

# Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

April 2015

## “True Followers of the King”

If a king has no subjects, is he really a king?... I suppose you could argue, technically, that maybe such a king could still be considered a king; but practically speaking, what would be the point? In a similar way, what would a shepherd be without any sheep? Or, what would a leader be without any followers?

There is, of course, a need for leadership – without it we would have anarchy and chaos. So if all this is true, then there is a need for followership, as well; because if the would-be followers don't follow, then it would be no different than being without a leader.

It also helps to have “good” leaders, since bad ones yield corruption, hardship and oppression. But bad followers bring on the same kinds of trouble. So good followership is every bit as important as good leadership. The world only works well when you have both.

You can probably think of many examples of poor or corrupt leadership throughout history, from the Old Testament kings of Israel, to Hitler and Stalin in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and many of the dictators and extremist leaders you've heard of in more recent days. But what about followership? Can you think of followers who have taken a detour from their leaders?

Adam and Eve didn't do very well in the Garden of Eden. Neither did Cain, nor his descendants up to the days of Noah and the flood. The Israelite people that Moses led out of Egypt and across the Red Sea were “stiff-necked” and “rebellious” – so much so that all of the adults died in the forty years they wandered in the desert (with the exception of Joshua and Caleb). After the days of Joshua, the people of Israel kept cycling back and forth from following the LORD and the leadership of the judges, to

worshipping the idols of the Canaanite nations. When Samuel led them, they rejected the LORD, as their king, and demanded to have one like the other nations around them did.

After the days of David, and the early days of Solomon, they didn't do very well either. Throughout the days of the prophets, they heard more and more about the Anointed One (the Messiah) who was to come ... and they increasingly seemed to look forward to His coming – especially when they began to feel the oppression of the Romans. ... But much like in the days of Samuel, they were looking for a king who would deliver them from their temporal (earthly) oppression.

So when Jesus came onto the scene, and they saw that He came with the power of God, they wondered if this could indeed be their Deliverer. He healed the sick. He raised the dead. He drove out demons. He fed the masses. ... And they soon became eager to make Him their king. They followed Him everywhere. They called Him, “Son of David!” ... They loved what He was doing, but they didn't repent from their sins – they didn't heed His message. ... He said to them:

21 "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to Hades. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. 24 But I tell you that it will be more bearable

FOLLOWERSHIP

(Continued on page 2)

for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

Matthew 11:21-24

They wanted Him to be their Deliverer, their Provider, their king ... but what they failed to realize was that Jesus didn't come to deliver them from the Romans – He came to deliver them from their sins. ... Sadly, they didn't repent. They didn't listen to Him. They didn't follow.

When Pilate tried to determine if Jesus was a king, as His accuser's claimed, Jesus said to him:

"My kingdom is not of this world. ... You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

John 18:36-37

What matters, then, is listening to the King – THIS King. His kingdom is NOT of this world. It never was. It never will be. It's from another place. It's in the hearts of those who listen to Him, and do what He says. He came to this world to testify to the truth. If He says "Repent! The kingdom of God is at hand!" then, repent. If He says, "Come!" then, come. If He says, "Go!" then, go. ... If you are on the side of truth, if you listen to Him, if you truly follow Him, then He is your King.

They crucified Jesus, but it needed to happen in order for Him to complete the task of delivering us from our sins. He became the perfect sacrifice in order to take our sins away. ... He did it willingly. ... AND three days later, He rose from the grave, claiming defeat of both sin and death. ...

That's when it all began to make sense to His disciples. He is the Savior of the world – not only of the Jews, and not from earthly oppressors. He is the

Deliverer and Savior from sin and death for ALL who bow to Him, as King. He is the King of all who follow, all who hear, and do, as HE leads, and as He says. ... Are you His follower? ...

