

The Connection



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SOUTH POINT COMMUNITY CHURCH OCTOBER 2020—VOLUME 40

A Word from Pastor Dave

The idea of a pastoral letter is an interesting thought. I've never been much of a letter writer but I really do appreciate a good letter. A proper pastoral letter seems to start, "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." "Grace to you", isn't the most common expression of that phrase. It usually is translated, "Grace and peace to you", but I think it's worth the awkwardness of translating it more precisely. The truth is that our source of peace is the grace that's given by God. This undeserved gift from our Heavenly Father washes over us and hopefully over every aspect of our life. So in times when there's a lot going on, good and bad, we can have a calm reassurance that God will give us the strength to handle it. That's welcome news considering that there certainly is a lot going on these days.

But here's a question, why are we still doing online sermons this Fall when we could be meeting at the church building? In a nutshell the leadership at South Point decided that we would wait until Thanksgiving before we took a closer look at the structure of our services. One reason for that is because we have a unique situation in our building since we share it with the ministry of South Shore Christian School. Also our

Mark your Calendars

OCTOBER

- 4th - Drive In Worship 10:30 am
- 6th - Women's Book Study 7 pm
- 7th - Prayer at Ruby's 10:30 am
- 8th - Pastoral Team Meeting 7 pm
- 12th - Happy Thanksgiving
- 13th - Women's Book Study 7 pm
- 14th - Prayer at Ruby's 10:30 am
- 17th - Men's Bible Study 7 pm
- 18th - Drive In Worship 10:30 am
- 20th - Women's Book Study 7 pm
- 21st - Prayer at Ruby's 10:30 am
- 22nd - Pastoral Team Meeting 7 pm
- 24&25th - In House Church
- 24th - Men's Bible Study 7 pm
- 27th - Women's Book Study 7 pm
- 28th - Prayer at Ruby's 10:30 am



congregation is a rather unique blend of young families, seniors and migrant workers who are all really used to doing church together in a very warm and connected way; which happens to be virtually the opposite of everything suggested for dealing with Covid. On top of that our pastor (that's me) has a unique health condition, Pulmonary Sarcoidosis, which is a respiratory ailment. And finally, what we have been doing through this time with Covid in our Drive-in Worship Services and YouTube videos has been, by God's grace, working surprisingly well and appears to be increasingly sustainable. By which I mean that, as the Province and County goes up and down between stages 1 through 3, we can keep a steady course and get increasingly better at delivering an overall ministry to our congregation and community that is consistent and effective with or without Covid 19 (or 21, or 24, etc).

So what are we considering for after Thanksgiving? Currently, the item at the top of the list is to start an, "In House Church" program that will increase our discipleship, fellowship and ministry while helping us with our collective outreach and worship. There are a few positives about the "In House Church" that I think make it quite flexible and effective. First of all it has deep biblical roots as you can see in the Apostle Paul's extension of greetings in Colossians Chapter 4, "Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and

Demas send greetings. Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea." (vv. 14-16, NIV) The idea of small churches flexibly meeting in various locations

may help us significantly in tailoring our services to the variety of needs reflected in our congregation. For example, some people are eager to be back in the chapel at South Point while others are not. We all need encouragement, connection, support and mutual accountability so how can we achieve that while at the same time respecting the different needs we are faced with. We think this can be achieved with the "In House Church" model. Here is what it could look like:

We would continue to create our YouTube videos. We would offer times where a group of approximately ten people could gather together at church (socially distanced) to watch the video together, answer some questions, pray for each other and possibly even work on a ministry project together. Groups would be formed according to similar needs (ex. our seniors would be matched with other people with very low risk of exposure to Covid...). If the group included children, we would also provide an activity for them. For those people not comfortable coming into the church building, they could form a small group in their home with people that are already part of their circle. The whole idea is to continue to grow in our faith as we have been during this pandemic but with the added element of some much needed fellowship and accountability in a safe environment.

I'm really excited to see how God is going to use this time to grow each of us individually and as a church family. More details will be shared shortly of how you can get involved. If you have any questions, concerns, please let me know.



Parent Child Dedication

*I could have no greater joy
than to hear that my children
are following the truth*

3. John 1:4



Give Thanks



Barnabas Notes

What side of the bed did you get up on this morning? What happened to you, did you bump your head? Who spit in your coffee / beer? Did you fall out of bed this morning? These are all phrases that we may have thought or said to people in our lives that are having a bad day. They are miserable, unhappy with life, and have a “Grrrrrrr-attitude”. We have all experienced this kind of person, and hey, it’s most likely happened to us as well.

