

Strategic Prayer and Fasting Week

January 11th-January 17th, 2018

Call to Faith Christian Fellowship
for season of focused prayer
for the advancement of the Kingdom of God
in Pen Lucy, Baltimore, and the world



“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,
says the LORD of hosts.”

- Zechariah 4:6

Faith Christian Fellowship

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Faith Advance Prayer & Fasting Week January 11-17, 2018

Call to Prevailing Prayer

“You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.” Isaiah 62:6-7

Dear Praying Church Family of FCF,

In light of the special season of FCF in our leadership movements, our seeking God for His direction, provision and blessing for the strategic advancement of His Kingdom and glory among us, and our desire to move from strength to strength, we are calling the Body of FCF to a week of **prevailing prayer**. In this week of prevailing prayer, January 11-17, we are calling for individuals, couples, ministry teams, community groups and other fellowship gatherings to focused prayer wherever and whenever possible. On Wednesday January 17, we will have a closing praise and thanksgiving service from 6-6:30, prior to our fellowship potluck and congregational meeting. The pastoral staff is providing a prayer guide to cover our mission and ministries, and include a special prayer focus each day on the work of our pastoral search committee and needs of the church. We believe that God will use this week of prevailing prayer as a great means of strength, unity and advancing His purposes and Kingdom among us for His praise and glory.

What is this call of prevailing prayer?

Prevailing Prayer, according to Dr. Tim Keller of Redeemer church NYC, is prayer that calls out to God repeatedly, in a sustained way. Jonathan Edwards, in a sermon on Genesis 32:26-29, entitled *“The Way to Obtain the Blessing of God is Not to Let Him Go Except He Bless Us.”* notices how often the Bible urges us to pray to God in a sustained, repeated way for his blessing. But why would this be necessary? Edwards proposes the following reasons:

First, God wants us to do it this way so our hearts lose their self-sufficiency. If God’s blessings just came upon us without a lot of prayer, we would be hard-hearted and proud, assuming that a good and comfortable life is simply ‘the right of all sensible folk.

Second, God wants us to do it so our hearts will be prepared to rejoice in him as the author of all blessings. If God’s blessings just came upon us without a lot of prayer, we would not perceive him as the source of everything we need. When we don’t pray we are robbing ourselves of our joy.

Third, when we do prevailing prayer *corporately* then the attainment of blessing creates community, knitting our hearts together. When we pray together for some individual’s blessing that person feels a support and solidarity that cannot be given in any other way. In short, God asks us to do prevailing prayer because he knows that it is very dangerous to give us good things unless our heart and spiritual vision are prepared through much prayer.

What is the lesson? Lloyd-Jones encourages us: *"I commend to you the reading of biographies of those who have been used by God in the church throughout the centuries, especially in revival. And you will find this same holy boldness, this arguing, this reasoning, this putting the case to God, pleading his own promises. Oh, that is the whole secret of prayer. Thomas Goodwin uses a wonderful term. He says, "Sue him for it, sue him for it." Do not leave him alone. Pester him, as it were, with his own promise. Quote the Scripture to him. And, you know, God delights to hear us doing it, as father likes to see this element in his own child who has obviously been listening to what his father has been saying."* Shall we pester God? Shall we nag him? Shall we remind him of his promises? Only if we are obedient. (notes from Tim Keller on prevailing prayer)

Grace upon grace to you,



Pastor Craig Garriott



Pastor Stan Long

Weekly Prayer Schedule – Thursday, January 11- Wednesday, January 17, 2018

The daily focus for the Faith Advance Prayer and Fasting Focus Week is as follows:

Thursday January 11 – Praise & Thanksgiving to God for Answered Prayers

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

And Prayer for members of the PSC (Pulpit Search Committee)

Friday January 12 – Prayers for Being a Gospel-Centered Church

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” Romans 1:16, 17

And Prayer for the Search Process

Saturday January 13- Prayers for the Body of Christ

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:18

And Prayer for our Next Pastor

Sunday January 14 - Prayers for our witness, outreach and mission locally & globally

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

And Prayer for our Congregation

Monday January 15 – Prayer for Pastoral Search Committee

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

Tuesday January 16 – Prayer for New Pastor, His Family, & Transition

*“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, **and some to be pastors and teachers**, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-13*

And Prayer for the Ministry and Administrative Staff

Wednesday January 17 – THANKSGIVING & PRAISE AND Prayer for BALM (Baltimore Antioch Leadership Movement), Pastor Craig & Maria Garriott and Pastor Stan and Terri Long

“While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Acts 13:2

Why do we encourage fasting with prayer?

