

Tahoe Community Church

Notes, Announcements, and Reminders: February 2021

For our Church Family & our Christian School Family
Tahoe Douglas Christian School & Childcare

Worshipping Together, Making Disciples, Reaching Our World!

Winter Storm Orlena Hits Tahoe



A winter storm hit Lake Tahoe on January 27 leaving behind almost three feet of snow. I am not sure how the adults feel, but the kids at our Christian School love it!

The school was closed Wednesday and Thursday and opened late on Friday but by the time Sunday came around, the snow was all cleaned up around the church property and activities were held as scheduled.

A big thank you goes out to our snow removal team for a job well done! If you would like to participate in this crucial activity, please contact Bill Kolstad. Extra help is always appreciated.

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Bible Study Class
9:00 a.m.	Praise Team Warm Up
10:10 a.m.	Coffee/Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service Preschool and Children's Church Available
5:00 p.m.	Youth Group in Fellowship Hall

Weekly Church Activities

Christian School in Session Mon.—Fri. 7:30a-5:30p

Classical Conversations in Session Mondays from 7:30a to 3:30p

Wed. 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
8:30 a.m. Prayer Gathering in Fellowship Hall
3:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice

Thurs. 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study

new floor has been installed from the door, going around the sink area, and over to kitchen and bathroom. This is the same flooring that is in all the pre-school buildings.

New fixtures for the bathroom have been purchased and installed.

So what's left:

- We are still waiting on doors and drawers for the cabinets.

- The carpet has been chosen and should be installed in the next couple of weeks.

If you have questions about this project, please talk to Mondo or Mike Furno.

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Restoration Project



We have seen a lot of progress since the last newsletter. We now have lower cabinets again and a



Why Membership in a Local Church?

By Mondo Gonzales, Pastor

Introduction

You've heard the story a thousand times - or maybe you've lived it. A couple begins attending a local church. They enjoy the music, and like the sermons just fine. After about a year or so the pastor, or perhaps an elder, approaches them about formalizing their affiliation with the church in membership. But they either politely decline or become squeamishly uncomfortable, or maybe even take offense. The pastor trots out a few of the attractive new programs in which they could be involved, and mentions a few of the tantalizing youth activities that might make them reconsider their place on the fence. But to no avail. A month later they leave, in search of a more comfortable anonymity.

So why does this happen? Why is it that so many people lack the desire to become members of the local churches they're already attending? Or perhaps even more disturbing, you know of churches with membership rolls that far outstrip attendance numbers. Why is it that so many of those who are already members fail to take their involvement seriously? No doubt, part of the reason for a lack of interest in church membership and its entailments is that the commitment-phobia of our culture - always waiting for a better deal to come along - coupled with the consumerism of our times that shops around to get the most for the least - has radically affected the way many people think about their church involvement. But some of the blame must surely be laid at the door of local churches whose teaching on the biblical reasons, benefits, and entailments of local church membership has been ambiguous at best.

Many pastors have been taught to treat people like consumers, and so they rig up various props and programs designed to entice and attract. Indeed, in many churches there is little discussion at all regarding the biblical moorings and obligations of local church membership. Not surprisingly, when many regular attenders look at the lives of church members, they don't see anything very different. The members may have gone through an initial class and may attend pretty faithfully. But non-members can attend just as often, and are usually served in many of the same ways.

So, what distinguishes a member from a regular attender - a vote at the annual business meeting? Is there clear biblical reason for emphasizing membership in the local church? Why is it better to be a

member than simply a regular attender, especially if membership entails further obligation? What does it mean to be a member of your church? What is it that potential members are asked to commit themselves to? How are members asked to live out that commitment in practical ways?

Biblical Background for Church Membership

While we do not find indisputable proof texts for local church membership, we do find passages that imply formal membership in local assemblies.

