



Pastor's Message—*Pastor Bater*

Essential Church?



I finished reading a book recently that really got me thinking. The book *Essential Church?* serves to ask that very question of every churchgoer: Is your church essential to your life? It might kind of sound like a trap question coming from your pastor, but what if your neighbor or coworker asked it to you? How would you answer?

Someone might answer, "Of course it is! I've attended Prince of Peace since I was a kid, I can't imagine life without it. I've never been a member at any other church." Great! But does that make it essential or simply comfortable? Another might say, "Sure it is, that's where I was baptized, confirmed, married, etc." Awesome! But does that make Prince of Peace essential to your life or just sort of memorable? Still another could say, "I guess so. It's where I worship, go to Bible study, meet new friends, serve on a committee, spend three nights a week, etc." But does that make your church essential or simply give you something else to do?

I think the more you ponder the question, the harder it becomes to answer. While we might consider our church really important to us, it becomes kind of difficult to see it as essential to my life. Along the same lines, you might think getting an education or a job is important but not essential to your life, but don't strive for either and see if St. Paul's words are true: "*If a man will not work, he shall not eat*" (2 Thessalonians 3:10). You may think that fruits, vegetables, vitamins, and exercise are not essential to your life, but avoid all of them and watch what happens to your body. You may think that paying your taxes is not an essential part of life, but stop paying them and see where you spend the next 5-10 years of your life. Do you see the point?

Sure, my life won't end the moment I stop eating healthy or paying taxes, so in that sense, those things are not absolutely necessary for my life. But what would happen to my life without them? Could my church be essential in the same way? Sure, your life will go on apart from Prince of Peace. But what would happen to your life without it? Prince of Peace is not essential because of the comfort zone it provides or the memories it has given you. It is not essential because of the programs it offers—or the people that fill it. Prince of Peace is essential for your life because Christ is essential in your life and your church brings Him to you day after day, week after week.

"But I can have a healthy relationship with Jesus without going to church." Fair enough, but does that ever really happen? To say that my church is not essential in my life is to say something far more dangerous. It really says that the blessings my church brings: the gospel in Word and Sacraments, forgiveness, peace, life, joy, comfort, opportunities for serving your Lord, etc. are not essential. And to say that is to say something contrary to God's Word.

This is not my effort to guilt you into coming to church more often but it is my hope that you see Prince of Peace as an essential part of your life. Whether you haven't been to church in some time or you attend regularly, I pray that you see your Lord Jesus as not simply an important part of your life but someone you simply cannot live without. He lived and died to make you his own—as much as you may already know that—he wants you to hear that essential life-giving message again and again and to be strengthened by it and in it.

Upcoming Events

- **Adult Confirmations**, January 9th (in late service) – After months of studying God's Word, our congregation will welcome six new adult members into our fellowship. They include Kenny & Donna Carter; Brenda & Duane Waid; and Rob & Chantel Johnson.
- **New Basic Christianity & Wednesday night Bible Study, January 19th (7:00PM)** – I will be using a new class to introduce or strengthen you in the basic *(continued on top of page 2)*



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teachings of the Bible. Please let me know if you would like an invitation to give to a friend. Pastor Micheel's class will begin by covering the Old Testament book of Hosea.

- **Congregational Open Forum, Sunday, January 23rd (after late service)** – This forum presents an opportunity for our members to discuss many obstacles and decisions that need to be made concerning our ministry in 2011. Including, but not limited to: school tuition, staffing options, our ministry's financial status, ministry goals, future plans, etc. Please plan on attending and voicing your thoughts and concerns.
- **Missionaries' Conference, January 24th-January 26th** — Pastor Micheel and I will be traveling to Thornton, Colorado to attend the conference where the focus will be "Worship & Outreach."

May the Lord richly bless you in the upcoming year and may He continue to generously pour out His grace onto and through our congregation as we live to serve Him and others with the essential message of Christ crucified and risen.



