



Neighborhoods to Nations

The New Testament Church Newsletter

Covenant; The Blessing of Teamwork

"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth. But if we walk in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanse us from all sin." - 1st John 1:6-7

The word translated fellowship here is *koinonia*. It signifies covenant community and one's involvement in a team. It is used for communion as well as the lead characteristic of the church.

It is a spiritual word, for it cannot be fulfilled unless we are believers and the Holy Spirit is within us. It is also a strong word for teamwork both socially and economically. Though our identity is in Christ individually, its first expression beyond the individual is in community.

Note in the passage above our fellowship must first be with God. To walk in the light means that nothing is attempted to be hidden but open before Him.

The depth of our walk with God will be evidenced by our walk and fellowship with one another. Just as hidden sin (which really isn't hidden from God) hinders our walk with God, so unforgiveness between believers hinders our fellowship with one another.

The way Greek culture used the word might help give us a picture of what it means to be a vital functioning part of the church.

1st - the word means a *joint venture*. It was used for marriage, social endeavors and economic business ventures.

2nd - the word also indicates

the *bond* necessary in order to fulfill the purpose of the joint endeavor. The bond or covenant commitment would increase if the goal was larger in scope or influence.

Koinonia is broken when sin erects a wall between our hearts and God. It is also broken when offenses come between believers. At times the Word of God compels us to separate from those who refuse to repent or, depending on the nature of the goal, make us "unequally yoked."

We believe the year 2020 is to depict the theme of covenant community in our homes, church and extended out to our neighborhoods.

Let us prepare our hearts for greater covenant teamwork that each one in our midst would be fulfilled in releasing their gifts and being connected to one another!

How can I pray for you? Connecting with Your Neighbors

Two of the words for 2020 are:
Intercession and Weeping

God is wanting to do something this year in our hearts as well as our minds. He is stirring up compassion for lost people who do not know Jesus. Our Challenge for the New Year is to pray about and seek out "God Appointments." These are the special times when God has prepared a heart to receive His touch through us! Be willing to

step out boldly when those moments occur: Ask that person: "Can I pray for you?" Usually, they will say "yes" and you will have the unique opportunity to connect someone to the Living God!

Perhaps you are wondering if you know anyone who is not a Christian. This can be a time when you ask God to lay on your heart a "FRAN":
Friend, Relative,

Acquaintance, Neighbor who doesn't yet have a relationship with Christ. Your concern, your prayer, and your invitation to church may be the very tools God uses to bring that person to Him.

Remember, someone cared enough about you to take the risk and tell you about Jesus! 2020 is your year to pass along the blessing of Knowing our Lord!

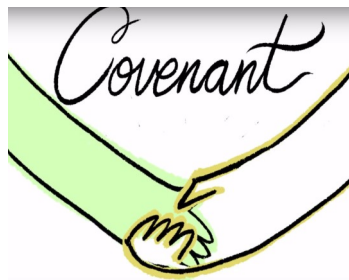
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Highlights for Intercession

- Lord, help us to learn contentment through the various trials we experience from day to day.
- Lord, help us to share the gospel with clarity, focus and truth.
- Help us to faithfully portray who you are as we honestly share our struggles as well



The nature of discipling children is to connect parents and teachers in covenant



Prayer, both private as well as corporate, is the life blood of the church. Consider joining a small prayer group and commit to meet together at joint prayer meetings with other believers!



Special Worship, Prayer & Healing Service
Sunday, January 5
6:00 PM

Christian Education: *Parents and Teachers in Covenant*

“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”
Amos 3:3

The answer to this rhetorical question offered by the prophet Amos is no. Two can only walk together in covenant to the degree that they are in agreement.

Parents are given the responsibility for the education of their children in the Bible. To whom they delegate part of that responsibility is a

covenantal decision. In other words, it will be honored by God to the degree that parent and teacher are in agreement.

The covenantal agreement should include:

- the spiritual agreement on the origin of truth;
- the worldview of how cultures should operate;
- what is socially accept-

ed behavior;

- to what degree each of these spheres is necessary in whatever area a parent chooses to delegate their responsibility.

We are blessed as a church to offer Christian education where parents can delegate responsibility in the training of their children.

Every parent must decide to whom should they delegate this task!

AGREEING WITH GOD IN PRAYER *As We Go Before the Throne!*

We are looking forward to some new and exciting opportunities for prayer in 2020! This will be a year of miraculous answers to bold prayers!

As the New Year unfolds, we will be developing expanded prayer ministries before and after the worship service. We anticipate local prayer gatherings, as well as prayer for people in hospitals, nursing homes, private homes, and

whole neighborhoods. We will also be developing prayer lists of lost people that we want to see come to Jesus.

One of the 5 “E Teams” we are developing is the “**Exalt Team**”. This is connected to the Prophetic dimension of the 5-Fold Ministry. The emphasis is on **Prayer, Worship, Preaching and Spiritual Formation**. We are urging the Church to be praying for

the worship and preaching ministries of our congregation because these are often the entry points where newcomers first connect with our church. Pray that our worship will be anointed each week and that the preaching will be deep and powerful! Pray that hearts will be stirred and minds will be transformed. Pray that lives will be changed and many will come to faith for the first time!

A Service of Worship and Healing! **January 5, 2020 at 6:00 PM**

We are launching 2020 with a night of Worship, Prayer and Testimonies!

We are going to be praying for the sick, anointing them with oil as the Bible instructs in James 5, and believing God is going to move in supernatural ways!