Listen to what the Apostle John says:

1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense-Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

Jesus came to take your sins away. He came to save and deliver you from them, so you will no longer have to be oppressed and corrupted by them. He came testifying to the truth, but it's up to you to listen. It's up to you to do what He says. It's up to you live, as He says to live. It's up to you ... to follow.

Do you listen to the words of Jesus? Do you do what He says to do? Do you live as Jesus says to live? ... Listen, again, as John continues:

3 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. 4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

1 John 2:3-6

Whether you follow Jesus or not, He is still a King. But followership matters. What you do with Jesus' words, and with His way of life, makes all the difference in whether you are a true participant in freedom from sin and death, and it makes all the difference in whether or not you are a true participant in His kingdom.

It's time to listen to Jesus. ... It's time to follow Him. ... It's time to make Him your King.

Blessings to You this Easter,  
Pastor Pete



Connect

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**Sunny Place Church of God**

901 E Oak St, Addison IL 60101

Church Office (630) 530-1830

Editor: Margaret Gigous

Senior Pastor: Peter Weber

Treasurer: Glenda Kasza

Elders: Sam Jacob, President

Paul Gigous, Vice President

Chuck Bender, Secretary

Phyllis Clark, Director

Ted Gehman, Director

Bob Hettlinger, Director

Shyam Nair, Director



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

## ***Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ***

### **TLC**

Together Loving Christ

**A**re you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

**J**oin with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

***Grow in the Word!***

### ***Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.***

***Kid's Rock*** available  
for children ages five to nine



*Nursery Services Provided*

#### **Spring Dinner at the Church**

Sunday, April 12th

12:30 p.m.

Come celebrate with us.

All are welcome!



Visit us at: [www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org](http://www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org)

# HANDS of Service

# HEARTS of Love

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Together the Body of Christ is working towards the campaign goal of \$150,000, and so far, we have received pledges totaling \$173,765.

By the power of God working within us and through us, we are able to do the “impossible.”

As Gabriel said “For nothing is impossible with GOD”

Monies received to date through February 28, 2015 is \$16,860 (16% above scheduled giving)

## GOALS

This campaign shows our **Hearts of Love**; this is a place for us to come together. Our goals are a new parking lot, roofing, removal of dead trees and exterior painting. In addition our goals for Sunny Place include a safe and well maintained environment such as the repair or updating our furnaces and air conditioners, electrical work, attic insulation, windows to be replaced, new entry doors and a projector for worship.

## PROGRESS REPORT

The pledge monies have been used for needed repairs in the parsonage. The interior has been completely painted and the two bathrooms were updated. Well-worn carpeting was removed and has been replaced with wooden flooring and the existing wooden floors have been refinished. Much of the labor to upgrade and repair the parsonage has been done by volunteers donating their time and expertise. The dead ash trees lining the street have also been removed by a professional tree service.

**Duration of the campaign** We are off to a great beginning. Our goal, \$150,000, is certainly obtainable, as we continue in sacrificial giving over the next three years. The campaign began in December 2014 and will continue until November 2017.

**How can you give to the campaign?** If you would like to make a pledge, pledge cards and envelopes are on the table under the window in the narthex, or vestibule. To make a donation, the best way to give is to make out a check to Sunny Place Church of God. Please indicate that the donation is for the Capitol Fund Campaign on the memo line of the check or on the outside of the envelope if one is used.

## Thank you

Your pledges and generous giving to the Sunny Place Church of God campaign are greatly appreciated. Our efforts in the campaign will help ensure that the facilities we use to demonstrate our **Hands of Service – Hearts of love** continue to be an attractive, inviting place for all our ministries.

