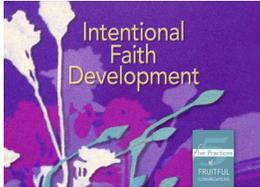


The Deer Parker

March 23, 2017



The Practice of Intentional Faith Development

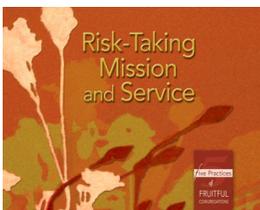
This is the third of the “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations.”

This month we are giving special attention to each of the ways of keeping and continuing to help our church be “fruitful.”

We are remembering Jesus’ work to his followers in John’s gospel that they “bear much fruit and continue in becoming” his disciples (John 15:8).

Last Sunday’s sermon was on “Intentional Faith Development.” So, how can we, the Baptist church in Deer Park, live lives where we intentionally develop our faith? Consider these possibilities:

- Pray that God’s Spirit working in us will shape us into persons who show perfect love of God and neighbor.
- In every study or learning experience we strive to develop our faith and grow in Christlikeness.
- Be willing to nurture our faith by meeting with other Christians or seekers and together discerning the mind of Christ. That is, being willing and eager to learn together, in community.
- Spend time in God’s Word, allowing His Spirit to guide us in a period of quiet, disciplined study.
- Ask a friend to meet, pray, study with you on a regular basis. In pairs, disciples of Christ can and do build each other up. Jesus sent his disciples out two by two “to every town and place where he himself intended to go” (Luke 10:1).
- Discover the incomparable joy from the physical presence of other Christians. Faith development is fostered in a community that practices their growing in an intentional way and doing it together.



The Practice of Risk-Taking Mission and Service

This coming Sunday, the focus of our worship will be Risk-Taking Mission and Service. Mission and service describe the projects and work we do to make a positive difference in the lives of others, both here and around the world, whether they will ever be members of the church or not.

Risk-taking pushes us out of our comfort zone to do new and different things. During the coming week, remember to be reading the seven devotions and prayers on Risk-taking Mission and Service in the booklet, “Cultivating Fruitfulness.” If you can, find a way to share with other church members the challenges that arise from your daily reading, Scripture study, and prayers. Something vital can happen when all God’s people learn and pray together.

A pastor in Cambridge, Ohio writes that “the future of the church depends on Risk-taking Mission and Service. In fact, a congregation that loses the profound reason for its existence will slowly wither and die. The church of Jesus Christ exists for others; it exists for the world. And what can happen, perhaps too often, is that congregations move from existing for the world to existing only for their own sake.”

Someone has said that when Jesus Christ enters a person’s heart, he brings all of needy humanity with him. Is God nudging you (us) to find and choose some new ways to do mission and service in his name?

--from the Steering Committee of “Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation”

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sundays

9:00 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study

10:15 a.m. - Choir Warm-up

10:45 a.m. - Worship

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m. - Supper

6:15 p.m. - Midweek Prayer Svc.

7:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, March 28

2:00 p.m. - Prayer & Devotion @
Highlands Court Apts.

“There is a Redeemer”



A Lenten Service of
Music and Scripture

Sunday, April 2, 10:45 a.m.

With Chancel Choir and
Instrumentalists

Dr. Albin C. Whitworth
Minister of Music and Worship/
Organist



HCM Lenten Lunches and Devotions Schedule

Our annual Lenten gatherings will be held at various church locations on the next four Thursdays. Soup and bread will be served for free. Leaders from Highlands churches will guide a brief devotion/Bible Study after lunch. All luncheons will begin at 12:00 noon and end at 1:00 p.m. The next Lenten Lunch will be held at the HCM Campus, 1228 E. Breckenridge St. on Thursday March 23.

DATE	LOCATION	MEDITATION BY:
Mar. 23	HCM Campus	Elizabeth Kirkpatrick
Mar. 30	St. Paul UMC	David Platt
Apr. 6	Deer Park Baptist	Chris Leiberman

Deacon on Call

Tom Coursen serves as the Deacon on Call through Saturday, April 8. He is available to minister in Christ's name to Deer Park families and individuals.



Sunday Sermon Texts and Themes

Mar. 26 Matthew 25:31-46; Psalm 8
 April 2 "There Is a Redeemer": a Lenten Service of Music and Meditation

Deer Park Stats 3/19/2017

Worship	51
Sunday School	29
Budget Received	\$3,020.00 (68%)
Weekly Budget Needed	\$4,427.00
Budget Needs Y-T-D	\$168,226.00
Budget Gifts Y-T-D	\$135,658.00

In Sympathy

Our Christian sympathy is expressed to Lynn Roberts and his family in the death of Lynn's mother Kitty Roberts. Kitty died on Thursday, March 16. The funeral was on Tuesday, March 20 with burial at Evergreen Cemetery. Memorial gifts may be given to the Masonic Home of Louisville.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Apr. 5 - Suzanne Ammerman
 Apr. 6 - Lydia Sudduth
 Apr. 8 - Paul Herrington

News and Notes

- Our church's goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions is \$625.00. To date, we have given a total of \$620.00.

Easter Lilies

If you would like to order an Easter lily, please return this form along with \$8.00 per plant to the church office. These order forms must be received by the office no later than Sunday, April 9. Make checks payable to Deer Park and designate as "Easter Lilies." The lilies will be displayed on Easter Sunday, April 16.

In Honor Of:

In Memory Of:

Given By (name(s) to list in bulletin):

Quantity _____ **x \$8 = Total \$** _____

