



EBENEZER
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 27, 2019 6:30-8:00 pm

Praise & Prayer (6:30-7:00)

- Praise (Pastor Jeremy)
 - “Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus” - #350
 - “The Love of God” - #67

- Pastor Tim Prayer Preface:
 - 2 Chronicles 30:12 - “The hand of God...”
 - Ezra 8:21 - “The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him...”

- Prayer Groups prayed for the following:
 - Prayer of Praise & Thanksgiving:
 - Thanksgiving for God’s saving & sanctifying work in our lives
 - Thanksgiving for God’s financial provision
 - Thanksgiving for a healthy church
 - Prayer for God’s help:
 - Prayer for sick and needy in the congregation
 - Prayer for members and attendees who have stayed away from the truth & fellowship of the church
 - Prayer for the faithful preaching and teaching of the Word of God
 - Prayer for the Leadership: Elders & Deacons, Teachers, Staff, & Ministry Leaders
 - Prayer for the Ministries of Ebenezer
 - Prayer for our Missionaries
 - Prayer for continued provision both spiritually and physically
 - Prayer that Ebenezer would have a major impact on our community

Annual Meeting (7:00-8:00)

- 1) **Prayer & Roll Call** (Pastor Tim & Pastor Dick, respectively)
 - Elders:
 - **Present:** Dick Bickings, Dennis Flanagan, Tom Galloway, Tim Gibson, Bob Gill, Swannie Griffin, Kevin Hardy, Jeremy Harkins, Scott Holwick, Chris Jones, Phil Norris, Mike Notary, Byron Roth
 - **Absent:** None
 - Deacons:
 - **Present:** Rob Christiansen, George Hardy, Kevin Kritzberger, Gary Walleisa
 - **Absent:** Mark Florentine, Mark Hardy (excused), Kamba Kalubi, Blake Kuntz (excused), Dan Lichtenwalner (excused), Andy Meeks (excused)

- 2) **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes from the Congregational Budget Meeting held December 9, 2018 were unanimously approved by a show of hands.

- 3) **Update of 2018 YTD Budget** (Byron Roth)
 - Thanks to Finance & Audit Committee workers
 - 2018 Income was right on target
 - Heyer Trust (presently at \$40,000), \$20,000/year for 17 more years
 - Budget is being developed for using the Heyer Trust for the Lynfield Ministry

- 4) **Vote on BFC Delegates** (all approved unanimously by show of hands)
 - Phil Norris
 - Bob Gill
 - Scott Holwick (alternate)

- 5) **Annual Report Discussion & Approval** (approved unanimously by show of hands)
 - No discussions or questions
 - Pastor Tim highlighted new members & baptisms
 - Swannie Griffin thanked the congregation for the Miracle Month giving, which reached the goal of \$25,000
 - George Hardy praised the Lord for closing of the sale on the parsonage
 - Joe Favere praised the Lord for Child Evangelism work, and the support from EBFC
 - Bob Gill praised the Lord and thanked the leaders for their faithfulness in leading the 18 Kinship Groups
 - Laura Sommons praised the Lord for the women's retreat and bible studies
 - Chris Jones praised the Lord for Newcomer Luncheons
 - Jason Lee still needs workers for the simulcast ministry
 - Phil Norris praised the Lord for the 34 people who went to Sight and Sound Theater
 - Jennifer Schanely praised the Lord for children's ministry and mentioned the need for leaders
 - Nancy Murphy thanked the Lord for new workers in the library
 - Tracey & Kerry Hickock want to make visits; need others to help
 - Swannie Griffin & Tim Gibson gave Church Extension Report
 - Jason Filbert (Naples, Florida)
 - Tim Zuck (Forks Twp, PA)
 - Joe Favere, reminded men about prayer and Bible studies

- 6) **Reports/Vision for 2018/2019**
 - Pastor Tim Gibson – Senior Pastor
 - Vision Goals for 2019
 - Theme: Faithful (6 items)
 - Prayer (missions, 4 prayer efforts - 5th Sunday nights)
 - 100% participation in kinship (encourage one another to be involved)
 - 100% participation (by church members) in making one disciple this year
 - 100% participation (by church members) in giving faithfully
 - Establish a permanent presence in Lynfield
 - Move 50 regular attendees to active membership, and get them to actively serve
 - Pastor Dick Bickings – Pastor of Discipleship
 - Thanksgiving for the Church
 - Explained "Families Together" (Attachment #1)
 - Update on Lynfield Worship Services
 - Introduced Ebenezer's Mobile App, which is forthcoming

- Pastor Jeremy Harkins – Pastor of Worship & College
 - Thanksgiving for the church
 - Song selection done by:
 - Words from scripture
 - Arrangement appropriate
 - In line with sermon topic
 - We have an environment among the Worship Team where we disciple & grow one another and truly worship God as we sing
 - The Worship Team builds up one another through the study of God’s Word and prayer, all to glorify Jesus