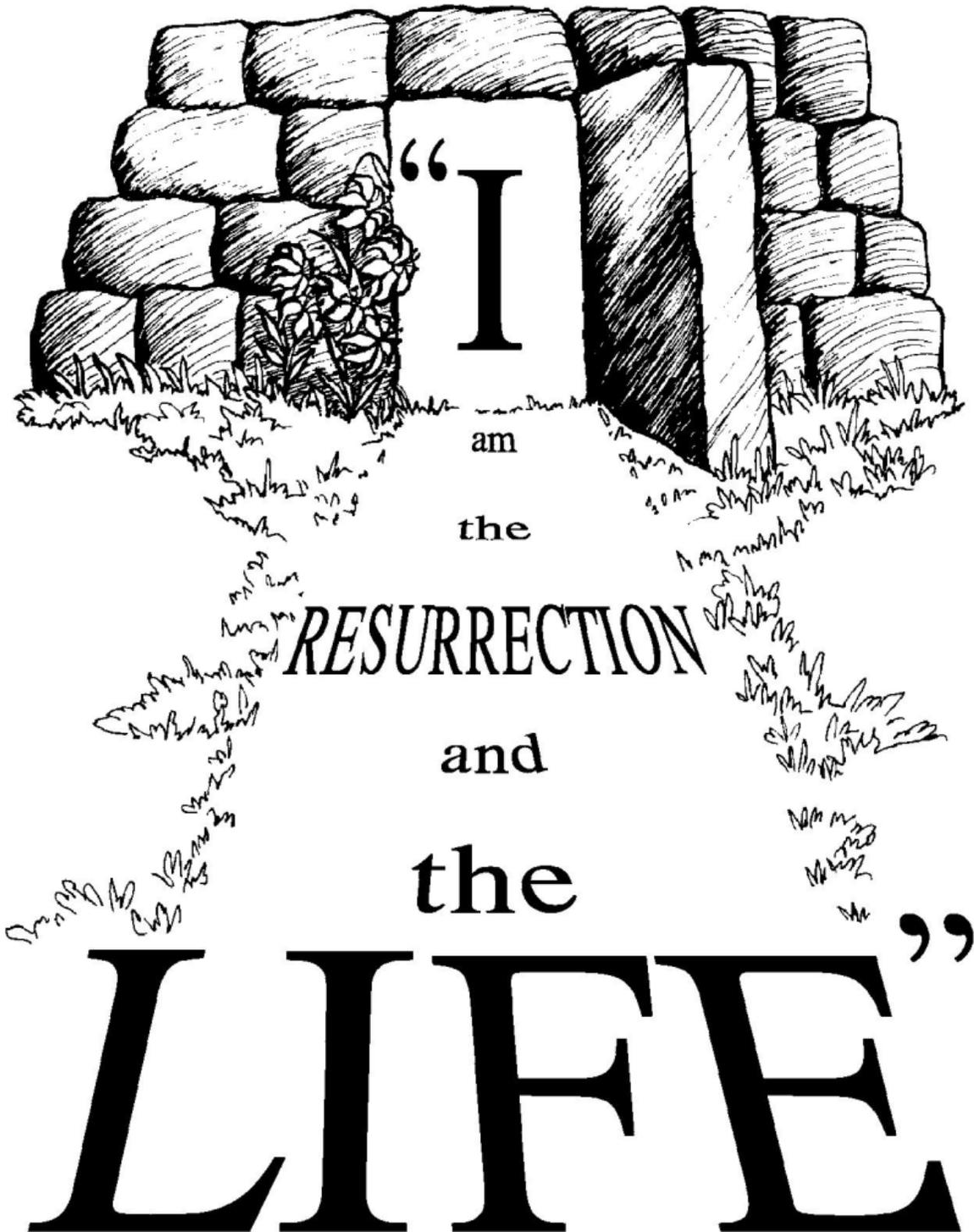
*Please remember: The commitments made to the Capital Fund Campaign are over-and-above what you regularly are giving to the Church of God general budget and Faith promise.*



Kid's

# Connection

April, 2015



John 11:25

## Minutes of the Elders Retreat meeting, March 7, 2015

Attendees: Phyllis Clark, Pastor Weber, Sam Jacob, Chuck Bender, Paul Gigous, Bob Hettlenger, Shyam Nair, Ted Gehman.

