

Missed the congregational meeting? Here are the highlights.

Introduction

SPEP has two annual congregational meetings. In January we elect officers, review the last year of ministry and suggest possible plans for the future. In May, we review our budget for the plans we've made.

Elections and Nominations

Elders

new Elder: Curt Fern

continuing for another term: Mike Gould and Ken Prickett

Deacons

new Deacons: Mike Binnie, Darren Couture, Dan Quasney, Greg Schrader, Matt Vahlberg

continuing for another term: Jm Smith

Giving Update

Through eight months, the Lord has provided through our giving such that giving was only 1% below budget, and well below spending.

Chesapeake Presbytery

As has been reported to the congregation and broadcast by others on the internet, one individual accused Pastor Glenn with heresy in the matter of biblical headship. Chesapeake Presbytery properly investigated the charge and found it to be without merit.

Pastor Glenn's report

As Senior Pastor, I'm responsible for worship and preaching, leading the Session, administering the pastoral staff, highlighting our Vision and developing our Center structure.

The first full year of Ministry Center development was both challenging and encouraging. It's challenging to create a new structure to 1) implement an annual spiritual planning cycle, 2) manage seed fund money for projects that crop up in the middle of the year, 3) create Session-generated principles that allow congregational leaders the freedom to make ministry decisions, 4) enable us to easily link our gifts and passions in common ministry, and 5) troubleshoot problems as they come up.

Nevertheless, we changed our church year from Jan-Dec to June-May, enabled members to serve in new ways in each Center, and learned a lot from the experience. It that time again to look for new Directors. If you have some time and energy and want to be part of something very significant in the development of God's church in the 21st century, please let me know.

Worship Center

Last year, we focused on gaining renewed appreciation of the Lord's Supper. We also lost our long-time radio program. In response, we are developing the technology to webcast our services online all over the world. Also, Pastor Brian has transitioned into our Pastor for Congregational Care, and so only has a very limited amount of time to lead our music program.

Questions:

Do we need to rethink our music program and look for additional leadership?

Is it time to implement our goal for the Worship Center of developing alternative services which emphasize different styles of worship? *Pastor Glenn*

Family Center

Children's Ministry Highlights of 2009

We continue to have strong ministries and strong, dedicated leadership in Nursery, Sunday School, Kids' Quest Catechism Club, Junior Leadership Team, Christian Service Brigade and Pioneer Club, and VBS. In addition to 10 ministry leaders, there were about 190 workers in Children's Ministry.

One focus of ministry to children is supporting parents in their job of making Christian disciples. To encourage parents we held a seminar entitled *Everyday Parents Can Raise Extraordinary Kids*. The community was invited to attend through widespread distribution of fliers in public and private schools in the county. Additionally, many parents received a weekly e-newsletter called *Raising Up Spiritual Champions*. The newsletter gives parents practical tools to train their kids in a variety of character qualities, such as gratitude, honesty, generosity and self-control.

We had probably the best week of Vacation Bible School in recent history. We explored the issues of persecution through the experiences of the Apostle Paul and the Underground church. We built a cave that the children crawled into to attend secret services and learned from Paul first-hand. We tied this into our missions project learning about modern-day persecution around the world. The children's crafts were primarily focused on missions projects to serve others. We raised money for Bible distribution in the country of Columbia and we actually made parachutes that Voice of the Martyrs used to drop Bibles into Columbia. Darcy Gill, VOM field representative, was with us through the week and she shared many gripping stories and challenged us to pray for specific situations going on in the world today. Many are still praying for these needs. *Michele Prince*

Youth Ministry Report

In youth ministry there is a lot of discussion of building relationships. I spend a lot of time trying to build relationships or facilitate the building of relationships. The relationships that I try to build are between students and youth staff, students and students, students and parents, students and the church, and students and their God. I also work at building relationships between parents and youth staff, parents and parents, parents and students, and parents and their God. All this happens through teaching, coordinating logistics, hanging out over coffee, lunch, ice cream, etc., prayer, ministry projects and a fair amount of play.

We have a really great time in the youth ministry at SPEP. We go to camps, play games at youth group, have fun monthly events. The goal of all this play is simply to engage students where they live and do what they like to do so that we can genuinely care about them and reflect the love and grace of Jesus Christ to them. *Trip Beans*

Spiritual Growth Center

We have new leadership to help us form Fellowship Groups, and new leadership in the Young Adult Fellowship ministry.

Max is working hard to re-design our Men's Ministry under his leadership, as well as develop thoughtful and effective ways to help new friends become part of our church family.

Question:

Should we go back to the service structure we had years ago, with an early service, an hour of education and fellowship for all, and a later service? (It seems to me that we desperately need more time together to mature our faith and our relationships.) *Pastor Glenn*

People Care Center

I should start with a clarification—years ago I was a full-time church musician. Now I dedicate one-fifth of my time to music ministry.

So my focus is given to Congregational Care: I oversee the availability of your pastors and elders to pray with, counsel, and visit people. I also lead elder training, guide church discipline, and support Peacemakers. And I oversee our office's administrative staff.

People Care is without a director, so I'm standing in for now—which is fine, since People Care and Congregational care are linked. Many wonderful folks, through People Care's network, are laboring to meet your needs in crisis and life transitions. So, I'm encouraged by what God is doing! Broken relationships are healing, worship (even with a downsized music ministry) is progressing, and our elders are transitioning toward a shepherd-model of leadership. We'll only bear fruit in God's strength. So as we pray for you, please pray for us!

