

# The Astoria Christian

Vol. 45 No. 9

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You Are Welcome At Our Services!

### Sunday

Morning Worship.....9 a.m.

Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

### Wednesday

Family Night.....6:00 p.m.

### Events:

Sun, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>-Family Night Meeting @ 5:00 pm

Sun, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>-Board Meeting @ 6:00 pm

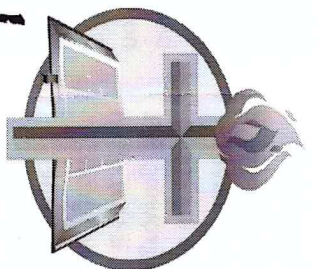
Sat, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>- Gospel Group @ 1 pm

Sun, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>-Galilean Service @ 4-5 pm

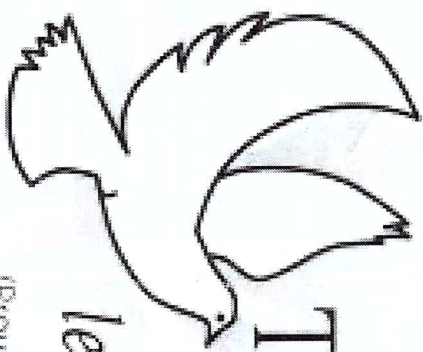
Mon, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>-Camp Fellowship @ 6:00 pm

Sun, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>-Worship & Praise @ 6:30 pm

\*All events are subject to change. Please keep up to date by checking the bulletin, Facebook page or website.



Astoria Christian Church



The labor of the  
righteous  
leads to life.  
(Proverbs 10:16)

## The nature of growth, whether physically,

emotionally or spiritually, means we must move beyond where we were before. And we all have gone through those changes and growth in various areas of life. And hopefully we are still growing. But the interesting thing is, for me at least, is that often I don't know for sure where I'll end up as I grow.

And what I mean is that I have a very different worldview than I did when I was in high school when I became a Christian. And though my goal to grow to be more like Jesus was the same then as it is now, what I didn't expect was some of the ways that God would teach me, change me and lead to the place where I am today.

And we see that over and over again in the lives of others, too. We can look at the story of Paul, who was formerly Saul, and had gone through a radical transformation in his life. Going from persecuting and attempting to eradicate this sect of Christians to suddenly joining them and becoming one of the greatest spokesmen's of it the world has ever seen. Paul didn't plan on joining the Christians while he was persecuting them but God guided him to a new way of thinking and living.

Recently I read an article by CS Lewis, who is another significant spokesman for Jesus, where he discusses a change of thought and direction that he didn't intend or plan either. He writes about the idea of gaining 'fame' or 'good report' for an individual as 'heavenly glory'. And what he meant was that our goal, as Christians, should be 'fame' (or approval) not by others but by God. He writes, "If I had rejected the authoritative and scriptural image of glory and stuck obstinately to the vague desire which was my only pointer to heaven, I could have seen no connection at all between that desire and the Christian promise." It seems as though Lewis realized he needed to take a step back from his previous way of thinking and be open to something different that God, through the Bible and others, was teaching him. And, hopefully, that's where we are at, too. Going

back to my own experience, I know that I am at this point in my life, with my beliefs and worldviews, not because I had a plan to arrive there or that I somehow CHOSE to see the world as I see it. No, I believe, see, interact and understand the world now because that's how God has led me to do so. It is through reading of the Bible, personal study and analysis, along with prayer and openness, tied with the teaching and preaching of fellow Christians that have led me to where I am today. And I pray that I don't stay here. I pray that God continues to adapt and change my worldview to be more of his Kingdom worldview.

And I say all of this to make this point: are we where we are at in our relationship with God, the way we view the world and in our relationships with other people because *that's where we've always been or what we were taught growing up?* Or are we where we are because we've allowed God to adapt, change and mold us to be more in line with him and his kingdom?

Paul writes, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12.2, ESV)

I pray we continue to be open to God changing our hearts, minds and worldview to the point that it fits in line more with his will. Not one of us has 'arrived' or gotten it all right. Even Paul and Lewis, who are much better men than me, continued to learn and grow. Are we willing to not be 'obstinate' and be open to whatever God wants us to know, see and understand? I pray we are.

Serving Him and you,  
Matthew

## Homecoming Gospel Group

This year for Homecoming, the Ministerial is bringing in the group 'The Singing Men of 'GNN'. The Singing Men are over 40 strong, with probably about 20 of them coming for our event. From physicians to farmers, professors to

plumbers, this diverse group consists of men of all ages from a variety of backgrounds, denominations, professions, and life experiences representing towns all over east-central Illinois. The Singing Men of 'GNN perform selections of patriotic music, show tunes, old-time favorite classics, spirituals, and hymns. This will be the first program in the afternoon on **September 18<sup>th</sup>**.

## Community Worship Service

On Sunday, **September 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am** we will be holding our annual Community Worship Service at the **Town Square**. This is a Ministerial event that includes the local churches and is a way for us to join together as a Christian community and worship our God.

## Revival

At this time, pending changes to Covid restrictions, we will be hosting a revival on **October 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>**. David Hargrave will be our speaker and we will have local music for our worship. David will speak Sunday morning and then Sunday through Wednesday night. Please plan now to attend and bring a few friends! More details will be announced as we get closer.

## Prayer List

Denny Belville – unable to operate  
Tammy Bowman – kidney failure, blood cots  
Garth Cripe – heart specialist  
Jody Dean – tests  
Kyle Easley – heart issues  
Bob Fawcett – stage 4 pancreatic cancer  
Bob Greene – Parkinson's  
Haiti – earthquake, tropical storm, government unrest (Blessing Hearts mission)  
Todd Hamm – doing well  
Gary Hulett – heart failure  
Carol Lawson – spot on lung  
Laurie Martin – doing better  
Margaret Miller – upcoming procedure  
Cindy Mummet – leg issues  
Clarice Powell – diabetes, ankle wound  
Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver  
Kim Rogers – skin cancer treatment  
Zach Rogers – procedure in December  
Randy Sorrells – operation  
Suzanne Snow – strokes, recovery  
Letha Stambaugh - diverticulitis  
Todd Stambaugh – stage 4 glioblastoma  
Wendy Taylor – procedure  
Judy Windsor – hospice  
**Condolences:**  
Doug Shawgo family

## August Financials

	Weekly Offering	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
Aug 1st	\$848.00	\$29,510.53	\$41,269.99
Aug 8th	\$943.10	\$30,453.63	\$42,601.28
Aug 15th	\$1,088.00	\$31,541.63	\$43,932.57
Aug 22nd	\$683.03	\$32,224.66	\$45,263.86
Aug 29th	\$2,118.66	\$34,343.32	\$46,595.15