Sunday evenings. Sunday evenings are a great time of learning but also a great time of fun and fellowship. The youth are doing their thing and we adults are doing ours then we all gather for a meal to close out the evening.

Part of being a member in a healthy church is fellowship. It is joining together not only to share our worship but to share our stories and to share our lives with each other. On Sunday evenings I sometimes set back just to listen to the laughter and the rumble of conversation that is filling the air. If you are not joining us then you are missing out and we are missing your involvement.

Please, if you have not made Sunday evenings part of your weekly activities consider making that change. We would greatly enjoy your involvement!



Always in His service,

Pastor Tim



Sympathy is expressed to Tammy Brown in the death of her Uncle William.

Our Sympathy is also expressed to the Gray family in the death of Mrs. Laverne Clanton and Mrs. Inez Tomlin.



HOPE and CARE

Help us celebrate March madness by collecting canned food, pasta, sugar, flour or any shelf staple items for the month.

We need to let those in our community know we care for them ALL the time, not just around the holidays.

Containers will be placed around the church. Thank You!!



Woman to Woman Conference



L to R:
Jane Mayhew,
Aarene Reese,
Delinda Mauney,
Judy Watson, Judy's
friend Sue, Carol
Davis, Betty Sides,
Melissa Donnelly,
Susan Pugh,
Jeanette Hauck, Jane
Fulbright and Bra-
bara McClure.
Those attending
Friday night in addi-
tion were: Kitzi
Emery and Sherry
Clarke.



Carol Davis and her jumper cables



Pastor Paul Cummings and his
Praise and Worship Bank



Guiding Principles for New Sterling Ministries

Biblical Theme

Fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness ... choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve ... as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord

Joshua 24:14-15

Vision

To live the full spectrum of life in obedience
to the complete counsel of God

Purpose

We are God's children, empowered by the Holy Spirit to love and serve Jesus Christ; to preach and teach God's Holy Word and to encourage others to follow Christ.

Values

The Word of God, Prayer, Worship, the Sacraments & Fellowship

Target

Families...

Over the years, God has blessed New Sterling with a loving, family atmosphere and, within these walls hundreds have raised their families to follow Jesus Christ. Our focus is to continue that work. We seek to bring God's teaching to the forefront for the families who call New Sterling home so that the parents and the children can be raised up in the *training and instruction of the Lord.*

Our neighbors...

God has given New Sterling a particular place within his ministry and we can look to the past few years to see something of what that has been. New Sterling has been and will be a place where one can come and worship the triune God in a biblical worship style

There are those who have experienced pain within the body of Christ, they have found shelter and sanctuary from our people. New Sterling offers the forgiveness and love of

Christ as we preach the good and sound gospel to those who are starving for the nourishing words of truth directly from the Holy Scriptures.

In addition, we can never close our doors or divert our attention from spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to a dying world. Many of our neighbors are lost and need the saving love of our Lord Jesus. We must always be prepared to 'sow the seeds our Lord Jesus has given us.'

Luk 10:27; Rom 6:13,12:1; 1 Cor 6:20; 1 Pet 2:5; Eph 5:17

Rom 8:16; 1 Jhn 3:1

Job 33:4; Rom 8:9; Jhn 16:13

Luk 10:27

Matt 28:19

Ps 10:17; Act 10:15; 1 Th 4:18; Heb 3:13

Acts 2:42

Eph 6:4

Mt 11:28



Our Actions

We, the church, will provide the means necessary for our members to fulfill the 4 Levels of the Christian Life. Each believer should have the ability to answer positively about the church's provision of resources and instruction for each level

We, the church, pray that as members of New Sterling each person can say...

Level I – Commitment to Christ

I am committed to Christ

I am committed to learning about him and his church

Level II – Commitment to Maturity

I am attending a periodic small group Bible Study

I am spending daily time with God

I am giving my financial resources to God

Level III – Commitment to Ministry

I am serving in ministry

I am seeking to grow in my area of gifting

I am instructing others

I am reaching out in love to those around me

Level IV – Commitment to Multiplication

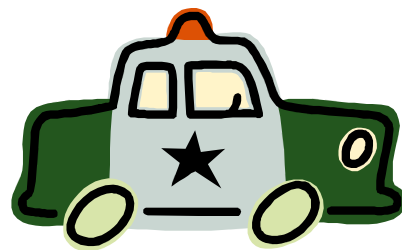
I am living an authentic Christian life

I am fulfilling my covenant responsibilities within my family

I am sharing my faith stories - 'Sowing the Seeds'

I am bringing my unchurched &/or apathetic friends to church

The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection. The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup. As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.



After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally....I assumed you had stolen the car." Priceless.

In these times of trouble on every side ,keep looking up to Him.



STERLING SILVERS



The Sterling Silvers met Monday, February 14, for a lovely Valentines Day celebration. Betty Godfrey led our meeting, with devotions by Harriett Linderman. Tables were decorated in red and white, with candy cups

at each place setting. We had a delicious meal of Betty's "special" chicken noodle soup, garlic bread and crackers. Several variations of chocolate cakes were served, as well as white and chocolate pretzels, tea and coffee.

After eating, we played BINGO with mystery prizes all wrapped and donated by Jim Snyder. (Thank you Jim that was so much fun!) By the way "Sarge" came strolling in at 12:00 saying he had overslept and needed a wake up call. He came in just in time for food and games. This was a time of fellowship that we were thankful for. Come and join us!

Here and There at New Sterling!!!!!!!



