

**Sherwood Community Friends Church
Business Meeting
June 3, 2018**

AGENDA

- 1. Opening Prayer** **Verne Martin**

- 2. Time of Prayer and Waiting**

- 3. Minute Approval from Previous Meeting**

- 4. Nominating Committee Report** **David Schlarbaum**

- 5. Committee Reports** **Marcia Astleford, Dwayne Astleford, Charlett Smith, Don Powers**

- 6. Pastor Reports** **Rob Whitaker, Daniel Licon, Rich Miller**

- 7. Questions and Additional Concerns**

- 8. Closing Prayer** **Verne Martin**

Sherwood Community Friends Church Business Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2018

Opening Prayer

- Christine Brandt opened the meeting with Scripture and prayer.

Minutes
from
October 8,
2017

- Minutes from previous meeting were approved without objection.

Committee Reports

- **Christine Brandt** asked that members read all committee reports. Then time was given for questions or comments.
- Marcia Astleford, **Christian Education** – Highlights
 - Thanked Karen Burkholder for her work with the kids on the Christmas Program.
 - We are not offering spots at Tilikum Day Camp this year due to a decline in member children interest and little interest in the community. Encouraging community to register directly with Tilikum.
 - We are hosting Quizzing on March 3 and need 4-5 host homes for Idaho kids. There will be approximately 10 people including adults. You would provide breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. They can sleep on the couch or floor – they aren't picky. We also need help at the church on Quizzing day - hosting and setting up and help with registration.
 - Camp Fundraiser and Silent Auction will be April 22.
 - Christine Brandt commented on her experience with hosting and encouraged others to host.
- Christy Crisman, **Mission & Outreach** – Highlights
 - Faith Promise project for 2017 – looking forward to having Greg from Genesis Diez next Sunday.
 - Keep Rest Stop Ministry and Willowbrook Food Pantry in your prayers
 - Encouraged volunteers for the Committee
- Dwayne Astleford, **Spiritual Life** – Highlights
 - Main highlights – Thanksgiving Brunch, potluck business meeting, and all kinds of fun stuff we've been doing. Most things are going well.
 - Appreciate we've had lots of help with the social committee.
- Don Powers, **Board of Elders** – Highlights
 - Still looking for individuals to fill spots on the Elders – church is an organism and we are the organs. In order for the organism to work well we need to work together. Encouraged people to ask God if he wanted them to be involved. Talk to nominating committee.
 - Elders have decided to reactivate the Administrative Council made up of Elders, Meeting Clerk, Pastors and Clerks of all Committees. This will help all the various groups and committees function better. Help identify key issues for Elders agenda and allow communication between committees.
 - Internship Program – Rich will explain.
- Question: Do you have any names for potential elders?
 - Don responded - Need to talk to Dave (Schlarbaum) about that. Not appropriate for Elders to choose themselves. The Nominating Committee does a great job of that, so Dave can talk to you about that.

Staff Reports

- Rob Whittaker, **Worship Arts** – Highlights
 - Rich's mic broke in November – tried replacing it as cost effectively as possible. First try was a swing and a miss. Took it back and got it replaced – it is working better.
 - We are trying to effectively manage our sound equipment, so it will enhance what we do in worship. Some of that is volume control, so for instance, we want to buy a new drum shield that better covers our drum set. Trying to do things to keep the quality of the sound good and manageable.
 - Had experienced sound technician (Mike Shaw) go over our equipment to get our sub working.
 - Good to have Daria back on the worship team.
 - Having another activity end of February – beginning of March to continue to connect as a Worship Team.

- Daniel Licon, **Youth Pastor** – Highlights
 - Thanked the church for their support.
 - Has been enjoying the past few months of spending time with the Youth – at sports/games or around the events of the church. We've developed good conversations that are meaningful for him.
 - Trying to forge a number of areas of contact ministry. Youth today have access 24 hours to entertainment - must be creative to really provide them with what their souls need, what their whole person needs is what we're trying to address. We are trying to provide a place for them where they can encounter the living Christ.
 - Invitation to connect with members over dinner.