Paul's formal exclusion of the sinner at Corinth presupposes formal inclusion. Paul exhorts the Corinthian church to remove a brother from their ranks who was sinning in a way not even approved by pagans (1 Cor 5:2, 7, 12-13). Paul is calling for the exclusion of this immoral brother, which would imply that it meant something to be included in that church. He would lose the privileges of membership previously conferred upon him. Formal exclusion presupposes formal inclusion.

Paul's reference to "the majority" in 2 Cor 2:6-7 seems to refer to a group commonly recognized as the church's members. *"Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority, so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow."*

The early church kept a list of widows. We know from the widow list mentioned in 1 Tim 5:9 that lists of people were kept and tracked. If widows were listed, it is likely that a list of current members was kept and updated as well.

What does Church Membership signify?

Church membership signifies a church's corporate endorsement of a person's salvation. If we believe that only genuinely converted Christians are to be members of the local church, then it makes sense to take time to hear people's testimonies and listen for evidences of godly fruit and increasing holiness in their lives.

When the church approaches membership in this way, membership can function as the church's corporate witness to the fact that the new member does indeed increasingly display the fruits and characteristics of a genuine Christian.

(Continued on next page)



(Church Membership Continued)

Church membership signifies an individual commitment to grasp hold of one another in mutual love and discipleship.

By identifying ourselves with a particular church, we let the pastors and other members of that local church know that we intend to be committed in attendance, giving, prayer, and service. We increase others' expectations of us in these areas, and we make it known that we are the responsibility of this local church. We assure the church of our commitment to Christ in serving with them, and we call for their commitment to serve us in love and to encourage us in our discipleship. In short, we enter a covenant relationship with that church and its leadership.

Church membership signifies a regular responsibility that involves people in each other's lives for the purposes of the gospel.

Church membership should not be viewed as a loose affiliation useful to members only on occasion. This is a self-centered way of looking at membership. It says, "I want to join this club for the benefits that it can offer me. But as soon as it starts demanding more than I feel I'm receiving; I think I'll start looking around." Church membership is not a set of rights that I purchase with my financial giving. It is a set of responsibilities that I commit myself to carrying out, both for and with other members in gospel fellowship, work, and joy.

Church membership signifies an inward love for God and His people.

By joining ourselves with God's people in local church membership, we show that we want to covenant with them to help and be helped, encourage and be encouraged, rebuke and be rebuked. In other words, we show that we want to love God's people, and be loved by them.

According to 1 John, this willingness to love God's people is the fundamental indicator of our heart's disposition towards God Himself. ***"If someone says 'I love God', but hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also (1 John 4:20-21).***

What are the Entailments of Church Membership?

The most important entailment of local church membership is a lifestyle of repentance and belief. One must make a genuine commitment to

consistently repent of known sin as it occurs, and to continually believe in Jesus' death and resurrection as the only basis of acquittal before God. More specifically, this lifestyle of repentance and belief should be evidenced in three concrete steps.

1. Baptism. This is the first way we are commanded to express our death and resurrection with Jesus Christ. ***"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you... (Matt 28:19-20).***

2. Statement of Faith. The most important thing we unite around is the message we proclaim - the gospel. For this reason, it is healthy to require people to sign the church's statement of faith. This way, everyone knows what the church is united around, and doctrinal division is less likely to occur.

3. Church Covenant. The second most important thing we unite around is the lifestyle demanded by the message we claim to believe. For this reason, it is healthy to ask people to commit to the principles and priorities of a church covenant. This way, everyone knows what it means to be a member, what is expected of them when they join, and when they are falling short of fulfilling their covenant obligations as members.

Five Basic Responsibilities of Membership

1. Attend regularly. If we don't attend, we can't be edified, and the pastors can't get to know us in a way that meaningfully informs their shepherding care of us.

2. Give regularly. If we don't give, the pastors can't fully devote themselves to preaching and teaching, the missionaries have to come home, and the lights will have to be turned off in the building.

