

The Pastor's Corner - August 2019

This coming August 10th from 5-7, we have the opportunity to have an event at the Church which we are calling our "BACK TO SCHOOL BASH" . There will be lots of good food, homemade ice cream, games and a giant water inflatable. This is going to be an awesome event! And I hope to see you there! I am looking forward to racing Cecil down the slide. However, as we look forward to this event, we need to ask ourselves, why are we having this event? In fact, as Shiloh ARP Church, why do we have any of the events that we have at our Church? Hopefully , our main reason for doing anything at all is to the glory of God, but why do we have specific events? Do we have events for traditions sake? Or are the events we have just to get together and have a good time? Neither of these reasons are wrong in and of themselves, in fact they are good reasons to continue to have events. But what is the purpose behind these events we as the Church? For us to best understand this we must look to the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19-20 to guide us. Matthew 28:19-20 states, "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*" This is called the great commission because this is when Jesus was about to ascend into Heaven and calling His disciples to their mission. This then is our mission as the Church of Jesus Christ.

As Reverend Kevin DeYoung writes in his book, *What is the mission of the Church?* "*The mission of the Church is to go into the world and make disciples by declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit gathering these disciples into churches, that they might worship and obey Jesus Christ now and in eternity to the glory of God the Father.*" Our reason for these events that we have should then fall into these categories. We should be having these events to disciple, to minister, to care for, to hopefully reach out and bring people into the Church, and most of all to bring worshippers to God.

We as the Church of Jesus Christ are to be "a light on the hill" (Matthew 5:14). Let us keep these in mind as we continue to minister to those in our Church and community. Let us keep the main thing and never lose sight of our purpose as THE Church. Let our prayer be, "Lord make Shiloh ARP a light on the hill for those around us, always pointing people towards you and bringing glory to your name."

To God Be the Glory
Pastor Dean