

The Connection

Monthly Newsletter of
South Point Community Church
May 2023 – Volume 68



A Word from Pastor Dave

1. *We admitted we were powerless over our addictions and compulsive behaviors, that our lives had become unmanageable.*
2. *We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.*
3. *We made a decision to turn our lives and our wills over to the care of God.*
4. *We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.*
5. *We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.*

[Celebrate Recovery Steps 1 to 5]

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. ~ James 5:16a NIV

As soon as we confess our sins to God, we experience His forgiveness. Being free from the penalty of sin and living in fellowship with God is critical of course. But you may not realize that our Catholic friends have had a hand up on us for centuries. The practice of confession has sometimes been misused and misconstrued in unbiblical ways but the practice itself is not unbiblical. At South Point, we believe in the biblical idea of, "the priesthood of all believers". 1 Peter 2:9 says, "*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*" Because of Jesus Christ we do not have a need to go through another person to

May Dates

- 2nd Celebrate Recovery 7 pm
- 3rd Prayer 10:30 am
- 7th Blessing of the Bikes Service 10:30 am
- 9th Celebrate Recovery 7 pm
- 10th Prayer 10:30 am
- 12th Women's Tea & Worship Night 7 pm
- 13th Pastoral Team Meeting 8:30 am
- 14th Worship Service 10:30 am
- 14th Happy Mother's Day
- 16th Celebrate Recovery 7 pm
- 17th Prayer 10:30 am
- 17th Catalyst Meeting 7 pm
- 20th Breakfast & Church Cleaning 8:30am
- 21st Worship Service 10:30 am
- 22nd Happy Victoria Day
- 23rd Celebrate Recovery 7 pm
- 24th Prayer 10:30 am
- 28th Communion/Potluck Service 6:30 pm
- 30th Celebrate Recovery 7 pm
- 31st Prayer 10:30 am

receive forgiveness from God for our sins. The curtain of the Temple in Jerusalem was rendered on the day of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Since then, access to God for his children has been direct. We bow our head, we say a prayer and our prayers come directly into the throne room of heaven.

However, James 5:16 is not about forgiveness, it is about healing, "... so that you may be healed." In recovery they've been telling us for years that you are only as sick as your secrets.

Now modern-day psychology is affirming the same notion. The things that we are ashamed of in our life and have tried to suppress and hide create heaviness in us that literally suppresses our immune system. I'm not sure that James knew that when he wrote these words but I'm pretty sure God did. God knows that we are flesh and blood. He invites us to both extend and accept Grace from other believers. This is more than a trust exercise but of course it's something that you only do with someone you trust. In Celebrate Recovery what is shared at CR stays at CR.

Confidentiality is important and necessary for a reason. You may be more familiar with the expression, what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. Unfortunately, that's only partly true. Often what happens in Vegas is eventually shared at Celebrate Recovery. Those types of secrets send our lives into an eventual tailspin.

I have to admit that it's a strange thing to me that the words we say about ourselves and to ourselves have such incredible power. And it's an even stranger thing to realize that the words we say about ourselves to someone else can have even more power. But I'm a Pastor and I've read the first page of the Bible so I shouldn't consider these things strange. God spoke the world into existence. On the 6th day God spoke us into existence and made us in His image. The Bible tells us that the power of life and death is in our tongues (see Proverbs 18:21). So following God's simple instructions to find forgiveness and healing just might be a good idea; and that's all I know about that.

Prayer Corner

Before my days ever came to be, you knew me completely Lord.

Only you are aware of all my ways.

Would you search me and know me and see if there be any
wicked way in me?

Shine your light of grace in this hidden place, so I might know
my ways too.

I will need courage to see my actions, my reactions, my feelings,
and my thoughts as you see them.

Examine these areas of my inner life and test them Holy Spirit.

Show me if they line up with your perfect plan for me.

Guide me in taking this next right step to freedom. Your promise
of a hope and a future light my way.

