

Teaching them to observe
all things...Matt. 28:20



The St. Joseph Observer

December 26, 2010

The St. Joseph Church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

Sunday School
9:45

Sunday Worship
10:45

Sunday PM
5:00

Tuesday Ladies' Class
9:00 AM

Elders

Leo Conkin 925-7688
Clyde Daniel 428-2322
Charlie McGee 861-5811
Steve Parsons 465-7901

Deacons

Dave Hipskind 468-4735
Eric Ramso 465-5965

Ladies' Prayer Chain

Kim Batson 428-7281
Barb Conkin 925-7688
Gayle Daniel 428-2322
Jan Mundy 473-1505

What Am I Willing to Do?

In the adult Bible class, I asked what they thought we had accomplished this year. Their answers included:

- Vacation Bible School
- Support for Orphans Lifeline of Hope
- Support for a missionary couple in Italy
- Work done by the Building and Grounds Committee

I then asked what they would like to see us accomplish. Their answers:

- Vacation Bible School
- Expand support in the areas of benevolence and evangelism
- Continue the efforts of the Building and Grounds Committee
- Periodic area-wide singing fellowship
- Plan monthly fellowships for the church family
- Plan monthly youth fellowships
- Youth project to help members who cannot help themselves with manual labor issues around their house (i.e., yardwork, painting, etc.)
- Periodic youth directed worship service

These are eight **GREAT** ideas and it would be wonderful if we did them. But what is interesting is that the majority of us in the adult Bible class are empty-nesters. Yet, five of the eight ideas... are for the youth!

It is a worthwhile question to ask ourselves this: "What is it that I am really interested in? In what activity, project, effort, work, mission, etc., am I willing to invest significant time and energy?" In other words, "What am I willing to do?"

When Jesus gave the "Great Commission" in Matthew 28:19, he said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." When He gave that directive, He was talking to eleven men. Can you imagine their reaction? Can you imagine the discussion they had once Jesus left?

"Well... He didn't mean we had to literally go into **ALL** the nations. That's just figurative. After all... we are only eleven people! He only meant that we should make some effort. Or better yet... that we should convince someone else to make some kind of effort."

I have little doubt that at least some of these eleven men (if not all) saw the task that Jesus gave them as insurmountable... unattainable... impossible. I believe that because I believe that would be our reaction had Jesus given that directive to us. But wait a minute! Jesus **DID** give us that directive! As Paul said (2 Cor 4:7), we are the earthen **CONTAINERS** which hold the treasure of Gospel! We have the Gospel and we have the responsibility of **SHARING** it with the rest of the world. "Go ye" means "Go me."

The companion question to "What would you like to see the church do in 2011" is this... "What would you **PERSONALLY** like to accomplish in 2011?" That is a particularly important question because of its relationship to this question, "Who among us will stand up and be counted among those who have a strong desire to accomplish something for God?"

Please remember in prayer...

- **Members & Family Members with Health Issues** Leo Conkin, Ernie Hicks, Warren James, Vanessa Matthews, Susan McGee, Jim Smith, Juanita Weatherford
- **The Military** Ian Matthews
- **Our Church** The Buildings & Grounds Committee, our Elders & Deacons, our members

Family News

I'm glad you're here this morning! I pray that you had a holiday to remember and that you got more than the lump of coal that **Steve** got!

Thank you so much for your gift. It is a special gift with special meaning for Susan and me because we know it wasn't anything you had to do. We appreciate that quality in you... that is that you do good things not because you have to. You are a great example of a generous people who care about others.

Jim & Carolyn will be going to Alabama pretty soon now. **Dale & Cindy** have gone to California. **Clyde & Gayle** went to Wisconsin. I am sure others are traveling as well.

Sheila was in Texas last weekend running in marathon. It is her goal to run a marathon in all 50 states. I believe she has run in 9 or 10 so far. Also, **Kevin** has a new job in Elkhart. That's a long commute. Pray for his safety.

It was great to see **Leo, Barb** and **Elaine** last Sunday. They are unable to be here as much as they'd like due to their health. But it's always an inspiration to see them because it is such an effort for them. Many of us, and especially me, don't sacrifice anything to be here on Sunday morning. But for these loved ones, it is a major deal to overcome the obstacles.


ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We will not meet for Bible study this evening.

ATTENTION MEN: A men's class will start Saturday, February 5, from 8:00am to 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. We will use a book titled "Being God's Man... in Leading a Family." The book has only 8 chapters so the class will run 8 weeks from February 5 through March 26. Please let Charlie know if you will attend so that everyone has a book. The cost of the book is \$8.50.

Congregational Calendar

December – January

26	27	28	29	30	31  Patty V argo	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8