

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

July 5, 2018

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

### Last Sunday, July 1:

Sabrina's sermon began the July focus on the spiritual discipline of prayer. After raising some questions generally about prayer itself, she took us through a line-by-line, deeper look at the particular prayer that Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:5-13). This sermon "unpacked" some of the more challenging words and phrases that some people find difficult to pray. It gave just a "taste" of things to consider, with the idea that we'll come back and look at these more deeply in the future. At the end she offered a spiritual practice for people to try: take just one line of the prayer each day of the week, pray on it reflectively and ask God to open up its meaning and speak to our hearts and our conditions.

### This Sunday, July 8:

Brian will continue to explore the Lord's Prayer by asking the question, "Is it appropriate to petition or pray for God to change circumstances outside of our control?" On the one hand, lines like "Give us this day our daily bread" seem to indicate that we can and should ask God to give us what we need, but on the other hand, lines like, "Your will be done" seem to call on us to subordinate our will to God's. As we seek to learn how to pray for external circumstances, we learn about Jesus' radical vision of how God and his followers can join together in prayer.

### Next Sunday, July 15

Brian will carefully examine the fourth part of the Lord's Prayer, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

### Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00 am Sunday School

July 12: Thriving Thursday

July 14: 8:30am Eastside Creation Care Meeting

July 18: (WEDNESDAY) 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

July 19: Thriving Thursday

July 26: Thriving Thursday

July 29: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Hymn Sing (ready for HWB #378)

August 5: Potluck (nothing in the oven)

### Bither Family Moving:

The Bithers are moving to 5415 N Kenyon Drive, 46226! Please see the volunteer sign-up sheets in foyer the next 2 Sundays. We'll need packers (6) on Monday, July 16. (Tuesday, July 17, professional movers will take care of large articles.) On Monday, lunch is planned for 12:00 at the "old" house (2423 McLeay, 46220). Box movers, assemblers of beds and desks at the new house and clean up in their current house on McLeay (6) is needed Tuesday. On Tuesday, lunch will be at 1:30 at the "new" home on Kenyon Drive. Also needed: a pick-up truck and driver to take donations to Salvation Army or Goodwill. There will be a food donation sign-up for each day. Work is planned from 10:00-5:00 each day and could be done in shifts. Thank you.

-Linda Kandel and Rose Love

### Sanders Family Moving:

Julie and Donald are moving, probably July 14, but possibly July 21. There will be a sign-up sheet on the window in the foyer for helpers. (Herb Troyer is organizing this once the date is set.)

### Getting to Know Chris Rinker:

What a delight to visit with Chris Rinker, who lives in the Shalom neighborhood, and has been attending at the invitation of the Bixlers! (He owns a duplex, lives in one side, and rents the other.) Chris was born in Yorktown, lived in the Muncie area, and moved to Indy in 2010. His family includes mother and step-father, father, brother and family from LA, step-brother and sister. He feels especially close to his niece and nephew. He had a life-long close relationship with his grandpa until his death three years ago.

Chris graduated from IU with a degree in Supply-chain Management & Finance. (He has passed real-estate broker exams.) His previous job was with UPS and he is currently employed by Target Distribution where he works nights. Shalom is fortunate to have Chris worship with us after getting off work at 6:00 a.m.!

Chris spends time with his sixteen year-old rescue cat, and doing fitness workouts three times weekly. Other activities include reading instructional books on home-maintenance - A favorite book is Rich Dad Poor Dad which is about attitudes and paradigms in regards to how we value and spend money. Gangster movies such as *The Godfather* are fun for Chris. Mexican foods are his favorites.

Traveling to Los Angeles to visit his brother and family is very enjoyable for him as well. We welcome Chris "The Rinker" (his nickname) to our fellowship.

-Linda Kandel



## **DISCIPLING**

Growing in our relationships

### July Sunday School Schedule:

For the month of July, Sunday School will continue to be one inter-generational class for everyone over the age of 2. The schedule for the month is below.