- Rich Miller, **Pastor** – Highlights
 - Thanked the Pastor Support/Preaching Team – they support and encourage him.
 - Reported on the NWYM Visioning Meeting held at Sherwood on 1/27
 - The transition over the last several months has been a long painful process – a lot of people have left NWYM and it was evident yesterday of the loss of young people (under 30). Even so there was a Spirit of Hope in the meeting
 - Working with Jamie Johnson at George Fox to develop an internship program. Hope to have 1-2 interns this Fall. There is no budget for this. Please pray for this.
 - We need to reenergize and invest in our young people.
 - We are missing people who are dealing with illness. A possible theme for the year is “recovery”.
 - Encouraged us to acknowledge the reality we are facing and then have hope and place our trust in Jesus.
 - Thanked all for support of the church.

- Cary Kutter, **Stewardship**, went over the current budget.
 - Need more members on the committee.
 - Thanks to Molly for years of service.
 - All committees were under budget. Read through the list in his report of the new budget for 2018. Increased the budget a little.
 - Shouldn't limit God – we should step out and meet the budget.
 - 2018 budget is \$12,376 deficit budget.
 - We have not spent anything from the charter school reserve.
 - Rich commented: Last year we also had a deficit budget, this year the deficit is half the amount.
 - Brett McKee commented: Re: the country's economy and that we should trust God and

- challenged the church to step out in faith.
- Christine commented: We need to approve the budget, encouraged us to trust God. Also, we have not touched the Charter School reserve of \$150,509.
- **Tim Brandt, Trustees.**
 - Parking lot is deteriorating. He has received 4 bids of approximately \$50,000 to \$80,000 to repave the upper parking lot and seal coat the lower parking lot. We will ask the school to cover half. No guarantee we will get that.
 - Goal is to pay off loan balance of \$30,000 with charter school reserve + parking lot 80,000 is \$110,000. The school is paying rent of about \$7,000/month; so with \$80,000 from charter school in payments for last year, by the Summer we should have \$42,000 added to that. Our goal is always to have money left in the reserve. Even if we get nothing from the school for the parking lot, we can still do the parking lot and pay off the loan and we are still adding to the reserve monthly.
 - We do not use the school to pay any operating expenses. So, if the school ever leaves we can still pay our bills.
 - Cary: Last year we had some extra costs and transferred some out of the designated reserves to go against some of the expenses. Last year the budget was \$179,000 and this year its \$181,000, very similar to what we did last year.
 - Comments
 - Question about companies for paving the parking lot. Tim gave a description of several of them. Need to decide so we can get it done in the Summer.
 - Question: When will we pay the \$30,000 loan balance off? We plan to pay it off now.
 - David Crisman asked if we had other projects coming up for 2018.
 - Carpet needs replacing in the next 5 years.
 - No other major expenditures and nothing this year.
- Christine asked for approval of:
 - Pay off loan
 - Approve Parking Lot expense/project
 - Approve deficit budget of \$12,376

- **All Approved**

Comments

- Request for an update of the status of NW Yearly Meeting. Rich Miller reported the following:
 - Losing 1/3 of membership representing 40% of Yearly Meeting income.
 - The Task Force is meeting today and will communicate next steps.
 - Search for a new Superintendent is ongoing.
 - Elizabeth Licon has taken on the position of Youth Ministry Oversight at NWYM as well as Office Manager.
- Brett McKee commented we should be aware how we treat our youth – make them feel welcome so they will stay and become part of the church.

Closing Prayer

- Elizabeth Licon closed in prayer.

Minutes submitted by: Wendy
McIndoo

4/29 AC Meeting

Present:

Don Powers
Daniel Licon
Dwayne Astleford
Karen Burkholder
Charlett Smith
Christine Brandt
Linda Giesbers
Tim Brandt

Don opened in prayer and introduced the meeting agenda – the Ministry Fair. He commented that all committees need to be on the same page and asked for ideas and input.

Charlett commented it needs to be fun and intergenerational, carnival type games, gifts of the spirit type of discovery. A discussion of how that could interface with sharing of opportunities.

Karen commented their needs are for more people on their committee. Charlett commented that they could share the opportunity for people to write letters to missionaries or pray for them, long term or short term.

