

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

September, 2018

Hearing His Voice With Clarity

I've been thinking about this topic for months now and have chuckled, saying to myself on more than one occasion, "Why did you pick this topic to write about?" The reason I have asked myself that question is because this is something I have struggled in my youth, walking through life's journey, and sometimes when walking with God through the years. How about you?



Do you struggle with clarity about decisions you face in life, like: Do I look for a new job because I'm not happy where I'm at? Do I buy a new car because the one I'm driving isn't very dependable? Or, who should I marry? If you are of the younger generation you might be facing questions like: What do I do with my life now that I'm out of HS? Do I get a job, or what college should I go to? On a deeper and spiritual level, how about the questions like: What is my purpose here on earth? What is God's Will for my life? In what position should I serve at church? We are faced with questions like these, and so many more, on a daily basis. How do we find answers to these questions, and with clarity? As I sit here writing this, God has reminded me the answers have come to me easier, and with more clarity, as the years have passed in my life by drawing closer to Him, trusting Him, and learning to discern His voice.

There are numerous verses throughout the Bible about drawing close to God, but one of

my favorites is in James 4:8a (KJV). It reads "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." Drawing closer to God is what He desires of us, that we have fellowship with Him, that we not settle for a Christian life at a distance from Him. He's not to be a distant thought, but a near and present reality that we can experience every moment of our life. This drawing near is not a physical act. It's not going to the church building, or walking up to an altar at the front. It is an invisible act of the heart. You can do it while standing absolutely still, or while lying in a bed, or while sitting in a pew listening to a sermon. Drawing near is not moving from one place to another. It is a directing of your heart into the presence of God. As mentioned in the New Testament, John chapter 14, with the help of the Comforter, the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit) leading you, He will help you draw closer in your walk with God. As you walk closer with God and ask for clarity, God will clearly lead you in the direction of His plan for your life. Psalm 32:8 (KJV) "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

I recently read a story about John Kavanaugh. Fr. Kavanaugh was a professor of philosophy at St. Louis University. He had the opportunity to visit Mother Teresa while working for three months at her "house of the dying" in Calcutta. He was seeking clarity from God on the direction for his future. She asked him, "What can I do for you?" He asked, "Pray that I have clarity." Mother Teresa said firmly, "No. I will not do that." He was surprised and asked her why. She explained, "Clarity is the last thing you are clinging to and must let go of." Taken back, he said, "But you seem to have clarity from God." Mother

(Continued on next page)

CLARITY

Teresa laughed, "I have never had clarity; what I have always had is *trust*. So I will pray that you trust God."

TRUST: that is a big factor in my walk with God. Along with FAITH they work hand in hand together. In simple terms, if I don't trust God, I don't have faith in Him, and vice versa, if I don't have faith in Him; that means I can't trust Him. Early in my walk, I committed to memory two Scriptures: Hebrews 11:1 (KJV) "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen," and Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV) "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

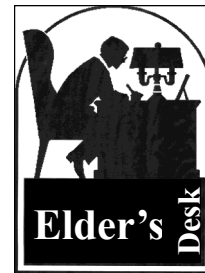
Now let me say that trust did not come right away, but over time; 62 years later, and I'm still learning to let go and trust God from time to time, with the help of the Holy Spirit. It's a growing process. As we draw closer to Him and get to know Him more intimately, we learn to let go more and more each time, and trust Him more and more. The more I've learned to trust Him, the more I want to hear Him speak to me, one-on-one like Samuel. Don't get me wrong here, I know God speaks to us in many ways, I have learned over the years. He speaks to us through the sermons we hear, through our fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord, through music, etc., but I also learned this shouldn't satisfy us. He wants **us to hear His voice, understand, and obey**. In order to accomplish this I have learned I have to go directly to His Word for knowledge and wisdom on how to hear Him.

The more you draw closer to God and trust Him, the more you seek Him through His written Word and prayer, the more you will learn to discern His voice and understand with clarity. In John 10:27 (KJV), it reads, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me". We don't have the clear visible ways like in the Old and New Testaments where there are accounts written of miraculously ways that God spoke to His

children. It's through the leading and working of the Holy Spirit in our lives that gives us the foundation and confirmation of recognizing when God is speaking to us, as written in Scripture. God speaks to us through His Word and His Spirit. In John 16:13 (NIV) "...when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."