Ed Donohoe travelled to India for work recently....**Florence Brookshire** has been hospitalized with severe arthritis.....**Cora Poovey** has had back surgery.....**Betty Godfrey** fell and injured her leg.....**Jill Hager** travelled to Pinehurst for a work conference....**Erica Harper** has a new job and has moved to Charlotte....**Brax Setzer** has 2 teeth!....**Brent Mauney** will be stationed in Louisiana when he comes back from England in July.....**David Massey** had open heart surgery....**Terry Hoke** has been in the hospital with the flu.....**Gaye Pope** was hospitalized recently....Ask Jeanette Hauck if she needs roller skates when she ushers.....Margaret Cease spoke at the Woman to Woman conference in one of the break-out sessions.....**David Sides** and **Andy Gray** accepted an invitation to the NCFB President's Reception at the Governor's Executive Mansion.....**Rachel Gray** was honored at Sharon School awards day for being 1 of 5 students to be recognized as a member of the A Team.

Andy and Amy Gray attended the Pioneer Corn Growers reception in Raleigh. Gray House Farms received an award for 229 bushels of corn per acre.....**Andy, Amy, Rachel and Laurel Gray** enjoyed a vacation with 12 friends to Winterplace Ski Resort in West Virginia.....**Jared Hauck** won 1st place in wrestling within his weight division at recent tournament between all middle schools in the ISS system.....**The Graham** family traveled to Disney World for a vacation.....



COMMISSION OF BELIZE MISSION TEAM

Those traveling to Belize are Tim Hager, Aarene Reese, Eddie and Lori Compton, Delinda Mauney, Cindy Mcneely, Jeremy Brady, Tim and Judy Watson, David and Kim Brady, Pat Price and Tommy Morton.



Comedy corner

I THINK LARRY MAY BE OUR NEW FAVORITE KID!!!!!!

A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She started her class by saying, 'Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!'

After a few seconds, Little Larry stood up. The teacher said, 'Do you think you're stupid, Larry?' 'No, ma'am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!'

Larry watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face. 'Why do you do that, mommy?' he asked. 'To make myself beautiful,' said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue. 'What's the matter, asked Larry 'Giving up?'



The math teacher saw that Larry wasn't paying attention in class. She called on him and said, 'Larry! What are 2 and 4 and 28 and 44?'

Larry quickly replied, 'NBC, FOX, ESPN and the Cartoon Network!'

Larry's kindergarten class was on a field trip to their local police station where they saw pictures tacked to a bulletin board of the 10 most wanted criminals. One of the youngsters pointed to a picture and asked if it really was the photo of a wanted person.

'Yes,' said the policeman. The detectives want very badly to capture him. '

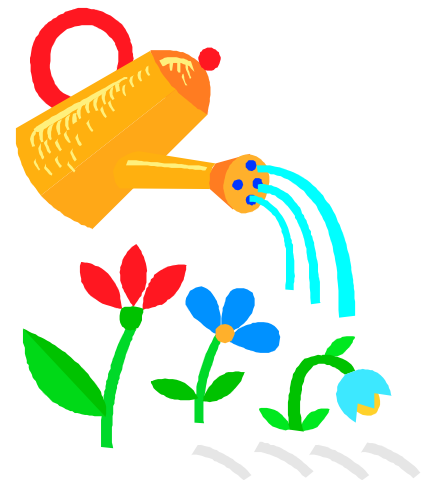
Larry asked, "Why didn't you keep him when you took his picture ? "



COMING EVENTS



| | | |
|-------------|----------|---|
| March 1 | 7:00 pm | Christian Symbols |
| March 4-6 | | Senior High Retreat |
| March 6 | 3:00 pm | Installation of Joseph Alghrary at Lakeside ARP Church in Mooresville Belize Mission Team returns |
| March 7 | 10:00 am | Golden Christian Circle |
| | 7:00 pm | Men's Bible Study |
| March 8 | 7:00 pm | Treasure Keepers—Nicki Winters and BJ Brewer, hostess; Cindy McNeely, facilitator; Leann Hartness and Kim Elliott, meal |
| March 9 | 7:00 pm | Ash Wednesday Service |
| March 13 | | DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS |
| | 10:00 am | Heart for Marriage Sunday School Class begins |
| | 11:00 am | Celebration of the Lord's Supper |
| | 5:00 pm | Missions Committee |
| | | CE Committee |
| | 5:00 pm | C3 Practice |
| | 6:00 pm | Sunday Family Night Begins |
| March 14 | 10:30 am | Sterling Silvers Luncheon |
| | 7:00 pm | Evangelism/Membership Committee |
| March 15 | 7:00 pm | Mary Martha Sunset in the parlor |
| March 16 | 9:30 am | Mary Martha Sunrise |
| March 18-20 | | Middle School Retreat |
| March 20 | | Stewardship/Finance Committee |
| | 5:00 pm | C3 Practice |
| | 6:00 pm | Sunday Family Night |
| March 22 | | Elder's Association |
| | 7:00 pm | Knit Wits in the parlor |
| March 24 | | Adult Spring Fling |
| March 27 | | Youth Council |
| | 5:00 pm | C3 Practice |
| | 6:00 pm | Sunday Family Night |
| March 28 | 7:00 pm | Men's Bible Study |
| March 29 | 7:00 pm | Property and Maintenance |



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 Rachel Gray
4 Laura Lail
4 Jim Hartness
4 Pat Sherrill
5 Jessica Burruel
5 Tim Watson
5 Clay Price
6 Darrell Elliott
6 Erin Waugh
9 Leah Gryder
11 Floyd Levan
11 Taryn Setzer
13 Amy Gray
13 Brianna Henderson
14 Todd Winters



15 Gary Goodman
15 Matthew Moose
16 Tim Hager
16 Dylan Hartness
16 Charles Pope
17 Benjamin Watson
20 Nolan Winters
22 Wendy Pope
23 Gary Reavis
25 Betty Levan
25 Wayne Waugh
26 Ruth Foy
31 Cindy McNeely

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*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your path.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