- Pastor Mike Notary – Youth Pastor
 - Spent the weekend at Pinebrook at SnoGlo (Theme: “What it Means to Follow Christ”)
 - Blessed by Church & people
 - Preached through 1 Corinthians & now in Jonah in the youth group
 - Thanked volunteers
 - Theme for 2019: What does it mean to follow Christ?
 - Challenged parents to be involved
 - Property items:
 - New Lights in the Gym
 - Big Picture needs of the ministry (facility-wise)

7) **Questions/Concerns**

- Joe Favere: Reminder of Men’s Prayer on Saturday Mornings
- Pastor Tim thanked the Lord for the Staff individually, elders, and deacons

8) **Meeting adjourned with Prayer:** Pastor Tim

Respectfully Submitted,



Pastor Dick Bickings,
Secretary to the Board of Elders

Families Together

What is it?

Families Together is not an additional church program, but a ministry philosophy derived from scripture through which we can filter all our adult and children's ministries. Since our purpose is to equip the saints to do the work of the ministry, we are to help families see what they are to be through the corrective lens of scripture.

Purpose

To foster family relationships emphasizing the God ordained necessity of the individual family unit as the core of the Local Church. This family unit is defined biblically as follows:

- The Man as husband and father, leads, protects, and provides for his family in all things both physically and spiritually, loving his wife as Christ loves the church, under Jesus Christ as his head. (Deut 6: 4-9; Eph 5:25-32; 1 Cor 11:3; Col 3:19, 21; 1 Tim 5:8; 1 Pet 3:7)
- The Woman as wife and mother, keeps the home, is a help-meet to her husband, submitting to his leadership, loves, nurtures and cares for their children, and thereby exposing the beauty of God ordained motherhood, all under her husband as her head. (Eph 5:22-24; 1 Cor 11:3; Col 3:18; Titus 2:4-5)
- The Children who in obeying their father and mother, recognizing them as their physical and spiritual providers, and understanding that obedience to God is in line with obedience to their father and mother, are being prepared to become an active godly member of their own families someday. (Deut 6: 2, 4-9; Eph 6:1-4; Col 3:20)

How Do We Accomplish Our Purpose?

- By choosing teaching material and authors that are solidly, biblically based, promoting community and interdependence rather than independence.
- By choosing events that are planned around helping men, women, and children understand their biblical roles, with the take away being achievable goals set to help each accomplish these roles.
- By providing mature mentors to help men, women and children see and then emulate this biblical model as long as their mentor follows Christ.
- By providing biblical counseling for families at no cost to help each in the time of crisis or just a mature believer to help give direction and prayer.
- By promoting marriage as God's prime example of Christ and His church and therefore something wonderful, beautiful, and to be sought after by most people.

FAQs?

- Why is there such an emphasis on marriage and the family?
Answer: The emphasis on marriage is due to its strong emphasis in scripture. Since singleness is a gift, only given to a few, the preponderance of church members should be married. (Eph 5:22-33; Heb 13:4; 1 Cor 7:6)
- How do we apply our purpose to single adults?
Answer: We will provide our single brothers or sisters with accountability partners, older men for younger men, and older women for younger women, so that they understand

Families Together

their importance in the body of Christ, and what the biblical instructions and implications are for singleness versus pursuing marriage. They should be encouraged to serve in the local church as the Spirit has gifted them. (1 Cor 7:1-8)

- How do we apply our purpose to a divorcee?

Answer: We will provide a mature believer (or couple) to come alongside the divorcee and help them with repentance if it was a result of their sin and help them know that there is forgiveness and restoration in Christ. This believer or couple will help provide the support needed, for the divorcee, to be the mother or father to their children (if any), and to help them if remarriage is biblically possible. (Matt 19:1-12; 1 Cor 7:39-40)

- How do we apply our purpose to a marriage where there is a believer with an unbelieving spouse?

Answer: We would provide a mature couple to come alongside the believing spouse and help them understand what their biblical responsibility is to their unbelieving spouse as long as he or she remains in that marriage, emphasizing the importance of the believing spouse living out the love of Christ. Also, the mentoring could help provide direction for the training up of their children in the church. (Matt 19:1-12; 1 Cor 7:10-16; 39-40)

- How do we apply our purpose to a widow or widower?

Answer: We must provide the support needed for the older widow or widower during their grieving process, making sure that their physical needs are being met, and seek to plug them into serving the local church as the Spirit has gifted them. (1 Tim 5:9-10, 16)

For the younger widow or widower, we would encourage them to remarry after a period of time for grieving has ended. Then proceed to encourage them with the man, woman, and children's roles above. (1 Tim 5:11-14)