3. Pray regularly. One of the most basic ways we can edify and encourage one another towards greater obedience, holiness, and joy is through prayer. Pray through your church's directory a page a day, using the Scripture you're reading in your devotions.

4. Attend communion services particularly. It is an ordinance commanded by the Lord for our joy in and remembrance of Him. It binds us together as a believing community, and reminds us of the significance of Christ's death.

5. Attend business meetings particularly. We should care enough about the life of our local church to attend business meetings and to contribute to them in helpful ways by being quick to listen and gentle in speech.

Mondo



Christian School Updates

Sarah Tran, Director

"We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." | Thessalonians 1:3

Thank you for all of your prayers! God has been faithful in meeting our needs in the midst of teachers being out or being delayed in their return due to health concerns. Please continue in your labor of prayer on our behalf. We braved our first two big snowstorms of the year with the help of an amazing crew of volunteer snow removers. (Thank you Bill, Brad, Bob and everyone else who is helping!!!) We have called only two snow days so far and with the help of our favorite substitute teacher, my husband Teacher Tom, we were able to open on the third potential snow day even when almost all of our Teachers were still stranded at home waiting for roads to be plowed. (We had 15 children that morning as families needed to get back to work or just out of the house!) We are so grateful for the faith, labor, and endurance that is poured into this ministry!

Our play-based, Christian learning environment is one that intentionally nurtures growth and development across all of the learning domains, but for the past three seasons we have placed on special emphasis on a particular learning area. We focused on Reading in summer 2020, Science in fall 2020, and this winter we are focused on emergent writing. With support from their teachers our children have been writing new year resolutions, dream speeches, letters, adventure stories, words of encouragement, valentines, presidential goals, and hidden messages. We really enjoy their creativity and we love how their purity of heart and simplicity of thought shines in their words.

During the recent presidential inauguration they wrote letters to the Presidents: *"Dear Mr. Trump, I hope you had fun being president."* *"Dear Mr. Biden, I hope you like your new house. Your dog is cute."*

They've also written letters to God and Jesus: "Dear God, I like the fishes you made in the water. They can swim and swim." "Dear Jesus, I thought of you when I saw a hawk up in the sky." Such precious words from our little ones!

We were blessed to expand our enrollment to school-age children this past summer and to create a virtual learning environment for them at the start of the school year (our Shearling class). They have been in virtual learning full time for several weeks now, but they will soon return to a hybrid learning format (part in-person, part virtual). When that happens they will only be on our Christian school campus on the days they are not at their school with their in-person cohorts. We will miss them, but we are excited to have them return to greater socialization and larger learning opportunities.

Meanwhile, we are preparing to further expand our Christian school enrollment to even younger children. The devastating water overflow from the Fellowship Hall that took our Woolies classroom down to the studs last August provided an opportunity to rebuild the room to create a quality learning environment for infants and toddlers. (We were previously only able to accept children 18 months and older.) Our construction crew hopes to have the room complete for summer enrollment and our infant/toddler teacher hopes to be able to return to the classroom by the end of March. (Please see the note that Balin has included in the Teachers Corner.) We are very grateful that God has already provided us with a teacher with previous center-based infant/toddler care experience, Theresa DeGraffenreid, and we are confident that God will continue to provide for each need as we put this program together for these littlest ones.

Thank you for your continued prayers as we move forward in this ministry,

Sarah Tran



Winter Food and Gospel Project

We will be continuing this project through the winter. Mike Furno collects the donations and brings them to Christmas Cheer. He also takes the time to share the gospel with anyone who will listen. He has given out many gospel Tracts.

With the cold weather and the problems caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic, the need for food and clothing in our community is great. Thank you for all of your prayers and donations!

Please contact Mike Furno if you would like to help deliver the items collected to Christmas cheer. Mike tells me it is a real eye-opening experience!

(Restoration Continued)



The Preschool Room below Fellowship Hall doesn't look a lot different but work is progressing. All of the electrical work is completed and the floor has been leveled, which was not an easy task!

