



LUKE 9:59

“Then He said to another, follow Me.”

It is a Tuesday morning after our big snowstorm and I sit once again at my office looking out the window asking the Lord about what I should write this time. It is raining a cold wet rain and the day is gray, cold and dreary. Yet this is the day the Lord has made and I will be glad in it as the Psalmist tells us in Psalms. Many thoughts are running through my head concerning the work of the church coming up. We have many things to pray about and discuss openly and honestly as we seek to answer critical

questions concerning the future of our church. We are now entering the critical phase of leadership and organization. What kind of leadership are we looking for, how are we going to be organized to do the work that God is calling for us to accomplish is part of the question we must answer. Who makes what decisions and how do we engage in healthy decision making is part of the work facing us. The expectations about responsibility and accountability needs to be answered by the church as well as looking at professional staffing needs and lay leadership needs for the future. A lot of work for us to do and already we are slowed down by the weather hampering us meeting. The team is also looking for people in the congregation to help in this work so when you see the sign up paper or someone calls you to help both I and they expect you to get on board so we can finish the work in a timely and efficient manner. So you can see why I said there is much work to get done.

As I said we are entering the leadership phase so I feel compelled to write on that subject. Leadership can be evaluated by either a biblical standard or a worldly standard. Jesus had much to say on leadership in the New Testament. I want to mention some things I have come to realize after thirty years in the ministry. The first thing I want to share with you is that before you can be a good leader you must learn to be a good follower. Jesus said follow Me. That short sentence cannot be fully dealt with in one setting. Yet there are some things we must note. Following Jesus is not an option or suggestion. If you are to really be called a disciple then you must follow Jesus. We need to learn to walk in His footsteps, think like Him, talk like Him, and act like Him. You may say that is impossible, yet Jesus never said it was impossible, only man. He said follow Me. He said learn of Me. He said be obedient to my commands. They were not suggestions, good ideas, or helpful hints. They were commands of Jesus Himself. If we are not following Jesus then we cannot lead others to follow Him. The second thing is leadership is not about power but about loving service and helping people learn the way. I am utterly amazed at how many people blindly follow without ever learning the way. The third thing for the church is that we are not called to be led by the spirit of fear, or the spirit of this world, or the spirit of self, but by the Holy Spirit of the Lord. All leaders within the church need to be filled by the Holy Spirit and practice the spiritual disciplines the Lord taught us of prayer, rightfully dividing the Word of Truth, humility, and waiting before the Lord until we have the answer. Need I remind us once again that Jesus only said what the Father told Him to say and only did the work the Father gave Him to do.

Finally leadership is about guiding and showing how to get from point A to point B. The church is never standing still. We are marching onward and upward. We must always know what God wants us to do and where He wants us to go. He did not call us to be on the defensive but on the offensive. He called us to worship, to witness, and to work. The leadership of the church is critical if we are going to be the people God calls us to be and do the work He calls us to do. Godly leadership is not without challenges, controversies, pain, discouragement, and victories. Good leadership requires a solid love of God, a clear understanding of God's word and work, patience, and commitment to see things through. Leadership is not for the fainthearted, nor for the bully, nor for the selfish. Leadership in a church is about making Godly decisions based on what God wants not on what we think or what is comfortable. It will stretch our faith and teach us new depths of His power and grace. In a nutshell biblical leadership is based on our deep abiding knowledge of God's love, God's work, and God's power. It is up to Godly leaders to lead not with the world's wisdom but with faith and love. Never make the mistake that because a man is successful in the world's eyes that he is successful in God's eyes. Remember that God looks on the inside not the outside. Now you can see why we have so much work to do. We can do it and we will do it. It takes hard work, perseverance and patience but we will get there.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor David

Prayer Concerns

The following people have been added to our prayer concern list since our last newsletter:

Shirley Burgess; Colby Cassell, brother of co-worker of Sandi Nowlin;
Sonia Collins, friend of Sandi Nowlin; **Revis Gentry**, Randy Gentry's father;
Roger Marion; Tony Morris, requested by Jimmy Nichols; **Rachel Phillips;**
Earl Varney



The first four weeks of March, we will be offering children's activities, Wednesday Night Sunday School and also special services in the Chapel for adults. These services will prepare us for the coming of Christ and will follow the historical "Stations of the Cross." Services will contain scripture reading, drama, music, and prayer time. We hope these will be a reflection of the anticipation of the coming Messiah and encourage each of us to pray, serve, and love.