Christine, suggested perhaps spending once Sunday on each area to emphasize it and that is our church service for the day. For example, working on a service project together on Missions Sunday and what would that look like. What would it look like for each of the 4 branches to focus on that for a Sunday that is all encompassing and all involved. What kind of activity for Christian Ed or Spiritual Life would we all participate in? What would it look like to focus on each of those areas for one Sunday each, to come along side each as a church.

General Discussion of this idea followed. Comments

- People might remember it better if it were one Sunday for each than if it was one big fair.
- might be better after church instead of trying to get people to come back for another meeting which would limit participation.
- do something like the day after the workday.
- If we try to do this 4 consecutive Sundays we are going to lose people along the way.
- You could still have worship time and let the activity take the place of the preaching.
- Different instruments during the morning for people to try.
- Won't know till we try how if it will work – need to stop talking about what won't work and try something.
- What is the definition of success, God's idea, not ours.
- Different things will appeal to different people.
- People at different stages of life
- Raising awareness of need is prime – and awareness of opportunity small and large.

Daniel brought up the Camp Tilicum and Twin Rocks fundraiser banquets. We could do this type of thing and feature different projects and events during the year. Make it a celebration of accomplishments and a looking forward to future accomplishments.

More general discussion of this idea.

Don listed ideas:

1. Sunday focus on each area
2. Celebration lunch with videos to highlight each committee's successes, with pictures or some kind of presentation.

After some discussion it was agreed to do a celebration lunch which will help us focus on successes and goal setting for the coming year.

- It could become an annual type of thing.
- It would take the place of the service and possibly include a potluck.
- Need to include a way for people to become involved even in small ways. How do we integrate that.
- We should give people a chance to tell their story about how God has blessed them. This encourages people to get involved
- Video with narration and music

Next steps:

Committees talk about successes and needs and report to AC. What stories do they want to tell.

Find people to help put presentations together. Daniel knows someone who can film for us.

When: Fall

Next meeting in August:

Committee leaders send email about this to committee members so they are ready to start

3-5 minute video or other presentation

Each committee needs to have presentation figured out by August.

Have round tables in the Sanctuary and bring food in for presentation

Could this be in place of the Thanksgiving service. It is a celebration of Thanksgiving so it might work.

Find out if the entertainment is already planned out.

General enthusiasm for doing it at Thanksgiving.

Don will send out email to committees summarizing steps to lay the groundwork.

Other item: Don's State of the Church Report. He will be sending email to Committee Chairs to get some questions answered.

Committee adjourned.

**Sherwood Community Friends Church
Nominating Committee Report to Business Meeting
June 3, 2018**

OFFICERS & ADMINISTRATION (*)

Christine Brandt (Presiding Clerk)	6/30/2019
Verne Martin (Assistant Clerk)	6/30/2019
Wendy McIndoo (Recording Clerk)	6/30/2019
Priscilla Peterson (Accounts Payable/Receivable & Bookkeeping)	6/30/2019
Christine Brandt & Nadine Miller (Yearly Meeting Representatives)	6/30/2019

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ()**

Dave Schlarbaum (Clerk)	12/31/2019
Ryan Zettlemoyer	12/31/2019
Marilyn Antrim	12/31/2018
Daria Brandt	12/31/2018
Lee Weislogel	12/31/2018
Rich Miller (<i>ex-officio</i>)	

BOARD OF ELDERS

Don Powers (Clerk)	6/30/2020
Linda Giesbers	6/30/2021
Craig McIndoo	6/30/2021
Christine Brandt (<i>ex-officio</i>)	
Rich Miller (<i>ex-officio</i>)	
Daniel Licon (<i>ex-officio</i>)	
Rob Whitaker (<i>ex-officio</i>)	

SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE (*)**

Wendy McIndoo (Clerk)	6/30/2021
<u> </u> (Assistant Clerk)	
Dwayne Astleford	6/30/2021
Julie Kutter	6/30/2019
Elizabeth Licon	6/30/2021

Worship & Arts Ministry Team Lead

Julie Kutter

Social/Fellowship Ministry Team Lead

Elizabeth Licon

Family Ties Ministry Team Lead

Verne & Ellen Martin

Pastoral Care/Visitation Ministry Team Lead

Harold & Marilyn Antrim

Prayer Meeting Ministry Team Lead

Deloris Burg

Furnishings & Décor Team Lead

Sue Gilmore

Small Groups/Adult Ministry Team Lead

Rich Miller

(*) Our *Officers & Administration* positions are 1-year terms and are to be renewed on an annual basis.

