

The Pleasant View

PASTOR ED'S EPISTLE

Staying True to the Faith

We are seeing prominent Christian leaders falling away from their faith and announcing that they are no longer a Christian. It is so sad to see people who were megachurch pastors and songwriters for prominent, contemporary Christian music groups walk completely away and into the world of secularism. Some have even become ministers in the secular / atheistic settings. It is interesting to read their reasons for leaving the faith. The reasons range from contradictions in the Bible, problems in explaining pain and suffering, and science trumping Christianity and the Bible. Some are even divorcing their spouses.

The Bible says that this would happen.

1 John 2:19

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

I do not dare judge my brothers and sisters who are leaving the faith publicly. Only God can judge who is saved and not and God is the only one who knows their heart, but here are some reasons they left the faith and how it could have been prevented.

Number One – They and we all need accountability. Some of these people if not all did not have a support system, a community of believers that they should have gone to with the inquiries that don't stack up with our God. We need people in our lives that we can ask the tough questions to and explain our doubts. I know that there are many questions that we cannot answer here on earth but as we wrestle with these issues, we can look to others who are scholarly or others who can give godly counsel to point us to some ideas and answers to our concerns.

This is why we need to be in the church, under the preaching of God's Word, connected to others that you are sharing life on life with as a follower of Christ. We need to hear from people who also have struggled or are struggling to understand how they have and are dealing with their issues.

Second, there is plenty of great material out there to address the hard questions of Christianity. Some of them are scholarly, well researched and other things are more practical. The point is, if one searches for these resources to help answer their concerns, they could find satisfactory reasons and answers to their concerns.

Along with that, there are some questions that cannot be answered in this life because God is sovereign and his plans are above our plans.

Isaiah 55:9-10

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Third, and most importantly for all of us is to faithfully be reading and studying God's Word regularly for ourselves.

I packed a lot into that sentence!! There is no substitute and protection unlike the Holy Spirit and God's Word to discern what is truth and what is not!! We have to be diligent to not live by our feelings and to compare what we are hearing in the media and internet sources to the filter of God's Word.

We also have to be sure that we believe all of God's Word is truth!! We must come from the perspective that the Word of God is inerrant, inspired and infallible words given to us by God through human authors.

If we deviate from these things, it will be easy for Satan to deceive us and for us to buy into the group think that the Bible is just another piece of superior literature and that is it.

When you and I have doubts or questions about things that we cannot reconcile for ourselves, it is time to find trusted sources to read and discover what they say. It is time to pray and ask God to lead you and I into the truth.

Satan is all about isolating Christians and separating them from the truth and then devouring them and taking them back into his fold.

Science is not a threat to Christianity but is compatible. If you look at the history of science, many of the first scientists were Christians. Today, the scientific method and other aspects of science have been jaded by others agendas instead of experimenting and letting the facts of exploration and research lead them to a logical conclusion.

Morality is being questioned at every turn. Now that our society has completely moved away from absolute truth to a view that everyone can have their own subjective truth, and logic is out the window. That is why it is important that we share our faith and how it has and is transforming us and what Christ is doing in our lives.

In closing, we must be on the offensive. Church pulpits need to be sharing the issues that are going on in culture and the Christian church needs to come up with biblical answers that are well thought out and researched to give an answer of the hope that lies within us. Too many churches stay silent on the controversial issues and then all that the congregants here is the world's perspective and the more the lies are said without another view, people will believe it.

As church leaders, we need to engage our children and young people with the tools and resources to stay strong in their faith well after high school and through college. Just because someone has a Ph.D. behind their name doesn't mean they are the complete expert in the field they are teaching. We must teach kids how to think, how to think for themselves and become critical thinkers.

When we accept Christ, He expects us to use our gray matter to make wise decisions. May you and I be found faithful to God and His Word until our last breath here on earth.

I am faithfully,

Yours and His,

Pastor Ed Hedding

ELDER REPORTS

The elders met on July 15th, 29th, and August 26th of 2019

They continue to study the book Peacemakers by Ken Sande in preparation for a sermon series beginning in January.