So what does it take to change our attitude from Grrrrrrr-attitude to Gratitude? What does “Gratitude really mean? Gratitude, which rhymes with attitude, comes from the Latin word *gratus*, which means “thankful, pleasing.” When you feel gratitude you’re pleased by what someone did for you and also pleased by the results. You’re not anxious about having to pay back for what you received.

There are many examples in our lives of someone doing something to please us that we are thankful for. A kind word from a friend, a prayer when it’s needed, an ear to listen, a freshly baked apple pie, a dozen cookies, driving someone to an appointment, and the list goes on and on.

We can never “pay back” for what Jesus did for us on the cross. He took all of the sins that we have and ever will commit with him to the cross and paid the ultimate price, the one that we could never pay. In John 10:10b “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” To a believer, this in itself is everything we need to change our attitude from a Grrrrrrr-attitude to an attitude of Gratitude.

My reminder to you in this letter is that God will richly bless you with all joy and peace when we bless Him with an attitude of Gratitude.

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He’s given
Jesus Christ, His Son

Barnabas



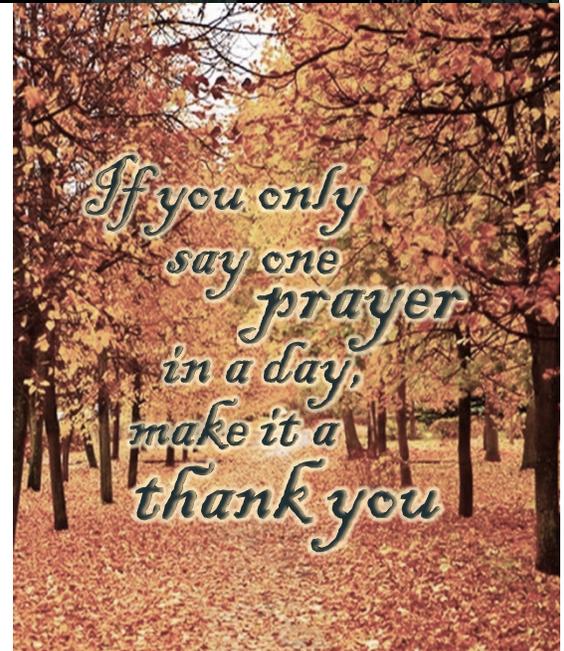
Volunteer Highlight



This month I would like to highlight Pastor Dave and I know you're thinking wait a minute Tracy, he's not a volunteer but just hear me out. I want to take a moment to recognize Dave this month first of all because October is Pastor Appreciation month. We are so blessed to have Dave as our Pastor. He does all of the normal Pastor things like sermons, board meetings, leading Bible studies, getting together with people in need.... but he is different. I've heard different people say things like, "he's real", "down to earth", "like Jesus", "the best pastor I've ever had"....personally, I think what makes the difference is that we have a praying Pastor. He's not perfect (he's always the first to point out his flaws) but he finds strength and guidance from the One who is and shares it with us. The second reason I wanted to highlight Dave is because he doesn't only serve at South Point but in the past year Dave has also been involved in these different organizations in the community - Hockey Ministries International volunteering as their Chaplin, serving soup at Queen Elizabeth Public School, helping out at the Bridge, meeting with youth at lunch at Leamington District High school and preaching at the Sun Parlour nursing home. I'm sure I'm missing some things but if you think of something that you appreciate about Dave, since it is Pastor Appreciation month, why not give him a call or send him a text and let him know how special he is and I don't mean the kind of "special" like the way he looks in this picture :)

Prayer Focus

Right now in our world it feels like there is so much to pray about. An election coming up in the States that will have an effect on our world, racism, pandemic, our own brokenness, loneliness... these are all things we should pray for this month but I would like us to also just stop and spend some time thanking God for His goodness. Thank him for our homes, the food we eat, our families, our friends, our church family, even our trials and how He is using them to grow us.... make a list, tell someone how thankful you are that they are in your lives. Remind yourself that we serve a good God who is in control and who does work all things for our good. So, I will start... I am thankful for my family, quiet walks in Point Pelee, God's grace. What's on your list?



Charis – September 5th



We have been buried with Him
through baptism into death;
as Christ was raised from the dead
through the glory of the Father,
we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4



Bonnie – September 26th