

The Pillar

DVPCA WOMEN IN THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Standing firm in the strength of His might



Hinged Bible Study: Ephesians

Week 5 Ephesians 3:1-13

The beginning of chapter 3 is the "hinge" between the end of chapter two (the breakdown of the dividing wall of hostility between Jews and Gentiles) and Paul's intercessory prayer for the Ephesians which begins in verse 14 of chapter 3. Paul goes on to explain the mystery of the gospel of Christ: that Jews and Gentiles are joint heirs in the promises of God, and it's all because of GRACE. So what does this mean now for us, when we don't necessarily have Jew and Gentile? Well, look at other possible dividing walls...country life vs city life; homeschooled vs public schooled; family background; "grow up" in the church vs first generation believer; ethnicity; various life situations...on and on. These things can all creep in and cause division between the body of believers. We ask God to give us eyes to see the beauty of His glorious redemption, and how vast and wide it truly is.

"God's plan cannot be thwarted and is always for our good."

Missionary Focus

Alex & Suzanne
Sarran, Church
Planting Lyon,
France

Rostislav & Irene
Bilosevitch-
Gideons, Ukraine

Sam & Elizabeth
Goodwin- MTW,
Germany

Harold & Sarah
Schepian, PEF,
Philadelphia

Important dates:

Board Meeting:
March 6

Leadership Retreat:
April 9-11

TRANSITIONS

Many changes are on the horizon for the congregation at DVPCA—new places of worship, temporary rooms, tweaked schedules...Not only is the physical building going through transitions, but many individuals and families are as well.

Many are moving into new homes, new states, saying goodbye to the familiar and having to adjust to a whole new lifestyle. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit how YOU can be God's hands and feet during this time. And remember that our Good Shepherd leads His Flock! We need not fear the unknown—for He is already there ;)

Testimony Corner:
Susannah Whitener

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the House of the LORD!" Psalm 122:1

This past year certainly had its share of challenges, but I feel like there were far more blessings! One of the greatest blessings to me was the return to in-person worship. Sunday worship with the body of Christ has been a priority to me for many years, but it has never been sweeter and more precious than in recent months. It was one of the things I missed most during the quarantine phase in the spring. While I was very grateful for the opportunity to participate in our church's worship service online, it just wasn't the same. The longer that time dragged on, the more I began to long for the return to in-person worship.

As Pastor Bob has pointed out in recent sermons, in corporate worship, we actually meet with God. Coming into his presence in worship is like nothing else we will experience here on earth, but it is a foretaste of our heavenly home. We were made to worship, both here and in eternity! There truly is nothing more important we can do in this life. It is a privilege and certainly not something to be taken for granted. Prior to the pandemic, I don't know that I had ever imagined a time when the church doors wouldn't be open for worship. One of many lessons that I have learned since the pandemic is not to take anyone or anything for granted!

When we worship corporately, meaning as a church body, we also encourage and are encouraged by other believers. That is just not likely to happen when we worship at home in front of our TV or computer, especially if we are alone! We need each other. God also created us for relationship with Him and with others. When we worship together in person, we grow in those relationships.

I am so grateful to God that I belong to a church that has made the return to in-person worship, as well as our other regular activities, a priority! We not only have Sunday morning worship, but also Sunday school, Sunday evening worship, Bible studies, Wednesday evening prayer meetings and children's classes. *Do you realize what a blessing that is?* So many churches are not even meeting in person at all, or have very limited opportunities for in-person worship or other gatherings, and they are often with restrictions. We have been given a gift at Draper's Valley Presbyterian Church!

I certainly know that many have valid reasons for not attending worship and activities at our church during this most unusual time, so please know that this was not written to make anyone feel guilty. We miss you and look forward to your return one day! We need you and love you!