Pastor Bater



If you are able to help with snow removal or can be put on a shoveling schedule, please contact Kent Carbon at 801-450-6317 or email him at: packercarb@yahoo.com

President's Report—*Eric Myers*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Just put it on the list! I know we are all inundated with messages referring to New Year's resolutions. So am I better or worse off adding to the deluge of communication you are receiving right now on how this—or that product or service—will make your life better in 2011?

I will keep it simple. Stay in the Word. Our staff does a great job reminding us of that simple message all the time. Of course, we are not around our staff or physically at Prince of Peace all the time. So my challenge to you is to do something that will remind you to stay in the Word more often. That could include circling Bible studies or worship opportunities on your calendar or adding them to your electronic planner (Outlook, Gmail, etc.) with alarms. It could mean getting into or renewing the habit of doing devotions after supper. Or spending five or fifteen minutes in the Bible right away in the morning or last thing before shutting your eyes. That could mean reading these newsletters when they come out—our pastors and leaders have some inspired observations. You know your life better than I, so I just say, find something to Stay on the Word more in 2011.

*"I will keep it simple.
Stay in the Word."*

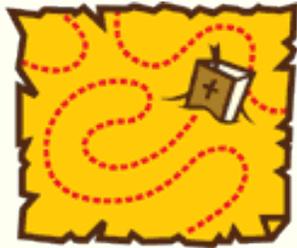
On a leadership update, we are halfway through our fiscal year and focusing on completing our goals as well as meeting some challenges to use our God-given assets at PoP to achieve the most for God's kingdom. While we struggle with some tough decisions, it is a comfort to know that God will bless our efforts.

We have come through such a positive and uplifting time of the church year and it is my prayer that all of us stay motivated by God's Word as we move through 2011. Every time I am at Prince of Peace, I see evidence of God growing his kingdom through effort. Let's keep that ball rolling!

Yours in Christ,

Eric Myers – Chairman
801-821-0355 eric.myers@tabbank.com

LOOKING for A Bible Study?



Sundays

Morning Bible Study 9:15AM

Our current class is studying what God says about the roles of men and women. Teens and adults welcome. Family Bible Hour is offered for children ages 3 thru 6th grade.

Tuesdays

Early Bird Bible Study 6:30AM

Wake up with a great cup of coffee and God's Word. We meet at the Coffee Club located at 4879 Redwood Road. Come when you can and leave when you need to get to work/school. All ages welcome.

Wednesdays

Evening Bible Study 7:00PM

Pancakes, pine trees and prostitutes: The Book of Hosea (beginning January 19th)

Pancakes, pine trees and prostitutes—what do they have in common? They're all images in the Bible book of Hosea, pictures that God used to speak to his people. But what do these strange images mean, and how do they speak to us? That's what we'll be learning in our Wednesday evening Bible study. Not only will we learn about Hosea's message (which is fascinating in itself), but we will also learn how to read and understand other parts of the Old Testament that may sound strange to us. We meet each Wednesday, beginning Jan. 19, in the school library room. Join us!

Basic Christianity 7:00PM

New class begins January 19th. Learn all about the Bible. A great class to bring someone who wants to learn more about Christianity and share your faith—and a great way to refresh and strengthen your own walk with the Lord.

***"Show me your ways, O LORD,
teach me your paths..."***

Psalm 25:3-5

CONGREGATIONAL OPEN FORUM



**Sunday, January 23rd
after late worship**

Be informed ... give your input!

PoP Women—*Nancy Ah Chong*

"I've never played Bunco before!" These were words out of the mouths of many women at a recent activity. However, about 24 women got over their fears and headed to the Sell home for the second Ladies' Night Out in October. Some described the night as "chaotic", yet everyone agreed that it was a fun time. Bunco was our second Ladies' Night Out and was followed by a festive Christmas Fondue Party hosted by Sheena Finnigan and Jamie Schultz in December. An activity that night was making scarves and blankets that were later delivered to the Road Home Shelter.

