



First Light

Volume 28, Issue 1

January 2018

ANNUAL MEETING

**Our annual meeting date has been set for
Sunday, February 18, 2018**

Being Formed in the Image of Christ

Happy New Year and welcome to 2018, another year of growing closer to God!

God has great things in store for us this year and if we are willing to be honest and pliable we will see tremendous spiritual fruit in our growth as disciples of Jesus. But here's the reality, we must be willing to face squarely the truth concerning where we are not like Jesus and then be willing to be shaped by the Spirit until Christ can be formed in us.

This is not an easy and painless process. I was dealing with a situation in my life recently where I came face to face with my own pride. God's Word told me to humble myself before him; to forgive those who hurt me, bless those who cursed me and to walk in love, but I didn't want to. My rights had been violated and so I chose, for a time, to ignore God's clear word. The funny thing was not just that it made me miserable, but that God kept right on putting this invitation in my face. I felt confronted and I didn't like it.

Can I ask you a personal question? How has God been moving or trying to move in your life? Where is God pushing or confronting you to become more like Jesus? These are important questions.

Sometimes we hear God saying, "Trust me and give more generously," but we don't want to. We want to maintain control of our security. Or, God may say clearly to us, "Forgive that person and release them from your judgements," but we simply don't want to. Or, God may say, "Share the gospel with lost people in your life," but we feel uncomfortable about that so we say "No! Let somebody else do that." We choose rebellion and the result is both bondage to sin and a lack of deep intimacy and growth in our relationship with God.

I was reading a book recently and wanted to share something that really spoke to me. Think carefully about what is written below.

"The process of being formed in the image of Christ takes place primarily at the points of our unlikeness to Christ's image. God is present to us in the most destructive aspects of our cultural captivity. God is involved with us in the most imprisoning and alienated from God. God is there, in grace, offering us the forgiveness, the cleansing, the liberation, the healing we need to begin the journey towards our wholeness and fulfillment in Christ.

But this can be uncomfortable. We would much rather have our spiritual formation focus on those places where we are pretty well along the way. How much of our devotional life and our worship are designed simply to affirm, for ourselves, others and perhaps even God, those areas of our lives that we think are already well along the way? In fact, may not such practices become a defense mechanism against the areas that are not yet formed in the image of Christ?

If indeed the work of God's formation in us is the process of forming us in the image of Christ, obviously it's going to take place at the points where we are not yet formed in that image. This means that one of the first dynamics of holistic spiritual formation will be confrontation.

Through some channel—the Scripture, worship, a word of proclamation, the agency of a brother or sister in Christ, even the agency of an unbeliever—the Spirit of God may probe some areas in which we are not formed in the image of Christ. That probing will probably always be confrontational, and it will always be a challenge and a call to us in our brokenness to come out of the brokenness into wholeness in Christ. But it will also be a costly call, because that brokenness is who we are." (M. Robert Mullholland, *Invitation to a Journey*, p. 45-46)

continued, p.2

A New Year is before us and this gives us a chance to examine our lives and our habits and bring them into greater alignment with God's Word. Will you join me in asking hard questions and humbly yielding our lives to God's Holy Spirit? I hope you will because this is the way of life, joy and peace as well as the path that pleases God.
 May God lead us all in 2018!
 Pastor Andy

Thoughts on Calling by Os Guinness

"Calling is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion, dynamism, and direction lived out as a response to his summons and service."

"Our primary calling as followers of Christ is by him, to him, and for him...Our secondary calling, considering who God is as sovereign, is that everyone, everywhere, and in everything should think, speak, live, and act entirely for him."

Os Guinness, The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life, pp. 29, 31.

Session News

At our stated meetings of November 28 and December 19 and at two special meetings the elders met and conducted the following work:

Received into membership the following ten new members: Karla MacKinney, Geoff Beyersdorf, Tyler and Rachel Johnson, Carolyn Crisanti, Rosario and Danny Sheets, Jack Morris, Heidi and Ian Van Harper. This brings our membership to 264.

Noted that a new phone system was being installed into the offices.

The first Cancer Care training is completed and we have eight graduates.

Approved the baptism of Esmeralda Sheets on December 10.

Began forming two task forces, one to develop a Building Security Policy and the other to update our Sexual Misconduct Policy.

Approved becoming a *Loving Families Church* under Love, INC's Loving Families program which makes our church a host church to provide overnight accommodations, including dinner, breakfast, and a sack lunch to homeless families up to four weeks per year. Elder Jim Williams will be the primary contact on this. We will be looking for servants to be involved in this exciting ministry.

Approved a new purchase order policy to begin using in the New Year.

Elected Barb Page to be our presbytery commissioner to Oregon City, Oregon at the end of January.