July		
7/8	Theology of Service in Practice	CoraLyn Turentine
7/15	Community Service in Nature	Frank Kandel
7/22	School Kits	Carol Bixler
7/29	Prayer walk	Marilynn Teel

### Sunday School – July 8:

CoraLyn Turentine will be sharing on a theology of service in practice. She will do some storing-telling, and share some of her experiences working in service from a faith-based perspective. She will be sharing stories from Costa Rica and the U.S. Scriptural references will include Genesis 1:27-28 and Matthew 28:16-20. After sharing her own stories, there will be an open conversation about how we practice a theology of service in our individual contexts.

## **OUTREACH**

Relationships beyond Shalom

### Thriving Thursday:

Thriving Thursday welcomes the Neighborhood into the Shalom Church Family from 5 to 7 p.m. on July 12, 19 & 26. Let Frank know on which of these dates you can be present to help share the love of Jesus.

And guess what? The Neighborhood is joining us for: **A Bench for Caps. ABC** is our summer program to get a new bench for the playground that we share with our neighborhood. Marilynn Teel has the details!

### Cookies for Morning Star:

On Saturday, July 14th Morning Star in Muncie will be holding their annual Summer Neighborhood Outreach. If you would be willing to bake cookies for this event, Frank will be glad to deliver them.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Congregational support systems

### Youth Room Plans:

The Building Committee (formerly Building & Grounds), in conjunction with the Administrative Commission is planning to remodel the Youth Room area, which includes a bathroom and the worship supply storage area. The project includes furnace, drywall, ceiling, lights, recondition doors, and electrical and telecommunication upgrades.

In order to make the space most suitable for future needs, we want to explore long-term plans for the room and how much flexibility it needs to have. Anyone who'd like to participate with input should contact the Administration Commission at [admin@shalommennonite.com](mailto:admin@shalommennonite.com) no later than July 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Milepost #460 – Quality Time in Prayer:

Last Friday, Brittany and I celebrated our sixth anniversary by spending nearly 24-hours of quality time together, which we hadn't done in a long time. It was wonderful! (Thanks especially to my mom, Carol Bither, for making it possible by letting our kids spend the night at her house.) We used to do this kind of thing more frequently, but with so much going on in our lives lately, we have gotten out of the habit. After all, when you're busy or you are trying to fit as many things as possible in your schedule, it's hard to justify taking out time to be with someone whom you already see on a daily basis. However, if you really value your relationship with that person, then you must remember that there is a difference between *time* spent together and *quality time* together. While it's true that simply being around each other while focusing on other things is good, it is not enough to sustain a deep and meaningful relationship. Instead,

you have to spend quality time together, time that is dedicated to listening to each other and sharing with each other, expressing care and support for one another, and simply creating unstructured space to allow new insights, connections, and memories to emerge.

Just as this is an important aspect of our human relationships, so it is with our relationship with God. Last Sunday, Sabrina preached that prayer can mean many things, but at its core, it involves a "face-to-face encounter with God." We can think of praying as a way that we spend time with God, which is the foundation of our relationship with God. Most of us who are reading this newsletter already pray to some extent, whether in church services or before meals or in short car rides or in responses to various crises. And it is good for us to do this, for this is time spent with God, but it is not *quality time* spent with God. The spiritual discipline of prayer calls upon us to set aside special time to pray, which is not just filling in the slots and gaps in our schedules. Although we can pray anytime and anywhere, it is important that we have some dedicated time in which we really have the space to listen to God and share what's on our minds with God, to express our love for God and be filled with a sense of God's love for us, and to have that unstructured space that is open to new insights and connections to emerge as we engage in prayer.

For many of us, it is hard to justify taking the time out to do this, just like it is hard to justify taking the time to go on "dates" with someone you see on a regular basis. But if our relationship with God is something that we genuinely value, then we have to prioritize *quality time* in prayer.

- Pastor Brian Bither

*Do you have some thoughts to share about this month's spiritual discipline? The Pastoral Team invites you to share your thoughts as one of the weekly milepost entries. Please email Sabrina, Frank, or Brian to explore this further.*

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Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 [shalommennonite.com](http://shalommennonite.com)

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Please submit information by Thursday, 12pm, to Emily Fox: [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com)