(**) Our *Nominating Committee* operates on a calendar year basis (i.e. Jan 1 to Dec. 31).

(***) Each committee is comprised of *Ministry Teams* which reflect tasks and responsibilities contained within the umbrella committees. The clerks, with the assistance of the committee members, will be responsible for recruitment and staffing for their respective committees.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ()**

Cary Kutter (Clerk)	6/30/2020
<u> </u> (Assistant Clerk)	

Mark Wagner	6/30/2021
Tim Giesbers	6/30/2021
Dan Hampton	6/30/2021
Tim Brandt (Trustee)	6/30/2021
Ryan Zettlemoyer (Trustee)	6/30/2021

Finances Ministry Team Lead

Priscilla Peterson & Molly Zettlemoyer

Trustees/Property Main. & Usage Ministry Team Lead

Tim Brandt

Information Systems Ministry Team Lead

Rich Miller

Marketing & Digital Communication Ministry Team Lead

Rich Miller

Office & Church Furnishings, Equip, Décor Team Lead

Priscilla Peterson & Rich Miller

MISSIONS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE ()**

Charlett Smith (Clerk)	6/30/2019
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(Assistant Clerk)

Christy Crisman	6/30/2021
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Sue Gilmore	6/30/2021
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Global Missions Ministry Team Lead

Elsa Jane Weislogel, Christy Crisman

Local Service/Social Concerns Ministry Team Lead

Charlett Smith, Christine Brandt, & Linda Giesbers

Benevolence (Inward/Outward Care) Ministry Team Lead

Rich Miller & Priscilla Peterson

Outreach Events Ministry Team Lead

Rich Miller

Friends Women Lead

Linda Giesbers

Friends Men Lead

Rich Miller

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE ()**

Dave Schlarbaum (Clerk)	6/30/2019
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Shannon Whitaker (Assistant Clerk)	6/30/2021
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Marcia Astleford	6/30/2021
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Karen Burkholder	6/30/2021
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Molly Zettlemoyer	6/30/2021
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Sunday School Ministry Team Lead

Camping & Conferences Ministry Team Lead

Dave Schlarbaum

Media Center (Library) Ministry Team Lead

Priscilla Peterson & Jan Stark

Student Ministries Team Lead

Daniel & Elizabeth Licon, Elsa Jane Weislogel, & Molly Zettlemoyer

**Christian Education Report
June 3, 2018**

What we do:

The goal of the Christian Education team is the discipleship of all in the local church in “*admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ*” (**Colossians 1:28**) and for spiritual transformation into the image of Jesus Christ (**2 Corinthians 3:18**).

Our committee is responsible for Christian Education of SCFC children, youth, and adults with the specific goal to help each person know Jesus Christ personally.

We continue to look for opportunities to provide our church body and the community with programs that will help them begin, strengthen and grow in their spiritual walk. As we do this, we invite and encourage our church family to come along side us and be involved in these important ministries.

What is going on:

- A new Children’s Church curriculum has been purchased and started. We now have 4 Children’s Church teachers!
- On Sunday June 10th we begin our summer Sunday School break. Classes will resume in September.
- The Camp Fundraiser and Silent Auction raised roughly \$1000 after expenses.

Clerk: Marcia Astleford
mdastleford@hotmail.com or 503-713-8622

Camp Coordinator: Dave Schlarbaum
dschlarbaum1@gmail.com or 503-899-9399

Assistance: Priscilla Peterson
ppeterson97140@comcast.net or 503-625-2469

Co-Clerk: Karen Burkholder
keburkholder@gmail.com or 503-538-3919

Media Center: Jan Stark
jans2300@msn.com or 503-625-5129

Please pray for:

- ✓ Our volunteers, that they would have continued energy and excitement for the work they are doing.
- ✓ Continued growth in our classes, groups and ministries.