Pastor Brian—Congregational Care, People Care, Music

Culture Center

Our Culture Center had a very productive year, with discussions and adult classes on contemporary literature and issues, along with a blood drive. Our food pantry has been very useful. We created a ministry partnership with Habitat for Humanity, with several of our members becoming quite active. We also participated in our Presbytery's disaster relief efforts in New Orleans (as we anticipate doing soon in Haiti), and continued our Homeless ministry more locally. *Andy Wolverton*

Good News

What I do:

- » Pastor of Outreach: equipping the congregation to move from a programmatic to a paradigmatic mindset. That is helping us understand who we are as a community of faith and to what we're called and how outreach is a natural part of the community rather than a program for a few in the community.
- » Pastoral oversight over the children's and youth ministries, media ministries and diaconate
- » Serving temporarily as director of Family Care and Good News Centers

Highlights of 2009:

- » Seeing several unbelievers come to faith
- » Completing a comprehensive philosophy of ministry for outreach at SPEP
- » Launching of our community initiative: teaching in Sunday School and leading a team working to develop community
- » Transitioning our media ministry from a local (radio) to a global (internet) delivery system
- » Working with the diaconate to help us understand how outreach is integral to mercy ministry
- » Working with displaced men and women as well as men struggling with addictions
- » Working to introduce gift assessment software as well as mapping software as tools to reach the not yet church in our communities

Equipping and reinforcing outreach is an integral part of the life of faith of every believer. My prayer and goal is, by God's grace, to re-launch ourselves both individually and corporately, as bearers of good news, into the wider community in powerful and effective ways. *Pastor Bill*

Name Committe Report

congregational meeting 1/31/2010

the People:

Trip Beans, Karen Crout, Micki Parkinson, Greg Schrader, Sharon Schaible, Marianne Spires, Mathew Soltis

the Process—how we did it:

Process has taken the committee time

We did two rounds of input and review, working through 91 unique names

We used the name evaluation matrix process and guidelines to down select the names

We then broke off into teams and did detailed study on each of the names and Pros & Cons

Took additional input from small groups, congregation and those outside the church

Example of the Rating Matrix: *Severna Park Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church in America*

Does it suggest our sense of identity—our vision for ministry?

There is nothing about our identity here. We're not in Severna Park. We're not in the Evangelical Presbyterterian denominaton. The only thing that fits is "church."

Does it highlight a biblical theme rooted in our heritage, expressed in a contemporary way?

No.

Does it communicate well both to committed Christians and to the general public?

No. Evangelical used to be a well received word—now it has actually kept both Christians and non-Christians from visiting our church.

Is it simple and elegant?

No.

What does a name study add?

Didn't really add anything.

the Process—going from here:

- » Pray about the names during February—our month of prayer for the church
- » Congregational discussion and voting in the spring

What you can do:

- » Read and pray over the scriptures for each name
- » Reflect and pray over how the names (and SPEP) fit against the evaluation matrix above
- » Discuss our church's identity and names in the context of our Mission and Vision
- » Talk to and ask questions of any of the committee
- » Discuss the names with your kids, friends, etc. See how they feel about each one. See how the community (those who don't go to our church or aren't christian) feels about each one.
- » Come prepared to vote in the spring.

(The names—next page)

The Names

Redeeming Hope (PCA)

Verses that support the name:

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (Titus 2:11-14)

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. (1 Peter 1:18-21)

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? (Romans 8:23-24)

“In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling. (Exodus 15:13)

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:13-14)

But Christ is faithful as a son over God’s house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast. (Hebrews 3:6)

GraceWorks (PCA)

Verses that support the name:

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Cor. 9:8)

For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Eph 2:10)

All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. (2 Cor 4:15)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. (2 Cor 8:9)

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. (1 Pt 4:10)

How we saw them fitting the matrix—next page.

Why we thought they fit the evaluation matrix:

Redeeming Hope (PCA)

Communicates to both committed Christians and the general public.

To Christians: Redeeming Hope is what we have been given by salvation through Jesus Christ and are called to share with others as a church.

To the general public: Redeeming Hope communicates to those seeking a church or meaning in life want hope and to have their lives redeemed, a feeling of renewal.

Biblical Theme rooted in our heritage, expressed in a contemporary way.

Redeeming Hope is the point of the Bible. We radiate Christ's love and forgiveness by encouraging hope, helping others bear their burdens and respond to the salvation He offers in His victory on the cross.

It is simple and elegant.

Redeeming Hope communicates and summarizes our call by God in a simple, yet concise description of who we are, what we're about, and what we aspire to be in the world

GraceWorks (PCA)

Communicates both committed Christians and general public.

To Christians: GraceWorks communicates God's gift of salvation (Grace) and our response to that gift (Works).

To the general public: GraceWorks communicates good—whether it's a grace period or graceful/beautiful—it's good. And Works gives the impression that something is happening—this place is productive.

Biblical theme rooted in heritage, expressed in a contemporary way.

Grace is an essential part of the Gospel that is displayed throughout scripture. The name GraceWorks is contemporary in the way it actively communicates the character of the God we serve and how assured we are of its life changing power.

It is simple and elegant.

GraceWorks explains our faith—grace of God leading to service. But it also is a sentence—Grace works.