Jesus affirms the value and expectation of fasting for His disciples and provides guidance for the proper attitude. Jesus talks about “when” his disciples will fast, not “if.”

“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”
Matthew 6:16-18

The early church fasted to seek the face of God for the mission of the church.

“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’” Acts 13:2

“I believe the power of fasting as it relates to prayer is the spiritual atomic bomb that our Lord has given us to destroy the strongholds of evil and usher in a great revival and spiritual harvest around the world.” -Bill Bright

***Please see the appendix for more specific guidelines regarding fasting Pulpit**

Thursday, January 11, 2017

Praise & Thanksgiving to God for Answered Prayers

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

And Prayer for members of the PSC (Pulpit Search Committee)

Confession:

Almighty God, you are generous in abundance. You have given us gifts we do not deserve. You have called us from death to life, granted us forgiveness through your Son, given us the Holy Spirit, and made us your children. Yet we have failed to be thankful or rejoice in your goodness. Forgive us for our ingratitude. Give us eyes to see your hand at work in all areas of our life. Deepen our gratitude that we might serve you with undivided and joyful hearts. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Good and gracious God we give you thanks and praise for:

- A fruitful and growth producing fall Leadership Retreat at Camp Wabanna. Praise God for his provision of funds, time and our speaker Tony Miles. Praise God for the continued leadership growth and deepening our awareness of the cost of leadership as we continue to grow in Jesus.
- The annual Advent Concert and Bazaar this past December. We continue to see your hand at work in mighty ways during the preparation, Concert/Bazaar and thereafter. We praise You for providing nearly \$2,500 for our Deacons' fund to help those in need. 100% of the funds go directly to supporting the Deacons' fund. We thank You for this privilege to help, serve and support those in need through these funds and other opportunities to serve. Thank You for many hearts and lives who were moved deeply during the Concert and thereafter through the gift of our talented musicians.
- The annual Christmas Basket distribution whereby 22 families were reached through the support of 13 Community Groups. Thank you that the families were from our church, neighborhood and beyond. May your Spirit continue to move in the lives of these families. For some of these families, this was our first opportunity to serve them.
- The provision of our new Assistant Youth Director, Hannah Ocailap who joined our staff. Hannah & her husband Simon became members this fall, were married over the summer & moved to Baltimore. We rejoice that God has brought them to us and that they are expecting a new baby girl this February.
- Your provision and mercy in the generous giving of your people through finances.
- For the women's ministries and the Soul Food classes whereby honest discussions were shared around Biblical passages. Thank you for the group that has formed to continue to find ways to promote the service and growth of women in the church.
- The many, many answered prayers through the Prayer Wrestlers, Prayer Intercessors, Community Groups and Staff prayer groups. We see your Faithfulness and goodness Heavenly Father.
- The new members, baptisms and new life as shared in our Faith Reports. We particularly thank God for those who have recently given their lives to Christ and are enjoying the bounty of walking with Him.
- Thank Him for each of the members of the Pulpit Search Committee who have committed to seeking, praying, studying, searching and working towards bringing our new Senior Pastor. Thank Him for Bill Bolling, (chair), Emily Sippel (co-chair), Eric Chin, Laura Clark, Dan Ellis, Ananda Kumar, Ann Maouyo, Weldon Newton, Daniel Obeng, Wendy Pitts, Kim Sutter & Kellie Zephir. Pray for unity of mind in bringing our Pastor.