Respectfully,

Marcia Astleford, Clerk

Spiritual Life Ministry Team
June 3rd, 2018 Business Meeting Report
~ Welcoming prayer for the nourishment of gathering for Worship ~

What we do: The **Spiritual Life Ministry Team** consists of five sub-committees. The **Social Committee** coordinates Sunday Fellowship time and gatherings such as Food for Trunk or Treat, Potlucks, Business meetings and special events. **Family Ties** organizes Ushering and Greeting on Sunday mornings. The **Prayer Team** meets once a week to pray for the needs of the church. The **Worship Arts Team** provides music and sound/AV for Sunday morning worship, Christmas programs and special music events. The **Pastoral Care/Visitation** is responsible for visitation to those that are not able to make it to church and to care for congregational needs.

➤ **What's going on?**

Our next Committee meeting will be held on June 12th to discuss plans for the next three months.

- **Social/Fellowship:** Recent Social Committee functions: January 28 - Potluck and Business meeting, March 2 and 3 - Hosting Quiz Meet here at Sherwood, March 17 or 24 - Clean-up day at the church and April 1 – Easter Brunch
Upcoming events – Fathers Day June 17, Tilikum Picnic in August.

Thank you to all that have helped Molly over the past year so the church congregation may have meaningful meals together! All of these happenings help build the community within our congregation.

- **Family Ties:** Verne and Ellen continue to be welcoming faces on Sunday morning to regular attendees and visitors. Families regularly help with the bulletins and offering each Sunday on a rotational basis.
- **Prayer Team:** Nothing new to report.
- **Worship Arts:** We will continue to schedule out each quarter for music and sound coverage. We continue to purchase new equipment as needed. Our goal is to be a consistent place of spiritual nourishment for Sherwood Community Friends.
- **Pastoral Care/Visitation:** Harold and Marilyn continue to visit routinely with those who are unable to attend church regularly. They continue to invite newcomers out for lunch.
- **Prayer Requests:** Ongoing prayer for all in the congregation and their families and for the church volunteers that have stepped up to help where needed.

If anyone would like to help with a short term project like a one-time snack or meal setup, Worship Team, Sound or AV help one Sunday a month, or a year-long commitment to any of these, please contact that specific team leader listed below. Many hands make light work for all!

Clerk: Dwayne Astleford
70dartDA13@gmail.com or 503-713-8621_

Worship Arts: Julie Kutter
jekutter@gmail.com or 503-880-1511

Worship Arts Director: Rob Whitaker
rdwhitaker@sherwoodfriends.org or 503-810-6785

Prayer: Deloris Burg - 503-670-9621

Family Ties: Verne and Ellen Martin
verne.martin@gmail.com or 503-487-6346

Social/Fellowship: Molly Zettlemoyer
mk_mzettlemoyer@msn.com or 503-625-7536

Pastoral Care/Visitation: Harold Antrim
hantrim2@gmail.com or 503-554-7457

Respectfully, Dwayne Astleford, SCFC Spiritual Life Chair

Stewardship Committee Report
Business Meeting 6/3/2018

“Stewardship: Managing the riches of this world for the purposes of the next.”

Stewardship is about prudent planning and wise management of the church’s physical and financial assets. The steward is responsible for the reputation of his master and properly caring for our resources reflects our love for our Lord and Savior. Stewardship’s vision for Sherwood Friends is to create balanced budgets for this year and beyond. Our desire is for growth through increasing tithes and donations as well as being reasonably compensated for the use of our church buildings and other property. We intend to use the income we receive to share the hope and healing of Christ and to help people become devoted followers of Christ in the community of Sherwood and throughout the world.

Since our last business meeting:

- The 2018 Budget vs. Actual Expenses/Plan
 - -\$4125, Donations are behind/short \$4114 of budget

- A few accounts have exceeded their entire yearly budget
 - Children’s Ministry Supplies
 - Literature & Supplies
 - AV Equipment
 - Background Checks
 - Parsonage Maintenance
 - Van Maintenance

Thank you to all of the committee members: Rich Miller, Priscilla Peterson and Tim Brandt.