Dry wall should be going up soon followed by cabinets and flooring.

After the construction is completed, the room will need to be refurnished since we lost almost everything due to water damage. We still anticipate this room being ready for use by this summer.

The plan is for the Christian School to keep using the Kids Zone and Discovery Zone buildings until the end of this school year.

If you have any questions about the improved preschool room, please talk to Sarah Tran.



New Windows

Another building project just completed was installation of new windows in the church Office building. Three windows were installed along of the front of the building facing the Kids Zone building. These windows not only look great but are much more air tight and will save us money on heating. Most of the funds for this project were donated. Praise the Lord!



lifegroups

Life Groups Taking a Break

Our Life groups are currently taking a break. We will let you know when they Resume.

New Sunday Bible Study Class

We want to invite everyone to the new Sunday Bible Study Class which has just started. For the last two weeks Mondo and Bob have provided an introduction to the book of Revelation. We have one more week of looking at 2020 through the prophetic lens, then Mondo will be starting a line by line study through the book of Revelation. Come join in!



Classical Conversations is Back!

Classical Conversations is back in session and has a new director.

Kenna Cabral assumed leadership of the group when Geoff and Elizabeth Hughes departed for England in December. Kenna is a very energetic young woman with four children and I am confident she will be a great leader for this group. On the day I took the picture, there were over 30 kids in attendance.

In the picture above, some of the kids are playing musical chairs. My favorite game!

Teachers Corner

Teacher Balin Usher

This has been some season! Personally it has been a season of waiting and witnessing the Lord move mountains. As some of you know, I have been diagnosed with underlying health conditions which place me in an extreme high risk category in the Pandemic. For 10 months my doctor, following CDC guidelines, had me quarantined at home with my 12 year old daughter Emma. However, through prayer and perseverance the Lord has provided. With my doctor's approval for the past two months I have been able to rejoin the Preschool in an administrative capacity, removed from direct contact with children and families.

As I work faithfully, isolated in the Church office, I get to see the dedication and hard work coming from the Teachers, construction workers and others who pour love into the Preschool. We are all enjoying Teacher Trainings and collaborating on the new Infant/Toddler space being created in the Woolies classroom, and we are opening ourselves to allow God to move with His vision for our school and for our families.

May God bless you, and thank you for the opportunity to share. Balin



Last week the staff and students celebrated teacher Theresa's Birthday. Happy birthday Theresa!



Missionary News & Prayer

by Carol Borsos

For more details, and photos on missions, check out the bulletin board in the church lobby.

Macedonia Missions to the Balkans President, Petre Petrov; Skopje, Macedonia

Ministry Update after Mirco Andreev went home to our Lord Jesus in December.



In mid January, the ministry council, through prayer and consultation, recognized Petre Petrov as the new President of their ministry. Most of the time he will be in the local Evangelical Church in the town of Shtip where he is pastor. As needed, he will commute to Skopje. The local

team will help in this transition. Petre Petrov is a faithful brother, longstanding in his ministry, helping in raising several young leaders and planting churches.

- Pray for transition within the MMB ministry, council members; Stojan Petrovski, Marino Mojtic, & Mihail Nikolov, and pastor Petre Petrov.

- Ask the Lord for workers there to be encouraged and supportive, sharing the Good News of the Gospel through their service.

- Pray that supporters continue so that the Gospel goes out, people's needs are met, and the hope of Jesus Christ is received.

The virus continues to impact people. Meeting for worship is spotty but continues on-line and the Lord has increased the number of people tuning in. Pray that they seek out believers with questions about faith, truth, hope.

Lord, put believers in the path of Your harvest in Macedonia and the Balkan countries.

Central Asian Family

- Pray that God prepares the hearts, minds, and souls to hear and surrender to the truth, of those in the weekly group meeting.