This is your first 2020 opportunity to invite a

“FRAN” (Friend, Relative, Acquaintance, Neighbor) to come with you to see God at work! Bring a testimony of how God has carried you through 2019. Come prepared to pray for the healing of minds, bodies, addictions, relationships, finances. Expect stirring worship, dynamic prayer, exciting stories of God’s faithfulness and challenging

*words of prophecy! The Lord wants to speak to you and set some new directions and a different tone for your life in 2020. Begin praying now for a supernatural visitation of the Lord in this special service: **SUNDAY JANUARY 5TH, 6:00 P.M. IN OUR SANCTUARY.** This is an exciting event that you will not want to miss!*

CELL GROUP CORNER: *Cell Group Ministry*

Spontaneous Cell Groups

Pockets of believers from within our church meet as they are led by God to do so. Let us pray that in the near future strategic groups form!

Strategic Prayer

Women on Friday mornings at Carol Soucy's (774-238-8861) and once a month prayer under the Glory of God banner on Cape Cod (4th Wednesday) and on the South Shore (4th Sunday night — Jan 26 at 6 pm at New Hope Chapel, Ply.)

Adult Fellowship / Family

Periodically there are adult and family fellowships after church on Sundays when available (check the bulletin)

Men's Groups

Men's Night Out (with Chuck Chiaramonte coordinating): next is January 10 in Hanson) and a men and son's breakfast study group on *No More Excuses* (Jan. 4 at Vince Viscuso's home & Feb 1 at Chuck Lindberg's.)

Youth Group

The Arise Youth Group,

meeting on the 1st & 3rd Sunday nights of the month at 5:30 PM, is growing! Encourage 7th -12th graders to check it out! (Jen & Jon Thompson and Ben Harris leading.)

Special Outreach Event: Super Bowl Parties Feb. 2nd

Hosted at local homes, there will be opportunities for connecting with old & new friends & outreach (invite FRAN's)!!! Special Halftime Testimonies from Christian players on both teams. Don't miss it!! More details to follow.



Small Group Ministry is an important part of the discipleship process within our church. A pilot group is starting after the New Year! New Groups will be launching this Spring.

Seriously consider attending a group that will edify you in your walk with the Lord!

Church and School Youth Retreat! January 17-19, 2020

Fellowship and fun are two words that describe winter retreats with adults and youth at TNT!

From dynamic services to recreation and great food, Camp Spofford in New Hampshire will again be the setting for this year's retreat!

The facilities are simply excellent with a giant gymnasium, recreational games, and even a mini outdoor ice rink!

If you are a teen in our church or school, want to grow spiritually, enjoy great fellowship, food and recreation, this is the retreat for

you! See Jen & Jon Thompson or Ben Harris for more information and to sign up and register!

See you at Camp Spofford!



The girls pose with the poster highlighting last year's spiritual growth track at the retreat while Mr. Thompson gives a student a lift!

GET READY... *For the New Connections Class!*

Another Word for 2020 is: **PREPARATION.**

We must get ready for the many new people God will be sending our way.

Scripture teaches that every Christian has at least one spiritual gift. So, to help us recognize our gifts we will be launching our Connections Classes with a Kick-

Off Luncheon on Sunday, January 26th right after church. Both day and evening **Connections Classes will begin in February.**

There will be classes on the topics of "Salvation & Baptism," "Church & Cell Groups," "Praying for Lost Friends," & "Spiritual Gifts

and Selecting a Ministry."

Completing these classes will connect you with the TNT Family in a new way. You will be prepared to begin a fulfilling ministry that draws you closer to the Lord and His people. These classes will change your life forever! See the bulletin for times and dates!



Connection Classes Starting Soon!
Connect with Pastor Dan Pastor on his new cell phone number:
774-765-9278

*Preaching Christ from
Neighborhoods to
Nations*

The New Testament
Church Newsletter

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Our Mission

The members of The New Testament Church wish to fulfill the call of God upon Plymouth and its geographic area in restoring the light of the gospel to impact every area of life. We desire to bless our neighborhoods locally and the specific nations of the world as God directs by performing the works of Jesus, empowered by His Spirit.

Our Vision

The calling of the Church of Jesus Christ is to be the agency through which God shows the world His manifold wisdom. We at The New Testament Church desire to be part of the bride that Father God can present to the Son while at the same time being a glorious temple built of living stones. We want to bring the seamless, all encompassing, life-changing message of Jesus Christ to others, discipling those who respond "to love the Lord with all their heart, with all their soul, and with all their mind... and to love their neighbor as themselves."



What the Bible Says About...
Child Training
By J. Richard Fugate
(available through the church
office for \$15)

BOOK REVIEW

By Paul Jehle

Our church is filled with resources on applying the Bible to every area of life. One such book in our archives is *What the Bible Says About... Child Training*, by J. Richard Fugate.

We first used this book in the early 1980's when our school first began. The second edition, published in 1996, is available for purchase through the church.

What makes this book so practical is that it draws biblical truth from the pages of Scripture to address such pertinent topics as:

- Parental authority, responsibility and

accountability;

- The nature of children;
- How to build self-government within your child;
- How to set reasonable standards and administer proper punishment
- Guilt, confession, and forgiveness

We live in an age when parents are given little instruction on child training. This book, however, is a gold mine of a resource and will help parent as well as grandparent!

I suggest you read it as a parent with young children,

especially if you have never read a clear Biblical resource on child training.

However, this would also be a great gift if you are a grandparent, single adult, or someone whose children are grown but know of others struggling in this area.

This book is also a good resource for believers to share nuggets of wisdom with their neighbors or others who have never heard of a guide for raising children.

This book was one of the inspirations for Senior Pastor Paul Jehle to write his course *Family Life and Child Training* available with a guide and CD's through the church office.