In your name I pray,

Amen

Barnabas Notes



Confession

For years, I kept all my wrongs to myself. I kept them inside; I hid them pushing them back in behind my imaginary brick wall hoping they would never surface again. Oh, I knew they were there but it's like looking in the mirror when you're standing right in front of it. You know your reflection is right there but you don't want to look directly at it or acknowledge the image.

How healthy can hidden sin be in our lives? What happens when we hide out sins? When we sin, we have two choices. We can conceal it and try to hide it from God or we can confess it to God. Proverbs 28:13 People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.

Unconfessed sin breaks our fellowship with God. This is why we need to admit our sins and seek His forgiveness. He is willing to forgive us and cleanse us because He loves us and wants us to live in His presence every day.

Here's a lesson from the story about Achan. After crossing the Jordan, the Israelites entered the promise land. One of their first challenges was to conquer the city of Jericho. There was one requirement. They were forbidden by God, to claim any spoils for themselves. Despite God's crystal-clear instructions, Achan from the tribe of Judah took gold, silver, and a garment from the city and hid them in his tent. Somehow, he foolishly thought his actions were hidden from God Joshua 7:1, 21. His actions brought devastating results on the next battle that the Israelites had on the town of Ai. They were defeated with the loss of 36 men Joshua 2:5-9. God revealed that Israel had sinned ...*"neither will I be with you anymore, unless you*

destroy the accursed from among you" Joshua 7:11-12. Sin cuts people off from God Isaiah 59:2. God will not coexist with or tolerate sin. Through the process of elimination, God made known to Joshua that Achan was the guilty person. As a consequence, Achan, his family and possessions were destroyed Joshua 7:10-26. This demonstrates how abhorrent sins are to God.

If not checked and removed, sin can spread and negatively influence and harm other people. Once the sin of disobeying God's instructions was brought to light and removed, God once again blessed the people of Israel.

Sometimes we consciously try to hide our sins. Other times we just overlook them. But, no matter how well we try to conceal or ignore them, God sees all. God knows all our thoughts, motives, and actions.

To Christians, the apostle Paul wrote: *"But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves to God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages (what we earn) of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord"* Romans 6:22-23.

If we were given a survey asking us to choose between death and eternal life in the Kingdom of God, we would surely choose life. So why would anyone choose death by living a life of sin?

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed, James 5:16a NIV

Our Favourite Recipes



Cranberry-Walnut Scones

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp of water
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 2 cups Bisquick mix
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 3 tbsp firm butter or margarine
- 2/3 cup buttermilk or skim milk
- 1/2 tsp of vanilla
- 2/3 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 tbsp butter or margarine melted

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 425 degrees. Pour water over cranberries in 1 quart microwavable dish; cover with plastic wrap, folding back one side to vent. Microwave on high for 1 minute, uncover the cranberries.
2. Mix Bisquick mix, sugar and cinnamon in large bowl. Cut 3 tbsps butter, using pastry blender or crisscrossing 2 knives, until mixture looks like fine crumbs. Stir in buttermilk, vanilla, cranberries and walnuts just until moistened.
3. Drop dough by 1/4 cupfuls onto an ungreased cookie sheet. Sprinkle with additional sugar if desired. Bake 10 to 11 minutes until golden brown. Brush 1 tbsp melted butter over warm scones and sprinkle with more sugar if desired.