March 3—Jesus condemned, Jesus took up his cross, Jesus falls, Jesus meets his Mother

March 10—Simon helps Jesus carry the cross, Veronica wipes Jesus face, Jesus falls the 2nd time, Jesus meets women in Jerusalem

March 17—Jesus falls the 3rd time, Jesus is stripped before the crowd, Jesus is nailed to the cross, Jesus dies on the cross

March 24—Jesus is taken down from the cross, Jesus is laid in the tomb. Jesus is raised from the dead

We will also be taking offerings each night to go to Haitian relief efforts.



We still have many dates available if you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary in celebration of a special event, or in honor or memory of a loved one. The 2010 sign up sheet is on the main bulletin board. You may order fresh flowers or make a donation and use one of the beautiful arrangements available at the church. Unless otherwise specified, donations will go to the Debt Reduction Fund.



THE YOKEFELLOW MINISTRY OF GREATER MOUNT AIRY:

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY: FLOUR & RICE

Collection baskets are located at church entrances for your donation of any non-perishable items.

The Shepherd's House is in need of these items:

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|-----------------|-------------------------|
| COFFEE | COOKING OIL |
| KOOL AID | BUTTER/MARGARINE |
| SPICES | TEA BAGS |

If you would like to help with any of these items, please take them directly to the Shepherd's House at 227 Rockford Street, Mount Airy.

Helpful Reminders	February 7	February 14
Youth Snack Supper	TBA	TBA
Uplift Breakfast	TBA	TBA
Nursery Workers	Uplift	Uplift
	February 7	February 14
Bed Babies—4 years	Bob & Pam Peake	Andy & Cari Robertson
Children's Church	Tommy & Kim Morrison	Fonda & Keightly Dalton
	Traditional	Traditional
Bed Babies /	Benny & Pam Lisk	Jan Varney, Jane Sawyers
2 & 3 Year Olds	Kent & Kyle Moser, Dawn Stanley	Cathy Stevens, Denise Cain
Children's Church	Mary Jane Shelton, Ashleigh Stone	Beth Southern

Sunday School Snippet

⁷ The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble.
He cares for those who trust in him;

Nahum 1:7

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:6-7

Recently, Pastor David's sermon title was "**Does God Really Care?**" Ironically as I was searching for scripture verses to put with this article, my search led me to the verses above from 1st Peter which are also the scripture verses used for his sermon. For the most part, I think I can safely say that I strongly believe that God does care for us. Of course the way that God cares for us is sometimes different than the way we want Him to care for us. We are not as smart as He is.

The one verse above from Nahum is actually directed to the Jews prophesying the fall of Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire. We can however take this verse and apply it to our lives because it does apply to us just as it applied to the Jewish people in the 7th Century B.C. when the book of Nahum was written. If we look around at what is happening in our church, we can see that God does care for our church. We had 261 in Sunday School on January 24th. That is only 39 people shy of 300. Three hundred in our Sunday School is not unheard of, we have done it before. I do not want to give the impression that we need to have 300 in Sunday School so we can have "bragging rights" that we had 300 in Sunday School. Sunday School is a way that we can become closer to God and see even more evidence of how He cares for us. With more people being reached and becoming more trusting of Him, we will have a stronger faith that God does care. God wants us to grow and spread His word to more people. God already cares, but He wants people to recognize and remember He cares. It is actually a no-lose situation. The more we trust Him, the more He will take care of us. Plan on being involved in worship through Sunday School and invite someone to come with you. 300 to care for is not a problem for God.

*Bob McPherson
Sunday School Director*

Dear Calvary Church Family,

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

It has been my honor to have served as your Minister of Music since July, 1999. I am announcing my resignation effective Monday, April 5. The stress of ministry and working two jobs have taken their toll physically, mentally, and spiritually. I need more time for myself, family, travel and other interests. I would like to thank the choir, Carolyn, Eugenia and the Joybells for their dedication and commitment to the Lord and His Church. I would also like to thank Phil Hiatt for his willingness to provide assistance any time he was asked and Tony Dalton for his dedication and hard work for the music ministry. Thanks to the congregation and as Briscoe Darling says, "If you've got time to breathe, you've got time for music."

Paulette Surratt