The elders take time at every meeting to pray for the needs of the church family and the needs of each of the elders and their family.

Pastor Ed handed out to the elders who were present at the meeting on July 15th binders containing hardcopies of the compiled PVBC job descriptions and policies. It was noted that some of the job descriptions were for positions that are not currently active at PVBC, but would serve as a reference.

We approved moving the Ministry Team Leaders Meeting to August 3rd. The reason for the move was Jeff Nelson from the Bettendorf Police Department was going to come and talk about Active Shooter training at this meeting, but was not available for July 27th.

Discussion by the elders about the Worship Team: Should there be a waiting period before new attendees join the worship team?

The elders discussed the fact that we did not have a policy for a wait period. We agreed that a 2-month period of regular attendance would be wise. This allows the congregation to have a chance to become familiar with them before they see them up on stage. Aaron will draft something about this to add to the application form. We also thought it would be good to introduce new members of the worship team if they are new attendees to the church.

Remodeling the stage area: The elders agreed that Deanna Gipson, Nancy Larson, Austin Fink and Gage Pedersen would need to be involved with any remodel plans. The plans were formulated and are moving forward in conjunction with the video screen project.

The Video Screen Project has taken many twists and turns but Austin Fink has been put in charge of it and the cost will be approximately \$6,000 much less than the \$11,041 first proposed by the elders and approved by the church members. The screens have been purchased by the church and will be installed by people in the church, and Entertainment Expressions will set it up to work with our computer. The installation and set up are coming soon.

Subscription to Multi-Tracks: Austin Fink has requested a subscription to Multi-Tracks for \$60 per month / \$720 per year. This would allow him to use tracks for instruments that are not currently live on the stage. The elders decided there was enough in his worship budget to move ahead with this subscription.

Mevo Camera: Jeremy Jones has identified a camera that will work well for recording our services. This camera is \$900. We approved the purchase of this camera. We expressed a desire for the camera located in the back of the auditorium, possibly near the sound booth. An I-Pad with a case was also purchased to support the camera.

Pastor Ed asked the elders to pray and give thought to what PVBC can do to reach out more to children and families with children in our area.

The Timothy Initiative training: The elders agreed to go through the TTI training once we have completed The Peacemaker study.

God has blessed us lately with extra finances in the savings. The

elders discussed how we might use some of those funds. We decided to propose to the church two opportunities for some money to be applied. One is repairing 4 bad spots on our parking lot for \$8000. The second is to bless an area Converge church, Bethany Baptist Church, who has been struggling financially with a gift of \$5001. This amount was chosen so it would require a church vote to approve. The elders called a church meeting for August 4th to vote on these two proposals. Pastor Ed also suggested that we bless each teacher at Pleasant View Elementary with a gift card to Walmart. An amount of \$100 was proposed. We agreed that sounded like a great idea and way to show support to the school.

The elders later found out that there are forty-six teachers at PV Elementary School and someone suggested giving Diane Hedding and Emily Meyer who are teachers from our church in the Davenport School District gift cards as well. So, the amount of \$2750 has been collected and will be divided forty-eight ways. A group of people from the church will gather and hand-write cards of encouragement to the 48 teachers and deliver them with the gift cards for use in their classrooms.

A membership class was offered on July 30th and six people took the class. They are ready to be received into membership in September.

The elders have been looking into an elevator being added to the outside of the building or a chair lift inside the building. The cost of the elevator is approximately \$170,000 and the chair lift about \$60,000. The elders are rethinking these ideas and considering looking into the cost to add on to the building which would include a gymnasium, bigger kitchen, elevator, a loft area for children's ministry. It would be a capital campaign for a few years to raise the money.

The elders have approved Pastor Ed forming a team to consider remodeling the sanctuary, lobby area, and recarpeting the entire area where there is currently carpeting. A team will be put together in October to begin considering designs and costs to be presented to the elders and to the church members at a future time.

The elders approved giving Wendy five more hours per week which brings her total weekly hours to twenty-five. She will take on more administrative things from Pastor Ed.

The elders approved a bid from Per Mar Security systems to install their system on October 1st. The cost of equipment is about \$600 which includes a fire alarm that we did not have before. The monthly monitoring cost will rise to \$134.