Friday, January 12, 2017
Ministry Year Goal Focus: Gospel

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." *Romans 1:16,17* **And Prayer for the Pastoral Search Process**

Confession:

Lord, we have not longed for your coming and your kingdom as we ought. Instead, clinging to the things of this world and counting them dear, we have grown callous to needs of the poor and downtrodden, the lonely and the suffering. We have not cried out for justice as we should, nor have we cared about those who are without Christ and without hope in this world. We have been silent when we could have spoken and have lacked boldness in our witness. Lord, forgive us for our offenses. And grant that by the power of your Spirit we might live in light of your coming again. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Prayers of Supplication:

Lord we pray that you would embolden us to be a healthier, gospel seeking, and gospel giving church who follow close after You that we would:

- grasp to the depths of our being the extent of the glorious gospel message,
- live in the authenticity of what your gospel means in our daily lives both in the church and in our work places, schools, homes and everyday lives.
- live in the center of Your mission in bringing Good News to all people, races, ethnicities, languages, tribes, and social networks.
- seek to bring the love of Jesus to the lost, broken, poor and cross all cultural, economic and social divides with love, compassion and grace. May we be united as a church in this endeavor.

We pray Lord Jesus that we would be Your body devoted to Your great commission,

- that we would be driven and compelled by Your grace to worship God our Father and You God our Savior,
- that we would be grounded and anchored in the Word of God,
- that through Your Holy Spirit we would be the united people of God. May the world know that You came so that all nations and peoples would know the Good News
- and that You Lord would work through us to make disciples who make disciples through reproducing worshipping communities of faith, here is Pen Lucy, Baltimore and the world, for your glory forever.

Saturday January 13, 2017

Prayers for the Body of Christ

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:18

And Prayer for our Next Pastor

“everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” Romans 1:4-7

Confession:

Almighty, merciful Father, you have loved us and made us your people in one family through your Son; yet we have not loved one another as we ought. Selfish ambition has gripped us, and we have failed to look out for others’ interests above our own. Pride has gripped us, and we have failed to befriend and care for those different from ourselves. We have not treated one another as brothers and sisters in one family. Forgive us for our offenses. Subdue our sinful drives. By the power of your Spirit make us a community that shows forth your acceptance, love and peace, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great and awesome God, we declare that as a reconciled community in Your Son Jesus Christ we work in our worship services to represent God’s Kingdom in our local context. Holy Spirit, give us grace, wisdom and strength to work to offer You Lord our most precious and valuable expressions of devotion from our varying cultures. Help us Lord to give you such worship you are worthy of that we would pursue excellence and give you our very best offerings of devotion, in playing and singing skillfully with the gifts you have given, to offer praise, prayers, testimonies, and the prayerful teaching of Your Word that we might glorify You in a Christ- centered, believer-edifying and seeker-welcoming service. (Prayer from FCF Unity Declaration – Worship)

Lord we pray for:

- **Children’s Ministry (Cindy Newton, Wendy Pitts and team)** Pray that there are enough volunteers to cover all of the weekly needs. For the infants through 5th grade to continue to grow in God. That the families of FCF and the neighborhood would get the support from the Children Ministries in helping raise the children up in Christ. Praise God that there are more opportunities for children to serve in the church.
- **Youth Ministry (Rueben Amlalo, Hannah Ocailap and team)** Pray that we receive more volunteers for our team. We have lots of pregnant spouses involved with our ministry which means we will need some extra support come February. Prayer for at least 3 male leaders for middle school and 2 female leaders for high school. Male leaders for Monday

night middle school Dgroup 7pm-8:30pm and Female leaders for Sunday night Dgroup 6:30pm-8pm.

- **Adult Christian Education (Phil Johnson, and team)**
Pray that we will delight in the personal meditation of God's Word to us and that we will hunger for the learning opportunities available such as Soul Food.
- **Biblical Counseling (Kim Sutter)** That God would enter into each encounter as Kim meets with those who are hurting. May the Spirit guide each who are seeking Him and encourage those who are lost without Him. For the upcoming Emotions Seminar to be helpful and fruitful for all who attend.
- **Sound/Multi Media Ministry (Jim Whiting, Andy Chen and team)** pray that we continue to grow and to provide seamless sound for our church and its music ministries. It is also prayerfully hoped that we might be able to enhance our system with upgraded sound re-enforcement gear in the coming fiscal year; and ultimately, provide a vehicle to reach people with the Gospel through our ministry.
- **Music & worship Ministry (Pastor Stan, Mark McMillen, Sarah Kennedy, Erin Kauffman and the dozens of volunteers who make up the music/worship team)** Pray that the team shares ministry across the team; to do more through our music ministry, but time and schedules feel so finite. Pray God would direct us, use us, and multiply our efforts. Psalm 90:17.
- **Hospitality Ministry (Angela Onime and the team)** May God continue to expand the team to provide full coverage for hospitality every Sunday; that people might feel called to serve in this ministry; for better coordination of resources within the church.
- **Community Groups (Laura Baltatzis and team)** Please pray for the facilitators as they strive to both encourage deep relationships and also be welcoming to everyone who would like to join. Pray that the existing relationships in the community groups would deepen and be a strong foundation for newcomers to be enfolded into groups.
- **Ushers Ministry:(David Pitts, and team)**
Pray that God would provide or more members to step forward and volunteer to serve so that we may more adequately meet the needs of the church body.

