



The Family Postman

October 2017

A loving community building up followers of Jesus, sharing Christ everywhere we go.

Where are you (and we) going?

Last month we looked at challenges described in the Bible related to motivation. We saw that in the face of challenges, if our eyes are on ourselves, we human beings give in to fear and discouragement. But, if our eyes are fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, God inspires us with motivation to accomplish his work.

So, once we choose to stop focusing on ourselves, shift our focus to God, and he begins to give us a sense of motivation to join him in his work, what do we do next? One of the first things we have to do is identify where we are going. What is the goal and work God wants us to accomplish?

Paul is one of the best examples of a Christian driven to accomplish the goals God had given him. He also exhorts us to be driven in the same manner. He encourages us to “run in such a way as to get the prize” (I Cor. 9:24-27), to “this one thing I do, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me” (Phil. 3:10-14).

How committed was he to God’s goal? At the end of his life, he was able to say with confidence that he had “kept the faith, finished the race”, and would be rewarded by God (II Tim. 4:6-8). I am hoping, by God’s grace, I will be able to say the same at the end of my life on this earth.

This all sounds great, to “run the race”, to “press on toward the goal”, to do the “one thing” God has called us to do. But, what is that “one thing”, and how do

we run the race, and how do we know if we are making progress in finishing the race?

These are precisely the questions the Fellowship is bringing before the Lord during this time of transition. Working in partnership with our church consultants, we are seeking God's direction regarding our mission (why we exist as a local church), our vision (the specific goals God has given our local church) and our strategies (how God wants us to achieve his purposes for us).

As has been detailed in other Postman articles the past two months, the mission of the church is the Great Commission Jesus gave his followers in Matthew 28:19-20, to go and make disciples of all nations... However, each local gathering of his followers needs to identify why they exist as a local church towards this Great Commission. At the Fellowship, our mission, is to be: "a loving community, building up followers of Jesus, sharing Christ everywhere we go".

As Paul was highly motivated by God's power at work in him, towards the goals God have given him (Col. 1:28-29), we too can be motivated by God to strive towards the goals God has given us.

Let's move from the conceptual to the practical. Thankfully, the Lord's direction to us is very practical. His mission for our church has three components: to be a loving community, to build up followers of Jesus, and to share Christ everywhere we go. So, if we desire to follow where the Lord is going and take part in what he is doing, we prayerfully join him in his work in our church in these three areas.

To foster a loving community, we can attend service regularly, not only to draw near to God in worship, but also to love and encourage our brothers and sisters. With God's empowerment, we can all come to worship service each Sunday prayerfully seeking how we can express God's love to one another. In John 13, Jesus tells us our love for one another is a powerful witness of the saving power of Jesus. This is part of the reason we are moving to one service at this time, so we can better connect with and love each other, not only with those we already know, but those we will come to know in shared worship.

We can take this love further by building up our fellow followers of Jesus. At the Fellowship, our Adult Bible Fellowships (ABF) and Small Groups are structured to provide us an environment in which we can build each other up (I Thess.

5:11). If you aren't currently in an ABF or Small Group, we encourage you to visit some of them and find where the Lord wants you to join with others to build each other up.

A key component of Jesus' mission, which many churches struggle to fulfill, including the Fellowship, is to share Christ everywhere we go. The Fellowship has grown to have a flourishing ministry of sending and supporting missionaries around the world. But, in all honesty, we have not been very effective in reaching our own community. The Lord is now challenging us to grow in obedience to him in this regard. Our Community Outreach Team is very excited about specific directions the Lord is laying on our hearts regarding loving our neighbors with the love of Christ. Watch the bulletin for opportunities to engage with and love our community that are coming up later this month and in the following months.

Earlier in this article, we looked in Philippians 3:10-14, at Paul's focus on achieving God's goals. In verse 17 of the same chapter, he continues this admonition by stating: "join with others in following my example." To answer the question of the title, where are we going? By God's grace, we are going to love our community, we are going to build up followers of Jesus, and we are going to share Christ everywhere we go.

