

The Connection



Monthly Newsletter of
South Point Community Church
January 2022– Volume 53

A Word from Pastor Dave

"Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. 'Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?' they asked. 'Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?' And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home.'" (Matthew 13:54-57, NIV)

Sometimes in life you just have to choose to laugh; especially when it comes to family. Did you hear the one about the three brothers aged 92, 94 and 96 who all lived in a house together?

One night the 96-year-old draws a bath, puts his foot in and pauses. He yells down the stairs, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?"

The 94-year-old yells back, "I don't know, I'll come up and see." He starts up the stairs and pauses, then he yells, "Was I going up the stairs or coming down?"

January Dates

- 1st Happy New Year
- 2nd Worship Service 9 & 11 am
- 5th Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 9th Worship Service 9 & 11 am
- 12th Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 16th Coffee Talk Service 9 & 11 am
- 19th Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 23rd Worship Service 9 & 11 am
- 24th Women's New Bible Study 7pm
- 26th Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 30th Coffee Talk Service 9 & 11 am

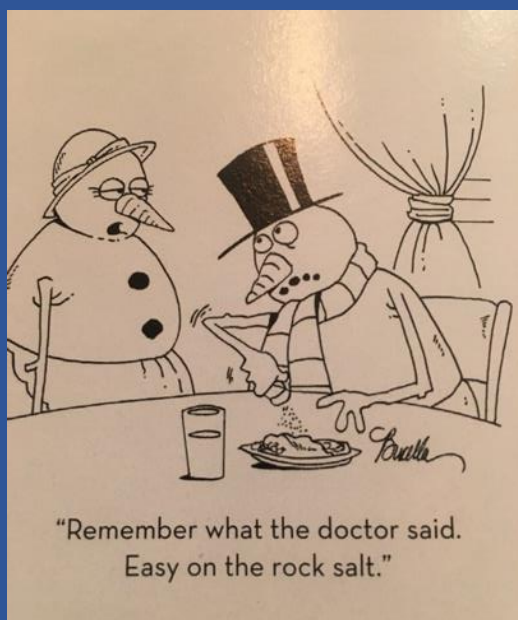
The 92-year-old was sitting at the kitchen table having coffee listening to his brothers. He shakes his head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful." He knocks on wood for good luck. He then yells, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."

There really is something about brothers which can be ripe for the ridiculous. Throughout the New Testament there are several passages about Jesus having younger siblings. In some church traditions that is considered controversial, and these brothers and sisters are assumed to be cousins. However, in most Protestant churches those texts are understood as plainly as they are written. It's an interesting thought to imagine Jesus in the context of a larger family. Yet, it seems from the Bible that until after his death and resurrection Jesus' relationship with his brothers was not very healthy. One can only imagine the jealousy, frustration and concern about an older brother who literally seems to think he's perfect; and a mother who dotes over him like it were so.

Family can be tough business under the best of circumstances. Too often in family (and church family) assumption takes the place of basic common courtesy and conversation. It is not surprising then when a dreadful amount of disrespect and misunderstanding follow. Considering how Jesus set

out for His disciples the following priority, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35), we can appreciate some of the later statements of his little brothers. Statements such as James 3:9-10, "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be." Or Jude's concern, "Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct—as irrational animals do—will destroy them." (verse 10).

Now sometimes when brothers realize they have crossed the edge in a heated conversation they will try to redeem the whole thing with the escape clause, "Just joking!" Of course, as Christians none of us are out there encouraging cursing and slander. Yet tragically when we scroll through the news and social media our fellow Christians are too often on that very edge. So, perhaps it is time to see if Jesus, James and Jude can offer us a better strategy for protecting our most important conversations and our most valued relationships rather than a juvenile and last second, "Just joking!"



8 th	Marilyn
8 th	Penelope
11 th	Trevor
15 th	Rendy
15 th	Jim
21 st	Mary
23 rd	Bonnie
30 th	Laura



How we use our Words as Christian's matters

I'm reminded of a story I once heard, about a salesman who was hired at a new business. His manager sent him out on the road to meet with a list of customers that the company provided, along with samples of the products they offered. We will call him Bob. Bob Blabalot was a very energetic fellow. He always wore a suit and tie. After all, the product that he was offering was a very important product and he needed to be looking his best.

Bob worked hard all week, and met with many customers. On Friday afternoon, he headed back to his company office to hand in his sales report for the week, and then went home.

On Monday, Bob arrived at work on time and was met by the secretary, who told him to go to the manager's office. When he arrived, he saw his manager had a puzzled look on his face. Their conversation went something like this:

Manager: *Good morning Bob, have a seat.*

Bob: *Good morning sir, thank you.*

Manager: *I have your customer sales report here Bob and I see that you contacted a lot of customers last week.*

Bob: *Yes sir, I really enjoyed meeting all of the customers that I saw, they all were very nice.*

Manager: *But, there's one thing on your report that has me wondering.*

Bob: *What would that be, sir?*

Manager: *First of all, I took the time to contact some of our customers that you visited And everyone I talked to said that you were very polite. But, on the first four days of the week you saw an average of 25 customers per day. And on Friday you wrote on your report that you saw only one customer. Why only one on Friday?*

Bob: *Oh, on Friday the customer asked me what I was selling.*

Words are not empty. Scripture commands us to not use words lightly, but to make sure that they reflect the Holy Spirit who indwells in us. We have to be a light to the world – and one way we do that is by not using the same language that the world does.

1 Peter 3:15 NIV *But make sure in your hearts that Christ is Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect.*

Prayer Corner

Lord, we come to meet you waiting to hear you speak to us.