Cary Kutter– Clerk of Stewardship
steward@sherwoodfriends.org

I. Administrative Council

Restarting the Administrative Council (AC) has been a priority for Elders this year. The AC consists of the Elders and the clerks of all major church committees. Thus far, the AC has met twice on 2/11 and 4/29. The next AC meeting will occur sometime during the second half of August after our Summer break. Restarting the AC is important as it is a good way for Elders to stay abreast of the good work done by each of the churches major committees, as well as a good way to engage the committees in projects driven by the Elders.

II. Ministry Fair

The Elders, along with the AC, have been fast at work planning a ministry fair for later this year. We have agreed on a basic format (sorry, won't let the cat out of the bag quite yet), and plan to iron out the details when the AC meets in August. Our goal is to make this a fun event where each and every member of the congregation can discover ways to joyfully participate our various ministries, as well as service to the church. Service to the Lord should be fun, no matter how large or small the commitment, and we want to help everyone their right opportunity to help build the kingdom.

III. Samuel School

The Elders have been working for the past few of months on both Samuel School I and II. Our main focus has been Samuel School II which occurred May 25 & 26. This year we sent Katia Reid and Zephaniah Muhr. I suspect Daniel will have more to say about this in his report. During our May meeting we began discussing Samuel School I which will not occur until later this year, but we are making an effort to start well in advance so that the process is not rushed. We have also been discussing options for providing training for those who serve as an Eli to our students. More on that later.

IV. Elder Visibility

The Elders have been discussing ways to be more visible to better serve the congregation. This is a work in progress, but hope to implement some things before the end of the year. If anyone in the congregation has thoughts or ideas please feel free to pass them on to me. My email is dpowers@georgefox.edu, and my cell number is 503-550-1579.

Submitted by Don Powers, Clerk, Board of Elders

Worship Arts Director Report
June 3, 2018

The beginning of this month marks the one year anniversary of being back at Sherwood Friends. It has been a joy to work with Rich, Daniel and Priscilla this past year, and get back to being with friends, old and new.

We have seen some different seasons come over this past year as well. We had acquired a drummer, Mitch Sabin, who was on team a couple times a month. He informed me in April that he was stepping down from team. It was nothing said or done, just felt God's leading in a different direction. I will continue the search for another drummer. We did purchase a new, taller drum shield to replace the old shield. We anticipate being able to use it in the future.

We are looking ahead at the summer. Shannon and I will be gone two Sundays as we travel to the Midwest to visit family at the end of June and into July. We would appreciate your prayers as we finalize details. Also, I will be working on getting worship teams together for the summer and leadership for when I'm gone. I have been asked to lead worship music at Surfside this year. I will be gone one Sunday for the weekend leading into camp for orientation.

Thank you again for this great first year! I'm looking forward to the year ahead.

Blessings,

Rob

June 3, 2018
Youth Pastor's Report

To Sherwood Community Friends Church:

The school year has been full of ministry with our youth. One of the many highlights has been being able to witness our youth minister alongside each other. I was particularly moved by our Serve Retreat and the Good Friday Service—both embodied a community providing tangible expressions of the Kingdom of God and the possibilities of hope. I am grateful to serve our youth and help them become who Christ intends them to be.

Youth Fellowship

We are continuing to gather on the second Sunday of each month during the Worship Service.
Wednesday Conversational Prayer

During April we started a prayer gathering to provide an outlet for our youth to express the happening in their life and the ways we can pray for them and each other. In addition, we wanted to introduce them to a refreshing way of prayer to give them new perspective on the various methods of prayer.

The Conversation

We have continued trekking through the New City Catechism, which is a modern-day resource aimed at helping children and adults alike learn the core doctrines of the Christian faith via 52 questions and answers. Along with the questions and answers, there are Scriptures, devotional, prayers, and songs to help internalize the truths revealed to us in the Word. We completed Part one of three, which covered God, Creation, Fall, and Law. The New City Catechism app is free, which is neat to have access to such an accessible discipleship resource. Each question has provided a prompt for our teaching/discussion time. Their responses provide segues into other conversations.