~Steve Cox

Director of Adult Ministries

stevepcox [at] comcast.net



Guest Speakers for October:

10/8 Scott Ball, *Re-Envisioning Consultant*

10/15 Mike Shelton, *Narnia*

10/22 Ralph Thompson, *Kenya*

10/29 Dave Doré

Ladies Soup for the Soul

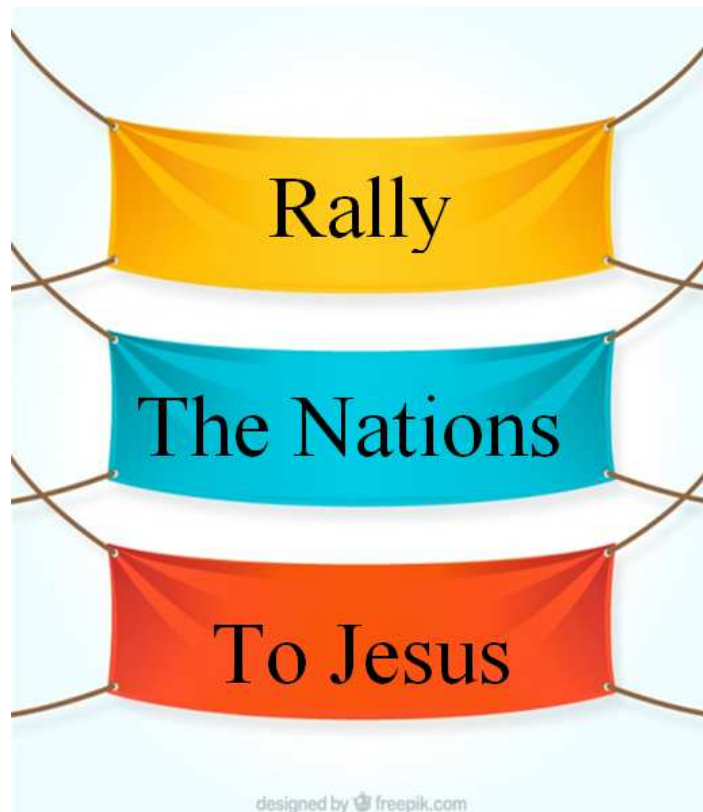
Friday, October 13

6 - 9 PM

Susan Gummow will be sharing "Beauty from Ashes"

Sign up Oct. 8

Go Fest **October 21-22, 2017**



Isaiah 11:10 "In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him and his resting place will be glorious."



October 15, 2017 at 10:30 am. Our featured speaker will be Mike Shelton, one of our homegrown workers now serving with his wife Joann and 3 younger girls in Narnia. Recent projects that Mike and Joann have been involved in includes storytelling, connections with local universities to teach the Bible and Christian history to those in the tourism industry, and work with

refugees from Syria.

October 21, 5:30PM: Missions Banquet for All Ages

Keynote Speaker: Ralph Thompson will be speaking following the Missions Banquet (7:00 PM), and preaching for the Worship Service on October 22 (10:30 AM). **Note:** Nursery and a program for children will be available following the Missions Banquet.

Ralph is team leader for workers in Africa and will be the leader for the Scanlans when they arrive in country. Ralph and his family have been living and serving in Africa for a number of years and they and their teammates have developed ministries through a library, coffee house, printing press and outreach to kids, as ways to develop relationships within the community and meet the felt needs of the locals. The Thompsons have two college age children and a younger daughter who lives at home.



CONNECT
FELLOWSHIP KIDS FAMILIES

Are you signed up for our **Fellowship Kids Families CONNECT** newsletter? Email us at [kids \[at\] thefellowshiponline](mailto:kids@thefellowshiponline) to subscribe!

Don't miss our first **Kids Club Funhouse** night, Tuesday, November 7 (6:30 - 8:00). Our first theme will be PIRATES! Join us for pirate fun and our sailboat regatta.



Looking for ways to help?

Join our Junior Church, Check-In Desk, or Hall Monitor rotations...or sign up to substitute! See Jess Silva for more information (kids [at]

thefellowshiponline.org).

500 Years Ago

On October 31, 1517 our world changed. We now have public education for boys and girls right through High School. Congregations, even Catholic ones, sing during worship services. The Bible in the mother tongue is now a reality for the overwhelming majority. The doctrine of forgiveness spans billions of believers. We are all stunned when we encounter an adult who cannot read. The importance of a family and family values also can be traced to a passionate monk, turned professor, who did his best to alert the religious leaders that there was a need for serious reform. Martin Luther is rightfully ranked as one of the top three most influential figures since 1000 AD. On this Halloween take a moment to thank God for how he changed the world and our lives, 500 years ago.



~David Doré

Reminder: Memory Book for Bernie & Cheryl

Time is running out! We are putting together a book of letters and pictures for Bernie and Cheryl, to thank them for their many years of service. It will be presented at the November banquet. You can include

Prison Ministry

Matthew 25:36,39,40:

I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me...and when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you,

stories, memories, photos, thanks, or anything else you'd like to say.

Please submit your notes and photos to Heidi (**heidilburg [at] gmail.com**) by October 22. Thank you!



as you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers, you did it to me.'