To bow down before you with all our hearts souls and minds.

To worship you in spirit and in truth..

May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing to you!

Examine our hearts and see if there be any wicked ways in us. Holy Spirit, shine your light in those dark corners that need your housecleaning. Only in surrendering to you can we be emptied of what doesn't please you.

Purify our hearts again with a clean sweep of forgiveness.

Your words of truth are more precious than gold, sweeter than honey from the comb. Your wisdom, more precious than rubies. Your law more valuable than thousands of pieces of gold and silver. We open our hearts, like a treasure chest waiting for your filling.

Help us today to meditate on your holiness. To think on what is true, honest, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and praiseworthy.

Then Lord could you, would you please use the over flow of our hearts to spill out to others in our actions, and deeds?

And Lord maybe even use words, if you so choose to speak through us!

Peppermint (Ammonia) Cookies

Ingredients:

- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 ½ cups white sugar
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 eggs, beaten
- ⅔ cup boiling water
- 1 ½ tablespoons bakers' ammonia
- ½ teaspoon peppermint oil
- 4 ½ cups all-purpose Flour
- 2 ½ teaspoons baking powder

Instructions:

- Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Grease cookie sheets.
- In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until smooth. Stir in the heavy cream and beaten eggs.
- Mix the ammonia into the boiling water and stir to dissolve; stir into the butter mixture along with the peppermint oil.
- Combine the flour and baking powder; stir into the batter until evenly blended.
- On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough out to 1/4 inch in thickness. Cut into desired shapes with cookie cutters.
- Place cookies 1 1/2 inches apart onto the prepared cookie sheets.
- Bake for 10 to 12 minutes in the preheated oven, until the edges are golden. Cool slightly on baking sheets before removing to wire racks to cool completely.

Makes approximately 4 dozen



Volunteer Highlight

We are so thankful for all of our volunteers; they really do make all of the difference at South Point. This year, I would like to share some pictures of our volunteers in action each month. Can you help me by sharing some pictures you might take or by sharing how you appreciate a certain volunteer...there are so many good things happening at South Point and so many people who are contributing. Sometimes you may not see them at work but you may appreciate something that was done like the beautiful verse that Jenna drew on our foyer window or how Trevor, Shea and Em decorated the outside with beautiful lights, wreaths and manger scene.

This past month our volunteers visually helped Dave share his message about how we all need "Grace, Truth and Time" this Christmas, how it's a process through how Anna so graciously decorated our church through a slow process of starting with poinsettia's still in the bags ending up with a beautifully decorated foyer and stage. Joni, Maria and J'Aime shared their gifts of baking and creating by sharing beautiful cards and cupcakes with us.

We also enjoyed a delicious take out turkey dinner thanks to some volunteers who helped with preparing the meal (Lois, Ruby, Hilkka and Larry), delivering the meal (J'Aime, Autumn and Lucas) and making delicious and fun cookies (Joni and Amanda). There were many other volunteers that we will highlight in future months.

If you would like to learn more about different volunteer opportunities, please let me know, we would love to get you connected.



J'AIME'S REFLECTION

Humans utilize language for communication. Those languages evolve over time – words appear and disappear at an amazing rate. Meanings change. Even people who speak the same language end up struggling to communicate sometimes as word definitions across separated populations changes. A great example of this is the word 'chips.' In North America, that word refers to thin slices of potatoes that have been deep fried and stuffed into a bag. In Britain, ask for 'chips' and you're going to get what we know as fries.

Communication creates connection. Being able to effectively communicate with others improves our ability to access the world around us. For anyone who has ever traveled to a country in which they don't speak the native language you understand that the inability to communicate leaves you feeling isolated. You don't get what's being said, you can't read the street signs and you can't get context to help understand the culture.

The first chapter of James I touches on a few different subjects. Blessed are those who persevere, listen more, speak and be angry less, keep a tight rein on your tongue and care for widows and orphans. OK, so... that's a lot to digest. This chapter of James also advises us 'If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you' (James I 1-5).

All right, then, time to go ask God for wisdom to help me understand. Let me just pull out my clumsy human words here and cobble together a prayer. Hang on... let's try another language... uh, what about just thinking really hard? What was I praying about again?

It's a good thing God understands what's in our hearts. We have a connection with the Holy Spirit that transcends language. I personally take great pleasure in that fact because I know my words leave me when I am under stress. There is communication between us and God that doesn't need to be quantified with letters or phrases.

We get the warning to keep a tight rein on our tongues lest we deceive ourselves. With or without open deception God always knows if we're lying. He also knows when we take those lovely human languages with their clumsy words and turn those words into weapons. We have the capacity to create explosive word bombs and lob them at one another, watching the fallout from our words leave the target of the attack in tatters. Sometimes we target friends or family or strangers. Many times we target ourselves.

The connective power of language is what makes it such an effective weapon. The wounds inflicted by our negative words are not visible to us but God certainly sees them. And we can feel it when words are turned against us. That damage can cut down to the soul.

When you speak, let the Holy Spirit guide your words. Let that line of communication turn into a positive connection. You truly never know when your words will be the ones that help someone else understand.

Takeout Christmas Banquet Cookie Decorating

We want to thank everyone who joined in on the fun of decorating our
"Ugly Christmas Sweater"
cookies and for helping us to vote on which ones were our favourites.

1st -Jenn
2nd -Joni
3rd -Neena
3rd- Emry
3rd - Dylan B.



December Women's Social



Child Dedication

“...that I may
walk before
God in the light
of life.”

Ps. 56:13

