


January 2012

From the Pastor 

What Does 2012 Hold for Our Church?

As I look to this New Year, I have asked God what we should be doing as a church this year. I did not receive a parchment paper that came down from heaven written in gold with exact instructions for this year. However, I received what I think are thoughts from God about what we need to be about. I thought I'd share them with you in this month's *Monthly Musing*.

Up front I want you to know that I am very aware of my humanness, and I do not claim to have the very words of God. I also want to add that I feel if we go this way, we are doing what I think God has put in our lap to do.

The Bible is clear we are to reach the lost for Christ. The Bible also tells us to minister to those who are in need. The September flood has created a great need in our community among the lost, so I think God wants us to continue ministering to those in need. If I summarize what I feel God is calling us to do, it would be to live out the gospel in our community by reaching out to the needs created by the flood.

It is now January. It's almost too cold to work in homes at this time, but when the spring comes around, there will be a great need to rebuild homes. As we come to the homes in Vestal and help rebuild we also can build relationships with those we are helping. That is probably more important than building the home. The relationships we will build will open the doors for us to share Christ.

This means there will more people visiting our church this year, so we need to have an environment that is welcoming to visitors and welcoming to those who don't know Jesus. My dream is to see many come to know Jesus through our flood relief. When people get saved, they need follow up. This will create a need for discipleship of these new believers.

I also see many new visitors coming to our church, who seem to be sticking around. I love it! I would like to see many of them become members this year.



HOLY
BIBLE

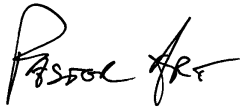
My hope is to have quarterly orientation classes for people to learn about our church and then give them the opportunity to become members.

Another vision I have for this year is for our church to build relationships with each other. I have discovered there are many people who don't know each other due to all the new people.

Therefore, I'd like to see every adult in our church getting involved in a growth group. I also would like to see a men's retreat and a women's retreat take place this year. Camp Orchard Hill has a men's retreat on the first week of November. I hope many of the men of our church come with me to that retreat. I do not know of a women's retreat yet; Camp Orchard Hill is not hosting one. If you know of a women's retreat, let me know.

Reaching out to the community, getting to know those in need, bringing them to Christ, discipling them and getting to know each other better are exciting tasks ahead of us this year. Please pray with me that God leads us in making this happen.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Jeff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.