Sunday January 14

Prayers for our witness, outreach and mission locally & globally

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

And Prayer for our Congregation

Confession:

Holy Father, your Son became poor that we would become rich. He died that we might live, not for ourselves but for Him who loved us and gave Himself freely for us. We confess, we think more about our thoughts than your truth. We are captivated more by our plans, than by your

Kingdom. Forgive us. Bind us together. Heal our confused minds with your Word, heal our divided wills with your Spirit, heal our anxious hearts with your love, that we might enjoy you and glorify you forever. Amen.

Holy God, we confess that You God, our Father, in Your great love, have redeemed us by sending Your Only Son Jesus Christ and united us as people, by His blood, from diverse cultures into one family through Your Holy Spirit and have committed to us the message of reconciliation. We confess that great transgressions based on race, gender, class and faith have tragically marked our life together as a human family throughout the history of the world and this nation. Give us power and perseverance to join with those believers who confess that true reconciliation cannot be realized without a commitment to repentance, forgiveness and the pursuit of justice. **(Prayer from FCF Unity Declaration: Our Fundamental Identity)**

Lord we pray for:

- **Connections Ministry (Jim Hicks and team)** Pray that we would continue to work as a team and seek to serve the church family & welcome new attenders.
- **University Connections: (Titus Jones)** Pray for a second leader to step in and help support the ministry.
- **Pen Lucy Team (Emily Sippel and team)** Pray that God would give our church a deep love for the people of Pen Lucy, shape our hearts after His as we love our neighbors with his sacrificial love. Pray especially the new residents of Independence Place (Marian House) and Restoration Gardens as He provides opportunities, that those who don't know Jesus would taste and see His goodness through the people of Faith.
- **Missions Committee: (Rachel Hicks and team)** Please pray that God would lead us as we seek Him for how to better support FCF's missionaries, and how to more effectively engage and mobilize our church around missions.
- **PLAN: (Jeff Beans, Erin Kauffman and team)** that we might pursue stronger relationships with the parents of students that participate in our programming, by providing relevant support through new strategies, events and educational resources. For the 2018 school year, implement two parent feedback nights and one resource night for 7th grade students and parents, focusing on the Baltimore city high school application process.
- **Unity Team (Pastor Stan Long and team)** Pray for a deeper commitment to biblical reconciliation within every FCF ministry. Pray for 2018 Unity Month – especially our seminar with Carl Ellis “Daniel: Life & Times of a World Class Prophet.”
- **Intercessory Prayer (Libet Garber and team)** Pray that the prayer room will be used more for intercessory prayer after the Sunday services so that we will grow in prayer with and for others and may He lead others to our team.

Monday January 15

Prayer for Pastoral Search Committee

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”
Jeremiah 29:11-13

“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.” Colossians 1:28

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
2 Timothy 3:14-17

Confession:

God of all grace, you call us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves; yet we are not sufficient for these things. We confess that our hearts continually turn away from you: from purity to lust, from freedom to slavery, from compassion to indifference. Have mercy on us. Order our lives by your Word. Make your commandments the joy of our hearts. Conform us to the image of your Son that we may shine before the world to your glory. Amen.