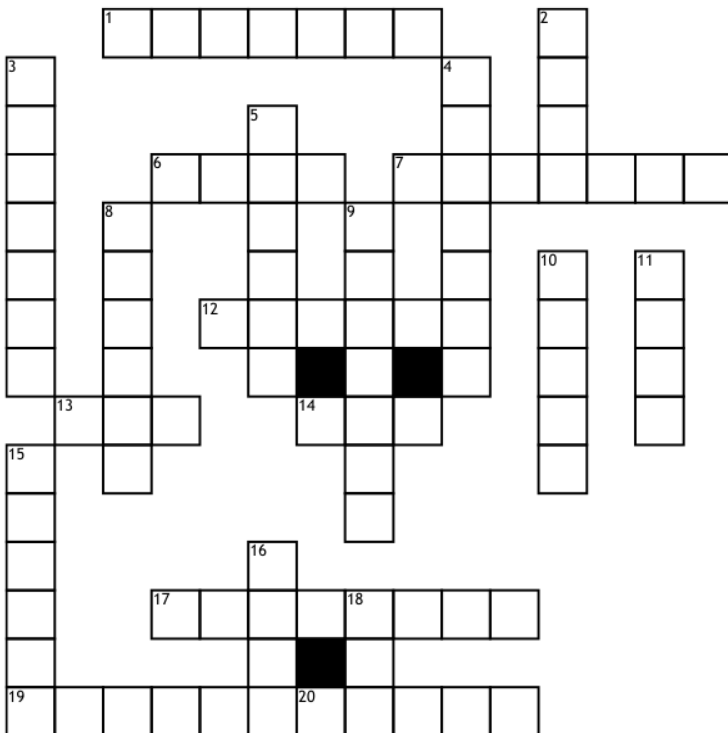
Makes 12 scones

Homemade Bisquick Mix

- 3 cups flour
- 11/2 tbsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp of salt
- 1/2 cup of butter

Put all in a food processor and process until fine. Store in airtight container in the fridge.

Mothers Day



Across

1. Mother of Moses
6. Mother of Ishmael
7. Mother of Salomon
12. Mother of Jacob(Isreal)
13. Mother of Samuel
14. one of kishas fav colors
17. Three words you should tell your mom
19. Mother of Isaac

20. Mother of Jesus Down

2. Something mom gives, tight squeeze
3. Something that moms like to get that smell good
4. My mom is...
5. Mother of Jose
8. My mom is...
9. Something all moms like to get on mothers day
10. Tachi's favorite color (Bonus if someone gets it)
11. My mom is....
15. Something moms do all the time, mostly on the cheek
16. The person who gave birth to you
18. Mother of Abel and Cain



9th Peter

11th Len

14th Maria M

19th Bailey

21st Leslie Anne

22nd Charmaine

24th Finn

25th Glen

29th Ruby

30th Amanda

30th Archer

Ministry Highlight

**THANK YOU
SO MUCH**

YOU ARE ALL VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

*I thank my God every time I think of you!
Philippians 1:3*

As I reflect on this past month and take a look at the pictures that were taken at church over the Easter weekend, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for all of the different people that contributed to making our services a beautiful time of celebration.

From the beautiful decorating in the foyer, the flowers on the stage, the homemade unleavened bread for Communion, the Easter bread on the GST table, Bible readers, dancers, musicians sharing their gifts, a flutist added, the most beautiful solo...I don't want to forget everyone in the background

that may not have had their picture taken but Sunday morning we had a graded driveway, furnace filters were changed, the church was cleaned, Sunday school and nursery teachers preparing for their classes, we were greeted with smiling faces, Len and Charmaine made everything run smoothly in the background and our faithful Pastor greeted us with Christ is Risen and we all replied -He is risen indeed!!! It was a glorious weekend, and I am so thankful to our church family; what a blessing it is to serve together :)



Reflections

By

J'Aime



My kid is going to be 18 in August. I've done everything I can to give her the best life I could but, as I have discussed in earlier articles, that didn't always go the way I wanted it to. Yet, somehow, she managed to make it to 18. So, now that my kid is functionally able to manage many things on her own, I decided to celebrate her growing independence by buying a puppy.

Gideon is adorable but he has a lot to learn, as does any young puppy. How to walk on a leash. The importance of letting your humans know that you need to go outside BEFORE you make a mess. Don't bite people, especially in the nose. Don't jump onto your human's keyboard while she's writing her monthly church article and accidentally close the file before she's had a chance to save it...

