



The Monthly

Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church
Newsletter

July 2017

Embrace

Enfold

Encourage

Equip

Exalt

The Sin That So Easily Entangles

By Pastor Scott

The Christian life is full of joys and trials. It is full of victories, but then there are those times when we seem to be defeated. Hebrews 12:1 tells us to “throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” But that isn’t always as easy as it seems, is it?

Each of us is unique, and that means each of us has unique areas of weakness. Those weaknesses seem to pop up at the most inopportune times. For some, the weakness is food and the lure that it can comfort us in our times of stress and anxiety. For others it is anger, a fire that burns inside and explodes over the most menial of things – a spilled cup, a toy left out, etc. For still others the sin that so easily entangles is worry, the perpetual belief that we are not going to be cared for by our heavenly Father. To worry is to believe that we must take care of ourselves, for no one else will - so we plan and plan and make innumerable backup responses, ordering them from A...Z. You get the picture; Each of us will find ourselves with one or more of these sins, or of countless others like greed, sex, porn, jealousy, or envy to name a few. And these sins will try to sneak up on us and trip us, so that we would fall irretrievably in the dust - left without hope, without a future, without the chance to run again.

What are you to do when the sin that so easily entangles has either tripped you up, or is trying to trip you up? Interestingly, the answer is the same for both situations. First, the Hebrews passage reminds us that we are surrounded ‘by such a great cloud of witnesses.’ We must remember that we are not in this race alone. There are

people who have gone before us, people that are running with us now, and people that will run after us. Because of this, we must not try to live the Christian life in our own strength and power. We need community. We can look back and consider the lives of others, realizing they were frail and they struggled just like we do, and we can draw strength to get up and continue on in the race. If God used them to do great things, he can use us. Just take a gander through Hebrews 11 and you will see that many of the people that are heralded as the ‘great cloud of witnesses,’ had plenty of entangling sin – Noah and the drunken stupor; Abraham and his endangering of Sarah, twice; Jacob and his conniving; Moses and his anger; David and his sin with Bathsheba, need I go on? And yet, God allowed these men and women to stand up and keep running the race. Their sin didn’t knock them out of the race, rather, it caused them to fall back upon the grace of God.

Second, Hebrews goes on to tell us to ‘fix our eyes on Jesus.’ When you are running in the race and sin tries to come upon you, or actually has its way with you, the solution is to look to Jesus. Satan wants us to wallow in our sin. Satan wants us to tear ourselves apart and to think that we have been disqualified for the prize. He wants us to think that we are injured beyond any ability to continue being of useful service in the kingdom of God. But that is a lie. Jesus is the ‘author and perfecter of our faith.’ Our successful completion of the race depends upon His merits, His strength, His endurance. And He has promised never to leave us or forsake us, even when we are lying on the ground, bleeding from our sin. For then, He comes and bandages our wounds and carries us onward, until we are healed once again.

But the same is true when we are running and sense the lure to sin. Most of us get tripped up because we begin gazing upon the sinful thing, and that just reinforces it into our psyche. Have you ever tried to not think about something?

(Continued on next page.)

Page One

The Sin That So Easily Entangles

(Continued from previous page.)

The very act of trying not to think about it brings it to the forefront of our mind. So notice what instruction we are given: fix your eyes on Jesus, not on the sin that entangles. Instead of looking at the temptation, look upon the one who overcame every temptation. Look upon the victorious one. Contemplate His grandeur, His goodness, His holiness. Think about His sacrifice and His love. Remind yourself that He reigns in glory and nothing is more powerful. (I confess that I am not always good at shifting my gaze, but when I do, victory is assured.) Sing praises to him. Sin always looks less enticing when we are worshipping. So worship, even if it means staying up all night long in order to see that the tripping hazard is destroyed and has passed.

If we would but remember these two things, I believe that every believer would experience a new joy in the Lord, and a new power in their ministry and life. So go forth remembering that you are not alone, and keep Jesus at the front and center of your life.

Deacon's Digest

By Rockelle Ruitter

Project Homeless Connect is a one-day, one-stop access to significant human services for people living with homelessness in Whatcom County. The deacons encourage your participation by donating tarps to be distributed at this year's event. A variety of sizes can be found at most big box, home improvement, and sporting goods stores. Harbor Freight in Sunset Square occasionally will even offer a coupon for a free tarp in their flyer. Please bring tarps to deposit in the designated box in the foyer by Sunday, July 16.