Lord God, Holy Father, You have not left us in our darkness but have shined Your Word into our world and into our hearts. Your Word Lord is sharper than any two edged sword and it exposes and cuts through all the destructive lies and deceptions that surround us, that abide in our hearts. Help us Holy Spirit to abide in Your Word. Sanctify, purify us by your truth, Your word is truth. Help us to always be ready to give a reason for the hope we have. Help us to meditate and love and memorize your Word that we might not sin against You. Give us the power through the Word of Your grace to say no to temptation. Raise up among us Lord, teachers and preachers who rightly divide Your Word. And may we be such a church Lord that boldly proclaims You, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in You Lord Jesus Christ. Give us Lord the perseverance to labor and struggle with Your energy, which so powerfully is working in us.

- **Pray for members of the PSC (Pastoral Search Committee)**
 - Bill Bolling (chair), Emily Sippel (co-chair), Eric Chin, Laura Clark, Dan Ellis, Ananda Kumar, Ann Maouyo, Weldon Newton, Daniel Obeng, Wendy Pitts, Kim Sutter, Kellie Zephir
 - Patience and strength through a long process

- Continued unity within the committee
- Wisdom and discernment in choosing the right candidate
- **Pray for the search process**
 - that God will lead the right person to apply for the position
 - for outreach to potential candidates
 - for grace as most applicants for the position will not be selected
 - that God will be glorified throughout the process
- **Pray for our Congregation**
 - for patience as we experience this change
 - for wisdom and unity when we host a pastoral candidate for a visit
 - preparation to receive the new pastor with love and grace
 - strength for our leaders as we navigate transition
 - for new leadership to emerge to continue to strength the church and ministries
 - for the unity and the strengthening of the fellowship of FCF in a season of transition
 - for the continued strengthening of our mission in reaching out and making disciples

Tuesday January 16

Prayer for New Pastor, His Family, & Transition

*“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, **and some to be pastors and teachers**, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-13*

And Prayer for the Ministry and Administrative Staff

“It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named apostles.” Luke 6:12-13

Confession:

Almighty and most merciful God, Your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our frivolous attitude toward life, our callousness toward suffering, our envy of those who have more, our indifference to Your Kingdom, our neglect of your Word of truth. Help us to change our ways so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving Father, we commit ourselves to work together as a multicultural body to proclaim Good News that communicates Christ to people in their particular cultures with Biblical integrity through culturally sensitive means. Help us Lord to be faithful witnesses. Teach us how to share the good news of our faith. Give us boldness Holy Spirit.

(Prayer from Unity Declaration: Evangelism)

Lord we pray:

- **Pray for our next Pastor**
 - that God will prepare him to lead our congregation
 - that God will grow within him an increased passion for the word and prayer
 - that God will give him a deep love for our church
 - that God will prepare him and his current church for the transition
 - for his family as they will most likely be relocating to Baltimore, which will impact every family member
 - for his family will be drawn closer to God through this transition

- **Pray for the transition of FCF and the New Pastor**
 - that the unity and the strengthening of the fellowship of FCF in a season of transition.
 - for the continued strengthening of our mission in reaching out and making disciples.
 - for unity in leading the congregation closer to God during this time of transition
 - for a strong working relationship with the new pastor
 - for wisdom in how best to support the new pastor through this transition

- **Pray for the current Staff members:** Pastor Craig Garriott, Pastor Stan Long, Don Rittler, Keith Moore, Rueben Amlalo, Hannah Ocaïlap, Adrienne O'Connor, Cindy Newton, Robin & Kevin Carter, Jim Whiting, Mark McMillen, Sarah Kennedy, Kim Sutter
 - For unity in leading the congregation closer to God during this time of transition
 - For a strong working relationship with the new pastor
 - For wisdom in how best to support the new pastor through this transition
 - For wisdom and strength as they lead and coordinate the business of the church
 - For strength and unity as they develop a working relationship with the new pastor

Lord, we pray for our leaders:

- **Deacons (Sam Culli, Weldon Newton, Sandy Clark, Carneal Means)** pray for wisdom in discerning the best course of action for taking care of our church building as well as helping to provide for (and encouraging to provide for) the physical needs of those in the FCF body and the local Pen Lucy community.