In other news, I have learned how Autosave works in Word. But I digress.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of Gideon's humans to teach him right from wrong. But we can't reason with this dog – explaining why crawling under the bed and eating dust bunnies is a bad idea has no impact on his existence. He simply won't understand. And Gideon can't ever come tell us that he's messed up and apologize for his behaviour.

As humans, we have the ability to logically think about our words and actions. We can understand right from wrong and we have the capacity to learn from our mistakes. We can be reasoned with. But, even with all of our superior understanding and ability... we still screw up.

We all sin. We are imperfect beings with free will and often succumb to the illusion that we can manage things on our own. The idea that we can function alone isn't sustainable. It's dangerous to go alone out there.

May's theme covers Step 5 in Celebrate Recovery – admitting your wrongs to others and to God. That's a hard thing to do. No one likes to admit they've messed up because they fear other people's judgment. It's our responsibility, as Christians, to hold each other accountable for our sins without passing judgment. It's not our place to judge (Matthew 7 is pretty clear on this).

The responsibility we share with fellow sinners is forgiveness and prayer. James 5:16 tells us to confess our sins with one another and pray with each other. Not for the sake of judgment, but for the sake of healing.

We've all got those dark little corners in the back of our minds that speak with the voice of the enemy. They tell you that you've got it under control. You don't need help. Go it alone so no one can watch you stumble and screw up. Avoid accountability and blame everyone else.

Folks, the Christian life isn't guaranteed to be simple and it isn't designed to be a solo adventure. Assuming personal responsibility for your life is a sign of maturity but that life can't be fully realized without the ability to admit that you've messed up. Once you learn to admit your faults, you can open your heart to healing and God's amazing grace.

This month, our newsletter question is going to be about our moms in honour of Mother's Day. Could you answer one of the following questions - What is the best memory you have of your mother? Or how does, or did, your mom inspire you?



Jessica:

One of my favorite memories of my mom is when I was a little girl and I was having a late nap, my mom came in my room and sat on my bed and was singing the song, "on top of spaghetti, all covered with cheese!" Then I woke up and she had just finished making spaghetti and meatballs for our family for dinner. It's kind of a silly memory when there are actually so many more inspiring things, but this memory of my mom reminds me that motherhood is the daily act of caring and providing for the people in your life in good and simple ways, and that loving people is not complicated.

Roger

How she always got the family together monthly.

Diane:

The moment I will never forget was when I asked my mom how she knew dad loved her when those words were never heard, her reply was "Well, Diane (with the look and a sigh).

He works 18hr days for us THAT'S LOVE. He comes home to me every night, THAT'S LOVE. He eats what I serve, THAT'S A COMPLIMENT, he eats a double serving, THAT'S A DOUBLE COMPLIMENT. He opens the door for me, THAT'S RESPECT. He pushes the elevator button for me, that is Respect and courtesy. My mom's wisdom impacted me to see LOVE in action that I took for granted.

Leslie Anne:

Yes! Her cooking or at the beach. She raised 10 kids alone. She was my hero. She inspired me to never give up.



Jenna:

My Mom's strength has always been something that inspires me. She has been a rock for our family, no matter what was thrown our way. She is loving, nurturing and one of the best teachers ever. She is selfless and gives of her time and talents constantly. She inspires me to work hard, love others and be the best Mom that I can be.

Samara:

For me it would definitely be how hardworking she is. Raising seven kids now working a full-time job still being a mom and a grandma. And she's still sweet and caring.

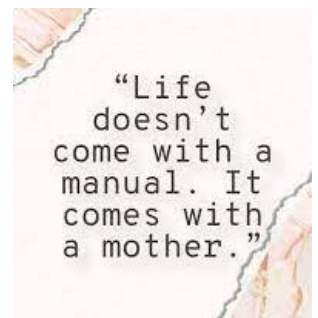
*Mother's love is peace.
It need not be acquired,
it need not be deserved.*

-Erich Fromm



Aki:

I enjoyed the moment when she took me on a train ride to New Brunswick for a wedding and then to Nova Scotia to see family.