- Pray that God provided opportunities to share the Good News would be plentiful. Pray that seekers are in the path of those who can share the truth.

- H is due with baby at end of May and plans to come to the USA in March. We trust God for safe delivery, health now, and no complications.

- J is in negotiations with local gas stations who want to sell the sandwiches. Pray for god's will.

- Paying rent at Solomon's Sandwiches is a struggle every month. Pray the landlord would give grace. J is very busy with the shop.

- There is no running water or heat at their house. Most people in their area do not have these. It is considered a luxury. H must go to the river to gather water, push a wheelbarrow uphill to their house, and then boil the water for drinking or cooking.

- It is winter and bitter cold right now, and the air quality is very bad due to coal burning plants.

- Pray for strength, energy, perseverance, and rest for both J & H. Pray that they can come to the USA for a much needed rest.

Tim & Susan Driscoll, Japan

Just when it looked like borders and entrance into the country would open, the end of December became very restrictive and Japan became a closed country once again. Tim and Susan scrambled to get a few new workers who already had visas into the country.

Praise for Sam and other new workers who arrived and are quarantined. Pray that they will receive God's encouragement and peace in light of the complications of traveling to Japan.

Pray for wisdom for field workers as they navigate the ever-changing guidelines.

Japan is in another "state of emergency" which extends into February. There are no face to face meetings or sports activities allowed at this time. Pray for patience, grace, faith, and hope instead of discouragement. Also for perseverance and faithfulness in the midst of setbacks.

Pray for the creativity needed to have Gospel conversations with Japanese friends.

Tim and Susan usher in the New Year with thanksgiving for God's grace and help during 2020, trusting He will faithfully uphold and empower believers for the challenges of 2021.

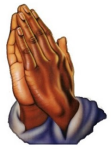
Life Choices Pregnancy Clinic

Every week clients come in abortion minded. Some already have one scheduled. Praise our Lord that they come to Life Choices before their abortions so that they can hear other options.

Pray that those who have an ultra-sound, hearing and seeing that a precious life is developing right before them, will choose life for their baby.

Abortion minded clients are the most difficult for counselors and staff. Pray for them to stay strong in faith and listen attentively to the needs of their client. Pray the Holy Spirit guides their words and emotions.

Pray that clients who come in abortion minded and make an appointment to have an ultra-sound keep that appointment.



(Missionary News Continued)

Ultra-sound is the most viable way to show clients that there is a baby, a heart beating life.

J. O. in Ethiopia

- J is adjusting culturally and is building great relationships with students. Pray that J will grasp the language efficiently and with good understanding.
- The school where he teaches has tripled in size this past month. A blessing they did not ask for but are grateful. Because of this, they must move to a new building.
- Pray for meaningful conversations with students about how the teaching can be laced with the Gospel and truth.
- J values his team mates and unity in their relationships. Pray they grow in godliness, faith and hope as they see the plans for them as workers.
- J is dealing with seasonal allergies (the season there is 9 months) and are not good with Covid around. His allergy meds are not helping. He does have confirmation that it is just allergies.
- He runs for exercise and is meeting people on the street who want to talk. Pray for one man who told him he needed someone to talk to. A friendship is building between the two.
- In his eagerness to share the truth, pray that J uses discernment in stopping with people.

Pastor W. in Pakistan

- Praise the Lord for bringing people back to church from quarantine. Continue praying for the anxiety in people's hearts due to the virus.
- Pray for pastor W.'s wisdom to deliver the Gospel.
- He is thankful God is allowing him to minister in very cold weather. He has a heavy burden to pray for many sick people in the church and combats hurdles in traveling to various sites.
- Pray for his health as he feels fatigue more as he gets older.
- Pray for God's provision for his successor when needed.

The families at the brick kiln ministry don't have time to pray. They work constantly just to meet their needs. They are in bondage and slavery to their owners. Pray that God brings salvation to them so their hope and strength can come from Him.