Pastor Ed had people helping with the Church Picnic August 25th.

The elders noted that Austin Fink has moved Worship Practice on Thursday nights to 5:30 pm and the Men's Group has moved back to 7:30 pm on Thursday nights once again.

Greg Stopyra will be leading Financial Peace University on Tuesdays, from October 1st - November 26th at 6:30 pm, for a total of nine weeks. We want to have the participants pay for the kit in full (\$100) but we would take it on a case by case basis if we provide discounts or cover the cost. Pastor Ed will talk to Josh Barnes about his involvement with this training as well.

A Safety Team is being formed to provide instruction and support in case of emergencies such as tornado, fire and an active shooter situation. Chuck Gipson is heading the team and people are yet to be added to the team. Communication to the congregation as well as training will be forthcoming.

Mike Fendley and Austin Fink will be involved in teaching and leading Worship at the Men's retreat at Pine Lake Camp on the weekend of October 11th - 13th.

- Submitted by Pastor Ed Hedding

WORSHIP TEAM NEWS!



These last few months, leading everyone in worship have been absolutely incredible, and I'm so excited to continue doing it! We have had some great new additions to the team over the last few months and the team is growing in numbers and in unity!

We are currently working on several projects to enhance the worship experience by eliminating distractions, smoothing out transitions, and helping the musicians and vocalists to be more confident. Since around Easter, the team has been using a click track system. This is a digital metronome that everyone on the team hears in their in-monitors. It helps to keep everyone on time with each other and has also prepared us for using a new system known as Multi-Tracks.

Multi-Tracks is a very advanced backing track that almost works as a glue of sorts for the band. It includes all the professionally recorded instruments from the original artists of the songs we play. I see this being especially useful for youth group as well as when we are down musicians a particular week. We started practicing with these about a month ago and just implemented them last Sunday. They have most definitely improved the quality of our sound.

We are also currently working on a stage update project as well as the TV screen project. We've put together a small committee for the stage that includes Deanna Gipson, Gage Pedersen, and myself. Our plan is to put up a stone texture design behind the cross, backlight the cross, paint the front walls, and implement a more modern lighting style.

We hope to have the re-design and the TV project done simultaneously. We have purchased 2 4k TVs as well as mounts that will be hung up by volunteers in the church. On Friday, September 13th, Entertainment Expressions Audio and Video will be coming in to install the wireless transmitters and receivers for the TVs.

To the Glory of God Alone,

Austin Fink

Church Office Closed

Monday September 2nd




STUDENT MINISTRY

This year is going to be an exciting year for Chaos Student Ministry! The summer was full of fun for the students! We went to Helium trampoline park, had an ice cream and game night, watched 'The Field of Dreams', went to the Field of Dreams, had a night of water games, and stayed up all night playing dodgeball, sardines, and eating donuts! Their summer was PACKED!

Wednesday, September 4th will be the first night of Youth Group. All of the students (including Awana) will sing a few songs together. This is how we will begin on Wednesdays from now on.

This year we will be working through "The Visual Theology Guide to the Bible". I'm very, very excited to walk through this study with the students. They will learn the basics of what the Bible is, who wrote it, why it was written, why we are so messy, who God is, and much more. Even though this study is very deep in its explanation of theology, it is still very simple and easy for the students to understand and grasp. A solid understanding of scripture, theology, and doctrine are essential to a growing believer and it's especially important to develop this accurate understanding early in life.

There is also a book that this study is based off of, "Visual Theology", and I would highly recommend it to everyone. It is actually illustrated by one of my former pastors, Josh Byers, at Soteria Des Moines. I am looking forward to teaching to and hopefully learning from the students in the year ahead and for years to come.

To the Glory of God Alone,

Austin Fink



2019 FINANCIALS

Giving: \$120,463

Total Expenses: \$118,291

**Savings: \$71,466.39 (General Fund
Checking & Cornerstone Savings)**

*** Amounts are for the general fund
for start of fiscal year thru August**




Wednesdays @ 6:30
Beginning Sept. 4th -
Bring a Friend!