It has been a blessing to get together as Christian women and share our joys and struggles and grow closer to and understand each other better.



JANUARY LADIES' NIGHT OUT SWAP PARTY

*"Out with the old ...
bring home something new!"*

January 21st at 6:30PM

at Kourtnee Jacobs home (7133 S. Callie Dr.)

RSVP: austismrocks2006@gmail.com

Bring something from home (in good condition) to swap: artwork, jewelry, clothing, purses, furniture—anything! Everyone receives play money or tokens to bid on a favorite item.



Bring a favorite drink & snack to share.

Kourtnee will be making Indian food for us!

Principal's Update—*Jeff Sell*

Light of the World (No Narration)	
1. Jesus, Light of the World	1:52
2. Will You Be Ready?	2:35
3. Silent Night (Chile-Nacht)	3:20
4. He is Born	1:47
5. Come To, Shepherd, and Follow	1:50
6. From a Distant Shore	1:35
7. Take This Light	1:41
8. Jesus, Light of the World (Reprise)	1:55

Children's Christmas Service— Thank you to all the parents who allowed their children to take part in the children's Christmas service on December 19. It was awesome to see 63 children praise their Savior in front of 290 people. If you took one of the audio CD's to practice parts, please return it to the school office or give it to Mr. Sell.

Survey Participation—Before Christmas, the parents of our congregation with children that are of elementary school-age were asked to respond to a survey that would give the School Board a better idea on how best to serve our congregation and use the gifts that we currently have as well as gain valuable information about our future tuition levels for 2011-2012. The goal was to have 100% participation, but currently we sit at less than 50%. Without full participation from our member parents, we may get a skewed idea about how best to serve you. If you are part of the majority, please take time to fill out the survey with your thoughts and circumstances and return it to Eric Myers by mail or by email. If you have lost your survey and need a new one, please inform Robyn Smith and she will get you another.



Wish Upon a Star Bulletin Board- There are a couple items that have been added to the school wish-list board that is in the gym next to the school hallway. If you are able to help out with any of these items, please let Mr. Sell know.

We are in need of a **new tone chime**. The C5 chime has developed a crack and is no longer usable for church services. The cost to replace it is \$61. A portion of the cost has already been donated. (Thank you!)



Do you have a **microwave** that you no longer need? We could use a replacement for one of the microwaves we currently have in school.

If any of you have any **old electronic items** that no longer work or that you just want to get rid of, the 4-8th grade classroom would love to have them to disassemble and learn about circuits, motors, moving parts etc. If you have a small item, like the size of a VCR or smaller, just bring it in and give it to Mr. Sell. If it is a big item, like a TV, dishwasher or a room-sized computer from the 60's, please speak with Mr. Sell prior to bringing it.



All working **LCD computer screens** are welcome. Have one that is just sitting around collecting dust? Bring it in and we'll put it to good use! Have a **flat screen TV** that you just upgraded? We would be happy to help you save the effort of storing it.

SCRIP Update—*Sarah Sell*

During the months of November and December, we sold \$17,026.60 in scrip! This brought in **\$777.96 in profit**. The average earnings was 4.57%. Thank you to all who made a point of using the scrip program. As you can see, it definitely pays off! Check out the thermometer in the gym—we have over \$4,000 set aside for our new play structure and swings.



Gift cards will continue to be sold in the office. Please consider using scrip for your weekly grocery purchases (if you are not already using it). Gift cards for the following grocery stores are available: Fresh Market, Harmons, Smith's, Sunflower Market, Reams, and Wal-Mart/Sam's Club. If you have any questions, please speak with Sarah Sell, Rachel Heitz, Robyn Smith, or Gretchen Beebe.

Great news for 2011: Target is now available for purchase (\$25 or \$100 denominations).

