



We must be more than faithful... ...we must be fruitful. — Mark Royall, Lead Pastor

I went to interview at a church once where they had an informal congregational meeting on the Saturday night where people could ask me questions. Someone asked me, "What is your vision for our church?" I responded, "I don't have one." I mean how could I? I just arrived. I am meeting you for the first time. I don't know very much about you, the church, and its past so how could I tell you now I have vision for its future?


Vision takes time. It takes time to know the community, to know the church and her people. Most of all, it takes time to wait upon the Lord and hear from Him. He knows better than anyone regarding the right vision for the church so it makes sense to spend time hearing from Him most of all.

Next month will mark one year since Glenda and I arrived at The Gate. During this time I have spent time listening to people and to God regarding a vision for our church and I believe I have received one. The **'Abide'** series we are doing together is part of this vision. The series is based upon the Bible, more specifically, a teaching Jesus Himself gives in John 15. The theme for this series and thus the vision for our church at this particular time is this, **"We must be more than faithful; we must be fruitful"**.

Continued on Page 2

What does this mean? Well, it is possible for us and others to think we are being 'faithful' when, according to God's Word, we are not being 'fruitful'. We can be faithful in regularly attending church services, giving to the offerings, attending the church events. We can be faithful in upholding the rules and traditions. But what about the area where we are called to be fruitful? Galatians 5 speaks about being fruitful in the area of our character. Philippians 4 speaks to us about being fruitful in the area of our attitude. Jesus also speaks in Matthew 28 about being fruitful by duplicating ourselves by making disciples. How can we be fruitful this way?

I am reading a book with some others right now which has studied churches that have died. These churches have closed their doors. They are no longer doing the work of the church. In every case there could be an argument for the people actually being faithful in these churches. They attended, even in the difficult times. They served. They gave but still their church died. Being faithful is important but it is possible to be faithful to some good things but not be fruitful. However, you can't be fruitful unless you are first faithful. Being faithful is important but we need to be faithful to things which bear fruit.

Jesus tells us, *"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing."* — John 15:5. Did you see that? Without Jesus we can do nothing. It doesn't say we can do some things without Jesus or a few of things, it says we can do "nothing". So in this sermon series and in our LifeGroups we are going back to the foundations by learning what it means to abide in Christ. Why? Because, ***"We must be more than faithful; we must be fruitful"***. 

Elder Board Update — Ray Peters, Elder Chair

I am happy to report that there is a good spirit of harmony on the Board of Elders and that we are eagerly looking to the future and what God has in store for The Gate family. We are excited to see what God will teach us as we hear Pastor Mark's messages on "Abiding in Christ".

There were several "housekeeping" items we had to tend to at our last meeting in which the following were appointed to serve in various offices:

Vice-chairman - Pastor Mark

Treasurer - Pete Kessler

Sunday School Superintendent - Gerian & Elizabeth Sloetjes

Men's Ministry - Lem Hicks / Women's Ministry - Carl Mann

Seniors Ministry - Pastor Mark working with Gerry Wood

Visitation coordinator - Pastor Mark

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement for the Board of Elders. 


Da'Vine Kids Ministry

— Gerian Sloetjes



Liz & I were sitting on our back porch one day and watching a tree that grows right over our table where we were sitting. Thinking about our Sunday School, we observed how the branches were structured from wee little buds, to bigger sprouts, to branches and then thriving into a fully grown tree. Liz & I started imagining a name for a new children's ministry centered on the theme of branches growing on the true vine, Jesus.

Our top three goals are to first; teach children the word of God, second to help children grow spiritually and third to have FUN doing it. The program is available to all children on Campus, and is for grades 0 through grade 12.


Please join us in praying for this important ministry as we help to raise the next generation here at the Gate. If you feel called to volunteer we would appreciate your help. You can contact us at any time at gerian.elizabeth@gmail.com. 

Building Update

— Greg Olsen, Building Controller

Over the last couple of months we have had tree trimming completed, which included the removal of a large tree from in our Prayer Garden. As well, with the help of Roman Gagné and Jim Parkhill the BBQ has been moved into the Prayer Garden.

We have been continuing upgrades to our building. You may have noticed the new wall that went up in room 115 to allow for two simultaneous classes for Miss Kathie's Just Dance Academy. We have completed electrical, and HVAC upgrades to rooms 107B, C, and D to allow for expansion of our existing tenants Sugar & Slice and Paradisaea Circus Arts.

I'm sorry to have to report that summer has come to an end. I am currently working to prepare the building and equipment for the winter months ahead. Now and in the coming weeks, we will be sealing and caulking where needed. Checking snowblower operation and having the sprinkler systems blown out. Also making certain we have enough shovels and salt to carry us through the winter. 

Women's Ministry Update

— Joanne Young, Women's Ministries

Well, it is hard to believe that September is here! Women's Ministries had taken a bit of a break over July and August, but we are gearing up for our fall session. Our team has identified what we believe are the 5 key building blocks for establishing a strong, successful women's ministry. We are committed to providing the ladies at "The Gate" with different opportunities to help in the building of: **Relationships, Encouragement, Community, Faith and Love** through social gatherings, outreach opportunities, and studying God's Word together.

We will be starting this year with our Fall Social on Monday, October 7th.

Ladies, we would like to make you a part of our planning. Has God been prompting you to get involved in a certain area of ministry? Do you know of a speaker who you think would be great to have at one of our socials? Do you have a gift or talent that you would like to share with the ladies? We all have been given a unique testimony by God. Would you be willing to share your story with other women? We would love to hear from you! Please speak to one of our team members: Jean Shannon, Sharon Scruton, Kim Pritula, Marlene Sobie Stepien, Grace Wood, Glenda Royall, and Joanne Young. 📞

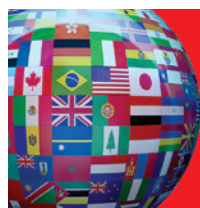
UPCOMING EVENTS

the
money
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Begins
Oct 21st
7:00pm

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MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Oct. 27, 10am & 6pm

President Dave Hearn

Nov. 3, 10am & 6pm

Rev. Gerald Hogenbirk

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David Gagné, Campus Director
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