Wendy:

My Mother Katie

Blessed are those who have/ had a Mother like mine. You'll most certainly find my Mom's name in the Mother Hall of Fame. Remembered as most Christlike woman I've ever known. I'll forever feel her loving presence with me, as she is written in my heart. Her wise words echo in my mind to give me direction and correction, so God is still using her. She truly reflected the God she served, so ultimately, He used her faith and behaviour to lead me to Him.

When I meet people who knew her, they often remind me how very blessed we all were to have her in our lives.

As she lives on in eternity so do her stories!

My Mother, my heroine ...

Katy Felder.

And for all this praise I've given her, if she were here today, she would always give glory back to God, who solely deserved it.

Paul:

My mother is and always was a short lady...we boys are all taller and bigger than her. We all knew that dad was the pushover. The one thing I learnt from her was how observant she was. She still is. To this day, nothing will stop me in my tracks as fast as her saying she is disappointed in me. She has always been a sounding board that I hide nothing from (because she probably already knows anyway). Her ability to keep all us kids focused on our goals is amazing. Oh, and she taught me it was ok to cook.

Brian:

The memory I have with my mother is when I was young, she would take us to the park and always take us out for ice cream and go cruising with her and her ACDC music blasting in the car. She inspired me to be a better person, to do good in life, that all my other friends are not my friends that just get me in trouble, and I listened to that. She's always there to help me, she has never given me bad advice. I never listened, I listen to hard way. But now I'm getting closer to God, he's guiding me to the right path.

Her Children
RISE UP
And Call
Her
Proverbs 31:28 **BLESSED**

Hilkka.

My Mom, Aiti to me, was a strong courageous, God -fearing woman who was very witty and had "the gift of gab". She was generous with her time and possessions and love to see us all happy. When a stroke took her voice she continued to love through her smiles, touch and loving eyes so much so that people forgot she could not speak and felt her love just by her touch.

“

**Sooner or later
we all quote
our mothers.**

BERN WILLIAMS

Sophie:

She throws me really big Birthday parties. She inspires me by giving me new ideas for stories and she dreamt of my dog Puddles before we got him.

Ruby:

I have to give all credit to my Mom for being a good cook, baker, seamstress, and all that is good in me. Just watching her do all this and more. Also reading her bible, which I love doing too. Those days she had nothing easy to work with. Never complain..

Luella:

As the youngest of 7 with a generous gap between me and my next oldest sibling, I have countless memories of spending time at my mom's side. While she worked in the garden, while she sewed. We always had lunch together and after lunch, I'd pull my chair up next to hers as she read me a story or two. A few years ago, I spent a few days with her post surgery and enjoyed some very precious moments just quietly sitting side by side each with our bibles open on our laps doing our personal devotions.



Ben: She helps me
with my homework.

Archer:

One of the best memories I have with my mom is when I was 11 and we went for a shopping trip to London and we had gotten matching necklaces together. The memory is not so much about getting the necklaces but the quality time I had gotten to spend with my mom.

Lois:

Happy Mother's Day to you all. After losing my mom 31 years ago and being 32 years old at the time. I have to say that my mom's inspiration has changed over the years as I travel through different stages and trails of life. Experiencing some of the same trails has helped me to know where her strength came from and how much faith and trust she had in her Lord and Saviour. ~ Happy Mother's Day Mom ♥

Larry - My Mom was a city girl who married a farmer (my Dad) and who quickly adapted herself to ploughing and planting, milking and raising chickens and never complaining about her fate. She loved to laugh and had a great sense of humour that always encouraged laughter for our family.

Zack

My mom sees the best in people no matter what, my whole life she has been giving her time and attention to others, to help them learn and make the most of themselves