

The Colonial Times

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Palm Sunday
March 20th
- Maundy Thursday
March 24th @
7pm
- Easter Breakfast
March 27th @
9.30
- Egg Hunt for ages
birth-6th grade
immediately
following the
11am Easter
services

ELDER MEETING NOTES

Preparing a Child
Protection Policy

Chose
Church History Made Easy as
Sunday School Curriculum

Conducted Member Interviews

Approved welcome team ideas
and changes to connecting link

Working on Comprehensive Job
Descriptions for employees

Prayer

TRUE COMMUNITY by Josh Timari

As our Hospitality Team opens up the new *Koinonia Corner* in the back of the sanctuary and we all begin to use that area to welcome our visitors and serve our church, I felt prompted to consider the name of the new area and examine its meaning. While not everyone has heard of the Greek word, those familiar with *koinōnia* tend to define it merely as “fellowship.”

Enter *True Community*. Spurred by the idea that there may be more to *koinōnia* than meets the eye, I found this book written by Jerry Bridges. In *True Community*, Mr. Bridges uses Scripture within context to dig deep and evaluate how the term *koinōnia* is used

throughout the New Testament. Some key points throughout this book helped me evaluate my walk with Christ and to consider my



Caption describing picture or graphic.

relationships with fellow Christians.

Koinōnia is far deeper than “social fellowship” even

though social fellowship is certainly a part of *koinōnia*. Mr. Bridges demonstrates through Scripture that we must first understand and strengthen our “vertical relationship with Christ” before we are able to truly engage in “horizontal” *koinōnia* with fellow believers. Christ desires *koinōnia* with us – not for only a few minutes at the start of the day, but for us to truly abide in Him throughout each day, just as David and Moses and Paul did. Psalm 63 is a great example of this aspect of *koinōnia*.

Every true believer is a member of the body of Christ – each with our own

Cont. on back —>

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR ANTHONY

We welcomed our new little girl into the world this week, Lenora Taliah. Having two children now helps make sense of a further aspect of the love of God: That each one of us is different. Our personalities, our needs, our lives: and yet He is able to love each of us fully and completely.

We are not called to living the same lives, facing

the same trials, or the receiving the same blessings. But that doesn’t mean God loves us more than another. We each receive what we need, when we need, in order to make us more holy and draw us closer to God.

We are called to one purpose though: to glorify God with our lives. This binds us together as a fam-

ily: one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.

TRUE COMMUNITY (cont. from front)

separate functions and spiritual gifts to support those functions. We need to draw from our koinōnia with Christ in order to share our lives with others in a deeper way. We need to draw from our koinōnia with Christ to better understand our function in the body, and how our spiritual gifts support that function. We need to draw from our koinōnia with Christ to understand that supporting missionaries and our local church are all integral as-

pects of the Great Commission in which we are called to participate.

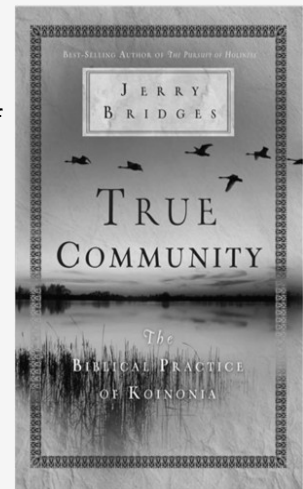
Bridges writes, "Only to the extent that we understand and appropriate the life we have in Christ will we be able to share that life with others" and "the full-orbed practice of true community involves responsibilities and actions that do not come naturally to us."

I recommend reading *True Community*, a great encour-

agement to all Christians and a book that will prompt us to evaluate our Christian walk. If you read the book, you'll also expand your understanding of the koinōnia we can seek and have with Christ and fellow believers.

~Josh Timari

This book will be available in our church library.



*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the breaking of bread and to prayer."
~Acts 2.42*

PRAYER FOCUS: THE CHURCH

Ekklesia:

"The Called out Ones"

This is the term commonly translated as "Church" in your Bible. We are those who have been Called Out by God.

We are Called Out of the world. In order to be effective in the world, we must be different from the world.

Looking at a new litter of puppies, how come our hearts are drawn to the runt or the only black one among a litter of browns? It's because they stand out as different. Our lives, our attitudes, our expectations, our services should stand out as different. So the world is able to see that we are not them, but something different and special.

We are Called Out to gather together. We are both responsible for ourselves and for each other. The Church is a plural word that includes every individual within it. We are not a church when we are alone, but when we are gathered together to glorify God. God may call an individual, but He calls them into His fellowship of believers. Do not forsake gathering to-

PRAYER REQUESTS

Thankfulness: Our hearts are easily troubled, but we should be thankful for each and every one who is part of this family. May we thank God for who He has placed in our lives and in this church.

Unity: That the bond of the Holy Spirit may be stronger than the divisiveness of the human heart. We are bound stronger than political interests, hobbies, or blood, we are bound together by God as

His family. May we live and act like it.

Marriage and Families: Each marriage and family eventually sees trouble. May we continue to pray for each other and our different difficulties together; Sharing in each others joys and sorrows.

Leadership: We want to lead as God directs, but human failure is unavoidable. Pray

that everyone in leadership: teachers, elders, deacons, and others will, with humility, be able to discern the will of God and direct their charges faithfully.

Volunteers: Let us encourage and edify those that sacrifice their time, talents and treasures to give to this family. May we love each other with God's unprecedented love.



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