Recent Happenings

- Pastors' Conference in April: I am grateful to SCFC for providing this avenue to interact with other pastors. I appreciated the new relationships forged and the enriching discussions that were authentic.
- Faith, Sexuality & Gender Forum: The Forum was worth all the time of traveling. I learned a lot of new information that helped build upon my theological foundation. We were provided with resources to guide our church in these salient matters we face in our time that will be valuable to the ministry of SCFC.
- Samuel School II on Memorial Day Weekend: I was able to be a part of this leadership and spiritual growth retreat for high school juniors and seniors. The weekend was lively, rich with community, and meaningful conversations. I was given the opportunity to teach a class titled, "Engaging Culture" and we discussed various worldviews and how to develop a worldview.

Upcoming

- Beginning in June, we are going to pause all regularly scheduled youth activities with the end of the school year approaching. We will plan to have weekly activity throughout the summer, except during camp.
- Boys' Camp in July: I am co-teaching with Rich at Boys' Camp the first week of July.
- Tween Camp: I am teaching the Bible class with the theme, "Against the Tide" the third week in July.
- Surfside Camp: I am co-directing Grad Camp the second week of August.
- Bible Quizzing Retreat TBD.

I am grateful for your support!

Daniel Licon
Youth Pastor

STOP STEWING AND EAT

When our soul is troubled and we feel overwhelmed, sometimes we just need to stop stewing and tell ourselves to eat. We can extrapolate such instruction from the Psalms: *"Why am I so sad? Why am I so troubled? I will put my hope in God, and once again I will praise him, my savior and my God.."* (**Ps. 43:5 GNT**).

The psalmist feels overwhelmed by his troubles. In the first four verses he pours out his soul in prayer to God, but then he stops praying and speaks directly to his soul. And when the psalmist talks to himself like this, whether in desperation or celebration, he is reminding himself that his hope is in God. Why? Because in the world he experiences tribulation (cf. John 16:33) and he feels it draining his hope. He knows that if he doesn't eat he will despair.

Here's what I mean: Hope is to our soul what energy is to our body. Hope is the spiritual energy generated in the soul when we believe that our future will be good, even if our present is bad. Our souls must have hope to keep going just like our bodies must have energy to keep going. When our body needs energy, we give it food, but when our soul needs hope, what do we feed it? We feed it promises... God's promises of *"a future and a hope"* (**Jer. 29:11**). Hopeful promises are soul food!

In Jesus, *"all the promises of God find their Yes"* (**2 Cor. 1:20**). The past grace of His death and resurrection guarantee a never-ending stream of future grace for us extending into eternity. To eat these promises is to eat living bread and live forever (**John 6:51**). So, eat, eat, eat to the glory of God! And *"may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope"* (**Rom. 15:13**).

Happenings

It is hard to believe that 2018 is almost half over! I remember a speech from my 7th grade history teacher when he said, "Welcome to Junior High. Buckle up and settle in for the ride of your life; your life begins to accelerate now! You will look back in 20 or 30 years, and wonder where the time has gone." What an unwelcoming thing to say to 7th graders. But what truth!

I hope you have plans to enjoy your summer. It is a wonderful time to hang out with family and friends around the fire pit on warm evenings or to enjoy picnics and barbeques. I encourage you to "stop and smell the roses" and take moments to reflect and rest.

Our church has prospered during these first 5 months of 2018. We've prospered in love and grace and kindness and gentleness. Let us continue to strive to be at ease in the Grace and Mercy of our Heavenly Father.

Looking Ahead

- I will be attending the "Celebration of Discipline" conference at GFU (June 10-13).
- I will be co-camp speaker/teacher (w/ Daniel) at Twin Rocks' Boys Camp (July 1-5).
[NOTE: Many in our church are involved in various roles at Twin Rocks this summer. Thank you all for having such a servant's heart.]
- Father's Day Pie lottery (Sunday, June 17). Thank you Roger & Mildred Minthorne for the pies.
- Yearly Meeting sessions at GFU (July 22-26)
- Committee Orientation/Kick-off (Saturday, August 18)
- Tilikum Worship & Picnic (Sunday, August 19)

In God's Hands,
Pastor Rich