- **Women’s Diaconal Team/Mercy Ministries: (Nicole DeVos, Betsy Dagold, Eleanor Daughtery & Adrienne O’Connor)** Thank God for the amazing leadership of Sharla Chinniah over the past 2 years as chair of this vital ministry. Pray for discernment and direction as we seek a new chair. Pray that we would continue to serve the church family with mercy & grace in all aspects of our mercy ministry. Praise God for the partnership & teamwork with the Deacons.
- **Women’s Leadership Team: (Martha MacIver and team)** pray that we would develop, disciple and integrate 4 more leaders to work within the ministries to the women by then end of the 2018 season.
- **Pray for our Leaders who are serving as current officers as well as those who are officers of the church. Pray for the reelection of officers. *denotes current officers**
- **Teaching Elders:** Craig Garriott*, Stan Long*, Karl Dortzbach, Beau Miller
- **Ruling Elders:** Steve Sharkey* (Clerk), Jeff Beans*, Michael Rading*, Bill Bolling, Ananda Kumar*, Don Rittler, Djik Maouyo*

Wednesday, January 17, 2017

**Thanksgiving, Praise and Prayer for BALM (Baltimore Antioch Leadership Movement),
And pray for Pastor Craig & Maria Garriott and Pastor Stan and Terri Long**

“While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Acts 13:2

“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” 2 Timothy 2:1,2

Confession:

O my Savior, help me. I am slow to learn, prone to forget, and weak to climb; I am in the foothills when I should be on the heights; I am pained by my graceless heart, my prayer less days, my poverty of love, my wasted hours, my unspent opportunities. I am blind while the light shines around me: take the scales from my eyes, grind to dust my heart of unbelief. Make it my highest joy to study you, meditate on you, gaze on you, Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- **Pray for the current pastoral staff**
 - Pray for Craig and Maria as they prepare for significant transition in their lives
 - successful launch of BALM in God’s timing
 - strength in maintaining the numerous friendships the Garriotts have developed within the church

- their marriage to remain strong and devoted to Christ and each other
 - their 5 children, spouses and grandchildren to know the everlasting love of Jesus
 - clarity of vision, mind & heart for this new ministry
 - wisdom in supporting the new pastor and his family
 - strength, endurance & financial provision during this new chapter of their lives
 - focus during writing sessions to give words of wisdom in books to others
 - unexplainable insight to see God's hand at work
 - deep rest, refreshment and renewed strength of mind
- Pray for Stan and Terri Long
 - for wisdom throughout this transition
 - extra wisdom & discernment for Terri in her counseling work & studies
 - strength as they prepare with Craig and Maria for a future transition
 - their marriage to remain strong and devoted to Christ and each other
 - their 5 children, spouses and grandchildren to know the everlasting love of Jesus
 - single minded focus with matters of the church & LAMP
 - wisdom to see God's will, ways and timing during the transition
 - deep rest and refreshment during times off

For tonight's "Thanksgiving, prayer & Praise" (6pm) Potluck (6:30pm), Congregational Meeting (7:30pm) may God provide good fellowship, communication and quality time together.

Amen and Amen.
January, 2018

Appendix:

What are some guidelines for fasting?

The following is a brief condensation of *Seven Steps to Successful Fasting & Prayer* by Dr. Bill Bright. The full version can be found at <http://www.billbright.com/7steps/>

STEP 1: Set Your Objective

Why fast? Is it for spiritual renewal, guidance, healing, resolution of problems, special grace to handle a difficult situation? Ask the Holy Spirit to clarify His leading and objectives for your prayer fast. This will enable you to pray more specifically and strategically. Through fasting and prayer we humble ourselves before God so the Holy Spirit will stir our souls, awaken our churches, and heal our land according to 2 Chronicles 7:14. Make this a priority in your fasting.

STEP 2: Make Your Commitment

Pray about the kind of fast you should undertake. Making these commitments ahead of time will help you sustain your fast when physical temptations and life's pressures tempt you to abandon it. Before you fast, decide the following:

- How long you will fast - one meal, one day, several days? (Beginners should start slowly, building up to longer fasts.)
- What type of fast does God want you to undertake? (Fasting options may include drinking water only, drinking water and juices, fasting only one meal each day, or even fasting something else you're dependent on besides meals)
- What physical or social activities you will restrict to accommodate your fast
- How much time each day you will devote to prayer and God's Word?