One ministry site is surrounded by a Muslim population. The Muslims always interfere and put pressure on the people not to worship. One cause for this is because of an abduction of a Christian girl in Karachi. Pray that God saves some of these people and the community changes.



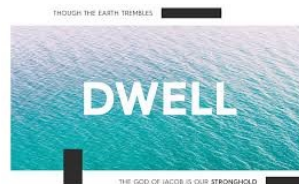
The Knifty Knitters are back in action

The knitters are back meeting together again following a brief hiatus and they have found a new charity to donate their handmade items to. It is called Mexico Medical Missions. The ladies will send their items to Lemon Grove CA, which is near San Diego, and they will be shipped to Mexico from there.

Mexico Medical Missions is a non-denominational Christian organization that provides medical and community development services to the people of the Sierra Madre Mountains of Chihuahua. Their mission: To glorify Jesus Christ among the peoples of the Sierra Madre through acts of mercy, service and proclamation of the Gospel.



The knitters are always looking for new places to donate their handmade ware to so if any of you know of a charity that would appreciate their hard work, please contact Karen Beverage or Kathleen Huggins.



Youth Summer Camp

Our youth group is making plans to attend Centrifuge Camp at Geness park again this summer. The theme is "Dwell." The dates selected are July 26 through the July 30. Look for fundraisers to begin soon!



Men's Ministry

The men's breakfast and Bible study group is continuing to meet on Wednesday Mornings at 7:00am at the church. They still enjoy breakfast together before feasting on God's word. All men are welcome to come by for good food, good Bible Study, and good fellowship!



Upcoming Events

Ash Wednesday
February 17

Palm Sunday: March 28

Good Friday Service: April 2, 5:00 pm

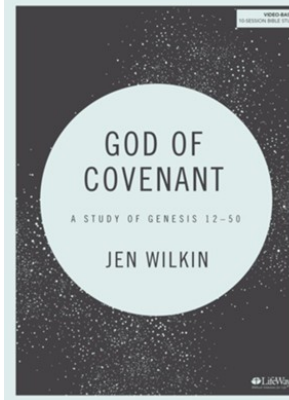
Resurrection Sunday: April 4

Vacation Bible School
(Dates are still to be determined)

Centrifuge Youth Camp
July 26-July 30

Memory Verses for November

- February 7 Ephesians 5:8
- February 14 Psalm 34:4
- February 21 2 Peter 1:4
- February 28 Galatians 2:20



Women's Bible Study

By Kathy Pavich

The Ladies Bible Study group has started a new study - *God of Covenant – A Study of Genesis 12-50* by Jen Wilkin on February 4, 2021. The study will be held both in-person and by Zoom. Books are \$20. If you are interested, please see Kathy Pavich (775-781-4992) for more information or to order a book.

God of Covenant is a 10-session Bible Study on Genesis 12-50 which studies the stories of the fathers of our faith - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. The study walks you through verse by verse, tracing the themes of covenant, resurrection, redemption, and hope. There are 5 days of study each week with small group discussion questions at the end of each week and a weekly viewer guide.

Here to Serve You

Elders: Jeff Brumbach, Bob Daly, Mondo Gonzales, Leonard O'Malley (Emeritus)

Deacons/Deaconesses: Susie Brumbach, Jacky Daly, Jerry Klosterboer, Bob Pavich, Kathy Pavich, Ted Beverage, Bill Kolstad, Jan Hurst

Church Staff: Mondo Gonzales, Pastor; Kai Keith, Worship Director, Ted Beverage, Office Administrator

Christian School Teachers Director/Shearlings Teacher: Sarah Tran, Sheep Teacher: Anna Bailey, Lambs Teacher: Theresa DeGraffenreid, Teachers Aide: Sky Rosselle, Woolies Teacher: Balin Usher, Substitute Teacher: Thomas Tran

IN GOD WE TRUST



**Tahoe
Community
Church**

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