**Elders Retreat:** Once a year Pastor Pete gathers the Elders, and mentors them on many areas related to Sunny Place Church, and their role as the Body of Christ. We discuss our mission and purpose, “to bring all things together under One head, even Christ.” There is a vision within our church to be a model and a light for those around us. A light to those in Addison as well as those within our missions abroad. As Elders of the Church, we need to help our Ministry Teams respond to the needs of those around us. We are to set goals within our teams, and grow our resources and gifts within our groups.

Within our ministry teams, as we plan events, we need to stick to our calendar dates, measure our progress, and see that growth. We must be resourceful, and have a vision for the future. Our challenge is to set goals, evaluate where we are now, where we are going, and how we accomplish these goals as a team. Our actions as Elders, speak louder than words. We must show leadership that will unlock the potential of those around us. That potential is a God-given and limitless resource within us that energizes our work for Christ. As leaders we must set the tone for the work ahead of us. We have been challenged to tap into the power of God...How are you using your power?

### **Old & New Business:**

- The search for a worship leader is continuing.
- There has been progress on the parsonage, oak flooring has been completed. Tree removal has been completed.

Check our Website **Calendar** for the calendar of events.

<http://www.sunnyplacechurch.org/calendar>

The next Elders Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

# “Making a Difference in His Name”

Coming Soon:

## **Mission’s Fest**

Saturday and Sunday  
May 2nd and 3rd

With guest speakers:  
Peggy Beverly  
And Ruben and Jenny Schwieger

Saturday, Breakfast  
Sunday, “International Dinner”



Come for the breakfast and stay for the Lawnmower Tune-ups!

**Men's Ministry Breakfast!**

*Feeding the body, mind, and spirit.*

Saturday, April 11, 2015  
from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

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**Lawnmower Tune-ups**

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Has it really been 5 years? Yes, it has!

**Tasty food!**

**Ladies Ministry Breakfast**

Saturday, April 25, 2015  
9:00 a.m. —11:00 a.m.

**Fellowship with friends**

**April Sunday School Line-Up**  
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

**Adult  
Bible  
Study**

**“Jesus is Greater...”**

Study led by John Gryparis  
on the Book of Hebrews



**Children's Classes**

**Grades 1-6** led by Carla Weber

**Youth 7-12** led by Kim Gehman  
& Chuck Bender

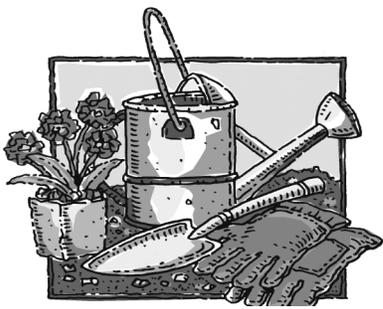
**Nursery services are provided**



**Thursday Evenings**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**at Sunny Place**

**“Jesus in 3-D”**

A study through the  
Synoptic Gospels  
led by Pastor Pete



# April 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Elder's Meeting 6:30 p.m. at Sunny Place</div>	2   <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Lord's Supper 6:30 p.m. at Sunny Place</div>	3	4
5   <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Easter Sunday</div>	6	7	8	9  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</div>	10	11  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Men's Breakfast 8:30-10:00a.m. at Sunny Place Lawnmower Tune-Up 10 to noon</div>
12  Spring Dinner at the Church 12:30 p.m.  	13	14	15	16  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</div>	17	18
19  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Light Lunch 12:30 p.m. &amp; Sweet Hour of Prayer at Sunny Place</div>	20	21	22  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Stewardship Meeting 6:30 p.m. at Sunny Place</div>	23  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</div>	24	25   <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Ladies 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Breakfast 9:00-11:00 a.m.</div>
26  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Missions Meeting 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place</div>	27	28	29	30		