STEP 3: Prepare Yourself Spiritually

The very foundation of fasting and prayer is repentance. Unconfessed sin will hinder your prayers. Here are several things you can do to prepare your heart:

- Ask God to help you come to terms with unconfessed, unaddressed sin.
- Confess every sin that the Holy Spirit calls to your remembrance and accept God's forgiveness (1 John 1:9).
- Seek forgiveness from all whom you have offended, and forgive all who have hurt you (Mark 11:25; Luke 11:4; 17:3, 4).
- Make restitution as the Holy Spirit leads you.
- Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit according to His *command* in Ephesians 5:18 and His *promise* in 1 John 5:14, 15.
- Surrender your life fully to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Master; flee temptation, resist the devil (Romans 12:1, 2).
- Meditate on the attributes of God, His love, sovereignty, power, wisdom, faithfulness, grace, compassion, and others (Psalm 48:9,10; 103:1-8, 11-13).
- Begin your time of fasting and prayer with an expectant heart (Hebrews 11:6).
- Do not underestimate spiritual opposition. Satan sometimes intensifies the natural battle between body and spirit (Galatians 5:16, 17).

STEP 4: Prepare Yourself Physically

Fasting requires reasonable precautions, such as:

- Consulting your physician first, especially if you take prescription medication or have a chronic ailment. Some people should never fast without professional supervision. Physical preparation makes the drastic change in your eating routine a little easier so that you can turn your full attention to the Lord in prayer.
- Not rushing into your fast.
- Preparing your body by eat smaller meals before your fast begins and avoiding high-fat and sugary foods. Eating raw fruit and vegetables for two days before starting a fast.

STEP 5: Begin Your Fast

As you seek the Lord through your fast, here are some helpful suggestions to consider:

- Avoid drugs, even natural herbal drugs and homeopathic remedies. Medication should be withdrawn only with your physician's supervision.
- Limit your activity.
- Exercise only moderately. Walk one to three miles each day if convenient and comfortable.
- Rest as much as your schedule will permit.
- Prepare yourself for temporary mental discomforts, such as impatience, crankiness, & anxiety.
- Expect some physical discomforts, especially on the second day. You may have fleeting hunger pains, dizziness, or the "blahs." Withdrawal from caffeine and sugar may cause headaches. Physical annoyances may also include weakness, tiredness, or sleeplessness.

Tips on Juice Fasting

- Drinking fruit juice will decrease your hunger pains and give you some natural sugar energy. The taste and lift will motivate and strengthen you to continue.
- The best juices are made from fresh watermelon, lemons, grapes, apples, cabbage, beets, carrots, celery, or leafy green vegetables. In cold weather, you may enjoy a warm vegetable broth.
- Acidic juices (orange and tomato) should be mixed with water for your stomach's sake.
- Avoid caffeinated drinks.
- Avoid chewing gum or mints, even if your breath is bad. They stimulate digestive action in your stomach.

STEP 5: End Your Fast Gradually

When the designated time for fasting is finished, how you break your fast is very important for your physical and spiritual well-being.

- Begin eating gradually. Do not eat solid foods immediately after your fast. Suddenly reintroducing solid food to your stomach and digestive tract can have negative, even dangerous, consequences. Try several smaller meals or snacks each day. If you end your fast gradually, the beneficial physical and spiritual effects will result in continued good health.
- Put Yourself on a Schedule. For maximum spiritual benefit, set aside ample time to be alone with the Lord. Listen for His leading. The more time you spend with Him, the more meaningful your fast will be.

STEP 6: Expect Results

If you sincerely humble yourself before the Lord, repent, pray, and seek God's face; if you consistently meditate on His Word, you will experience a heightened awareness of His presence (John 14:21). The Lord will give you fresh, new spiritual insights. Your confidence and faith in God will be strengthened. You will feel mentally, spiritually, and physically refreshed. You will see answers to your prayers.

A single fast, however, is not a spiritual cure-all. Just as we need fresh infillings of the Holy Spirit daily, we also need new times of fasting before God. A 24-hour fast each week has been greatly rewarding to many Christians. It takes time to build your spiritual fasting muscles. If you fail to make it through your first fast, do not be discouraged. You may have tried to fast too long the first time out, or you may need to strengthen your understanding and resolve. As soon as possible, undertake another fast until you do succeed. God will honor you for your faithfulness.

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?”-Isaiah 58:6

“And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.” - Acts 4:31

“Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” -John 16:24