As you read these words of Jesus, do you feel a call to visit and minister to those in prison? Tom Hanley is looking for someone to join him in prison ministry. If God is speaking to your heart towards considering this important ministry, contact Tom at 508-583-5612.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

MINISTRY TO MEN

Saturday, October 14, 2017

Join us for Breakfast **7:00 – 9:00 AM**

Speaker – Steve Cox



Living a Life of Purpose: Understanding Your Part in Christ's Mission

Steve will help us with God's personal call on each of us, helping us to understand where the church is headed and help us to know our roles as men in helping the church move forward in God's call.

II Tim 4:6-8, I Cor 9:24-27, Phil 3:7-14

Saturday, October 14, 2017

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM

- \$5.00 per person
- Pay in the Family Activity Center or when you arrive.
- Sign up by Wednesday, October 11th

For More Information:
Alan Siegel: 508-238-0406
Peter Rice: 508-238-8661

Menu

A Hearty Breakfast

- * Scrambled Eggs
- * Sausage & Bacon
- * Pancakes
- * Tater Tots
- * Fresh Fruit
- * Juice, Coffee & Tea

He Said...She Said: The Marriage Forum



Busyness! Patty and I feel totally overwhelmed this fall. For both of us, it means the start of another 6 weeks of MarriageCare (we are looking again at roles in marriage). For Patty, it means putting time and energy into

babysitting our grandson Tucker on Tuesdays, putting a lot of time and effort into the Strategic Envisioning Team, being part of her prayer/accountability group that has been meeting together for over 20 years and fundraising as a Board member of the Easton Charitable Trust (the Easton Festival of Trees in December). Patty not only does fundraising, but also is incredibly talented when it comes to tree decorating. (I think she is planning on decorating 4 to 5 trees to raffle) For me (Doug), life does not get simpler as a physician/business owner. I also serve on several Boards at a local hospital, work with my management staff to put out "forest fires" that arise in the normal course of running any business; meet with my Business Owners Accountability Group, and try to stay healthy by regular exercise with a trainer. Whew!

Where does "feeding our marriage" (I Corinthians 7:33-34 MSG) enter our equation? And Patty and I do not have kids at home!

This is the main reason that we facilitate MarriageCare twice a year. We need to be accountable to a group of couples to feed our own marriage. As we've said previously, any living thing that is not fed will wither and die.

During MarriageCare this fall we are going to talk about each spouse initiating "one true connection" daily (a concept borrowed from Mira Kirshenbaum's book The Weekend Marriage). We are going to explore "guerrilla" tactics couples can implement to deal with the busyness "Gorilla" that can destroy their marriage. Wives will be exploring looking for ways to connect with their husband in the context of their roles as "generous helper/lovers". Husbands will be looking for specific activities to connect with their wives in their role as "tender hearted servant/leaders". For the husbands, it may be something as simple as giving their wife a serious hug and kiss each day. For the wives, it might be a "physical" surprise that involves more than a hug and a kiss. It also could mean a special meal or an "encouraging" text. Making these special connections "a way of life". (i.e. Transformational)

We find that our MarriageCare community is essential to helping both of us "keep at it". Also, we are not alone. God is always with us to help compensate for our inadequacies. (Hebrews 13:6; II Corinthians 12:9)

Let's continue to encourage each other to persevere as we trust God to help us "make deposits" in our marriages. (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Sincerely,

Doug and Patty
patricia.grogan52 [at] gmail.com
dgrogan [at] bmgwc.com

Narnia News*

Pray for the release of Andrew Brunson. The American pastor who served in Smyrna is still in prison. No evidence has been brought forward about absurd spying charges. He appears to be a trading chip in Narnia's interaction with America. God used Moses to set free His children. Jesus came to set prisoners free. A prayer meeting in Acts was used to set Peter free. Pray for Andrew Brunson's release.

"Henry", named changed to protect him, is a security guard at SPCC in the church where Richard and Denise worshiped while they lived in Narnia. He is a recent refugee from Iran. He is well-educated. He sought a better life, he found a Savior. Iranian Christians are a major story in the spiritual life of Narnia. Pray for "Henry". Mike is coming to The Fellowship in October. He will be preaching on October 15. He will also participate in Faith Promise Sunday. Pray for safe journey mercies. Pick up the October Narnia prayer sheet at the Welcome Center.

~David Doré

**Narnia! Our partner workers in a Middle Eastern country have requested that we use code words in order to protect workers and national believers from harsh persecution in this Muslim dominated society.*

Deadline for November 2017 Postman: October 25

Contact the church office,
info [at] thefellowshiponline.org, 508-238-1226

Prayer Chain

Contact Dave DiFalco,
davejdifalco [at] gmail.com, or 774-259-6637

For updates to The Fellowship website:

Contact Jeff Silva,
jeff.silva.d [at] gmail.com