The new deacon duties for 2017-2018 will be as follows:

- Terry Vander Woude – Deacon Chair
 - Daniel Obbink – Treasurer
 - Avis Kaemingk – Secretary
 - Lisa DeSalvo – Special Events
 - Rockelle Ruitter – Communications
-

Centrality of the Word of God

By Jerry and Faye Hop

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,” 2 Timothy 3:16

We have been asked to write about the healthy missional marker, **Centrality of the Word of God**. At first glance, this seems like a “no-brainer” marker for a healthy, missional church. Of course, the Word of God is central in our church! We are Reformed and Calvinist after all. It should seem obvious that our Sunday worship time would reflect this marker in the preaching, singing and all aspects of the service. Being a part of the worship ministry as a planner and on the praise team, we have the advantage of seeing the intentional and purposeful planning that is put into the services. It begins with the Scripture passage for that Sunday and builds on that foundation. But it can't stop there! When we leave the building, we carry God's Word with us and that begs the question... does our life beyond the walls of the church reflect the Word of God? Do we remember when we are frustratingly stuck in traffic? Or how about when we are in line at the grocery store on a busy weekend afternoon, do we remember then? Do we remember when we don't find time for daily devotions because we would rather read a novel? Do we remember to bring all things before God in prayer? (pray without ceasing...) The list is endless. Our life is guided by the Scriptures, but when we don't keep them central in our life, we will stray from those principles, and the Word of God slips from that most important spot. That's our challenge going forward. For each of us it might be something different, but we need to identify it and work to make that change in our life.

Giving in May 2017

	<u>May</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 9,739	\$ 23,274
General Fund Offerings	\$13,297	\$ 94,040
Rent / Utilities Income	<u>2,997</u>	<u>12,106</u>
Total Undesignated Income	16,294	106,146
General Fund Expenses	<u>(20,469)</u>	<u>(110,738)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (4,175)</u>	<u>\$ (4,592)</u>
Total 2017 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 222,173
Year-to-Date Budget for 5 months	\$ 111,087	
Total Undesignated Income		<u>106,146</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ (4,940)</u>

Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 20,000

Preaching Series

- 7/2 1 Kings 18:17-40 Reclaiming Hearts
- 7/9 1 Kings 18:41-46 Fervent Prayer
- 7/16 Pastor Don Recker
- 7/23 1 Kings 19:1-18 Crazy Thoughts
- 7/30 1 Kings 19:19-21 Embrace Your Calling and Companions

Greeters Schedule

- 7/2 Jay & Avis Kaemingk
- 7/9 Joe & Barb Zylstra
- 7/16 Don & Tena Vanderpol
- 7/23 David & Ida Richards, Junior Johnson
- 7/30 Mike & Jenn Boer

Coffee/Snack Schedule

- 7/2 Pat Bosman & Alice Brakke
- 7/9 Melissa Koning & Denise Doezema
- 7/16 Gloria Groothuis & Faye Hop
- 7/23 Avis Kaemingk & Marilyn Kaiser
- 7/30 Connie Knutson & Ev Kooistra

Prayer Room

- 7/2 Don Vanderpol
- 7/9 Ida Richards
- 7/16 Ali Laninga
- 7/23 Christine Speyer
- 7/30 Jen Roberts

**Not Able
to Serve When Scheduled?**
Please call someone on the list
and make a plan to trade dates.
Thank you for your help!

Offering Schedule

- 7/2 General Fund
- 7/9 General Fund
- 7/16 Outreach Fund
- 7/23 General Fund
- 7/30 General Fund

Ushering Schedule

- 7/2 Lou Kooistra & Ken Wick
- 7/9 Helen Bowman & Bud Brouwer
- 7/16 Deloris Perry & Elaine Snapper
- 7/23 Joe Pruitt & Don Knutson
- 7/30 Lou Kooistra & Ken Wick

Serving Assistants

- 7/2 Clara, Micah, Maggie
- 7/9 Amber, Abee, Kylie
- 7/16 Amariah, Michal, Faith
- 7/23 Mattea, Zeke, Chantel
- 7/30 Caleb, Grace, Clara

Interested in Helping?
Would you like to be included as a
volunteer in one of these areas?
We would love to have you pitch
in! Please call the church office
and tell us in which area you
would like serve.

(360) 733-6177

July 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 9:30 Worship 6:00 pm TAG	3	4	5 7:00 pm Deacons Elders	6 6:30am Men's Group	7	8
9 9:30 Worship 4:30 Jesus Gathering	10	11	12 7:00 pm Council	13 6:30am Men's Group	14	15
16	17	18	19	Camping Trip—Birch Bay 13th-16th		
Camping Trip				20 6:30am Men's Group	21	22
23 4:30 pm Roberts Group	24	25 6:30 pm Boer's Bible Study	26	27 6:30am Men's Group	28	29
30 9:30 Worship	31					

Happy Birthday!

5 Marlene Butenschoen
 5 Darrell Renne
 8 Mike Cunningham
 9 Ken Wick
 12 Jay Kaemingk
 15 Donna VanBeek
 15 Karen Funk
 15 Michal Ruiter
 16 Evan Boer
 17 Chuck Dean
 19 Tena Vanderpol
 24 Arlene Veenstra
 29 Keith Sentkowski



Calling all Campers!

Several church families are camping in Birch Bay July 13-16 and at Deception Pass from Aug 10-13. For both weekends, we are in the vicinity of campsite #150. Book your own campsite and stay overnight. If overnight doesn't work, consider coming for a day trip. Contact Jennifer Boer if interested.