Worked hard on the budget but was unable to pass it as we are significantly under-funded for the 2018 ministry year.

Pastor Andy was charged with presenting a solution to the shortfall to the session by early January.

Set the date for our bi-annual meeting on Sunday February 18 at 1:30 following a youth missions fundraising luncheon.

Cancer Care Graduates

Congratulations to our first graduating class from our cancer care ministry training!
 Jim and Cindy Aldrich, Bill and Donna Brewer, Sandy Hoak, Joyce Tapper, Ted and Joan Riggs

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First Presbyterian Church
 547 Seventh Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99701
 (907) 452-2406

SENIOR PASTOR

Andrew Ekblad
 andrew.ekblad@fpcfairbanks.com

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

David Moody
 david.moody@fpcfairbanks.com

OFFICE MANAGER

Tillila "Til" Beetus
 tillila.beetus@fpcfairbanks.com

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

David McConnell-Booher
 david.booyer@fpcfairbanks.com

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Heidi Van Harper
 heidi.vanharper@fpcfairbanks.com

Newsletter submissions must be received in the church office by the 20th of each month.

Submissions may be dropped off or emailed to Til.

Welcome to Our New Members!

We are so thrilled to have received into membership the following people: Karla MacKinney, Geoff Beyersdorf, Tyler and Rachel Johnson, Carolyn Crisanti, Rosario and Danny Sheets, Jack Morris, Heidi and Ian Van Harper.

NOVEMBER 2017

Total Receipts	\$539,962
Total Expenditures	\$553,597
Net	(\$13,635)

DID YOU KNOW??

You can get your bulletin early, save money and help save the planet!
 Please email Til if you would like an electronic copy of our bulletin.

MADE FOR MORE

USE WHAT'S IN YOU TO BLESS
THE WORLD AROUND YOU

FIND A CLASS NEAR YOU

Jan 16, 2018 through May 1, 2018
Tuesdays, 6:00 pm - 8:30pm
FPC Fireside Room

Child Care is Provided
\$300
(Scholarships available from Mission Committee)

Register now: www.perspectives.org
click "find a class near you" button.

*"Perspectives is, in my experience, **the single best discipleship course** to mobilize the church to God's mission. Perspectives gives people their first crucial steps, opening their eye's to God's work in the world and **God's call on their lives.**"*

J.D. Greear. Pastor, Summit Church, Raleigh-Durham, NC. Author, Gaining by Losing.



If your geeky interests are like mine, you're probably excited about the new Star Wars movie that was recently released. Any time a group of intrepid characters embark on an adventure to defeat evil and save their companions, you know it will be a fun story to see, especially if there are starfighters and lightsabers!

Of course, our real world has plenty of darkness and evil stalks this land just as it does in a galaxy far, far away. How do we cast out this present darkness? What can we do to bring God's Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love to the broken world we find ourselves in? This is something we (as a youth group) explored this past Advent season. As we step into the new year and face all the challenge and promise that it brings, I pray that the questions we shared, the stories of God's salvation we heard, and the call to love others as Jesus loves us remain with our young people.

When we remember that Christ is our King and our Salvation, that we are called to love and serve God with good works, and that we are drawn together and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we can move mountains!

Join us in wishing our January babies a Happy Birthday and prosperous new year!

If you would like to make any additions or corrections to this list, please contact Til at the office

2	Sarah Curtis	11	Dale Shelley
	James Curtis		Alton Denton
	Carol Hoefler		Matt Johnson
4	Dwight Morris	12	Kassandra Pendley
	Ronda Boswell		Joan Riggs
5	Denise Wartes	13	Jake Sirevaag
6	Beth Brummond	14	Sara Cogley
7	Benjamin Hull	16	Jack Schnurr
	Olivia Shuler	25	Sheila Williams
8	Dave Stephenson	26	Kari Nore
10	Linda Mullen	31	Karina Huffaker

Looking Ahead in Youth Ministry:

Winter Retreat: January 12-14 @Harding Lake

Girls' Night: January 19

Confirmation Class Begins: January 28

Mission Trip to Puerto Rico is July 20-30th, 2018

Questions?

Please email david.boohar@fpcfairbanks.com

Elders On Session

Bill Beaudoin

Michelle Harpole

Donna Brewer

Jim Williams

Barb Page

June Champlin

Board of Deacons

Linda Mullen

Barbara Nore

Keith Nore

Darlene Lundberg

Lonny Marney

Michele Marney

Logan Foster

Ted Riggs, Sr.

Brian Rozell

Terry Reichardt

Joyce Tapper

Perry Schneider

Kathi Stevens

Nancy Dreydoppel

Debra Foster

Kathy Rahmandar Halfhill

Michelle VanHatten

Charlotte Wilbur

Sarah Curtis