In closing I want to share with you something I learned about sheep a few years ago when watching a documentary. Sheep used to be known to have a secret language with their shepherd that only they understood. Flocks of different shepherds would spend the night together in the same sheepfold. In the morning when the shepherds would come to get their flocks, each shepherd would enter the sheepfold and call his sheep. All of the sheep would hear the call, but only his sheep would recognize his voice understanding the meaning of his call, and follow him. In order to recognize their shepherd's voice, they would have to be his sheep. Unfortunately this method of training sheep to follow their shepherd has become a lost art of communication. For us though, Jesus spoke of the good shepherd and His Sheep in John 10:1-10. We are the Lord's sheep and He is our Shepherd. As we draw closer to Lord and learn God's character and His ways, we can build an intimate relationship with God. We will then learn to recognize His voice and hear Him with clarity.

Blessings,
Phyllis Clark



Connect

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TLC

Together Loving Christ

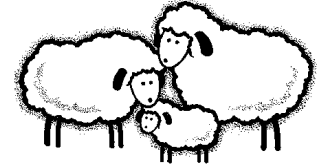
Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

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

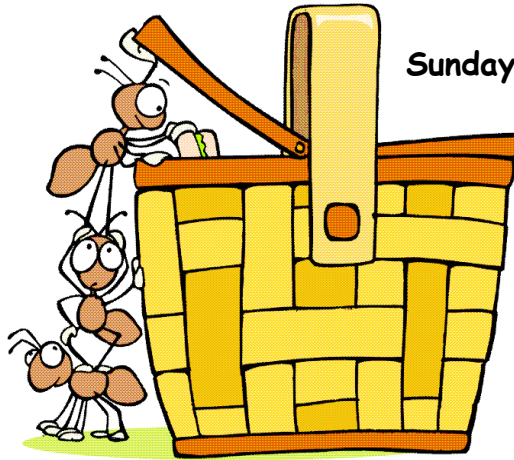
Grow in the Word!

Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

Kid's Rock available
for children ages five to nine
Nursery Services Provided



Sunny Place Annual Church Picnic



Sunday, September 9th, 12:30 p.m.

Come join us for an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship.
Emphasis on fellowship!

Meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Bring friends and family, all are welcome!

Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Elders Minutes of Meeting, August 1, 2018

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Bob Hettlinger, Tim Kasza, Sam Jacob and Nona Koivula

Devotion and prayer: “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”
Matthew 5:13-16

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted book balance; \$1,562.56. Giving for the month of July; \$11,286.23

Expenses for the month of July; \$13,862.18 Capitol Fundraising Campaign \$148,941

Worship: The meeting in July set the worship team schedule for August, Sept. and the first Sunday in Oct. The next meeting will be August 26 and will be combined with Prayer and Devotion.

Christian Education: The church picnic is planned for Sept. 9. The ministry is looking for teachers, particularly in Sept. This ministry will be folded together with the Fellowship ministry. A meeting date will be determined in the near future.

Hospitality & Encouragement: There was a luncheon attended by many people to share fellowship with several church couples. This ministry will be renamed Pastoral Care and Encouragement and folded together with Pastoral Counseling/Care.

Missions: The ministry is working with Pastor Pete to invite Kirk Bookout, Children of Promise to be a guest speaker in September with the purpose of learning more about this faith-based global organization providing necessary and significant assistance to needy families.

Prayer and Devotion: Sweet hour of prayer continues each 3rd Sunday.

Stewardship & Support Services: The Work Camp will be August 2 to 4. There are many who have signed up in advance. Tim has prepared a list of projects for volunteers.

Ladies Ministry: This ministry is supporting the Stewardship Work Camp.

Evangelism and Outreach: Each second Saturday this ministry hosts the Senior Luncheon, the next one will be August 11 with a ministry team meeting Aug 12. The Missions and Evangelism/ Outreach ministries will combine and attend this meeting.

Fellowship: This ministry will be folded with Christian Education.

Pastoral Counseling: The counseling continues as needed.

New and Old Business

- Pastor Pete and Carla will be on vacation from Sept 14 to 30
- There is a NICE Foundation trip planned, August 19-22 to deliver donated items

Next Elders meeting, Wednesday, Sept 5th



Kid's

Connection

CLARITY



1 Corinthians 13:12

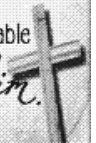
*"For now we see only a reflection
as in a mirror;
then we shall see face to face.
Now I know in part;
then I shall know fully,
even as I am fully known."*

The Bible
makes it clear that

God

is always available
to anyone who seeks

him.



Recharge Prayer Retreat Connect, Consecrate, Celebrate Camp Warren, Decatur, Ill Sept. 21 & 22

Keynote speaker: Mea Epps, Youth Coach, supporting the Christian Growth and Development for teens and young adults at the Edgemont Church of God, East St. Louis, MO

Worship leaders: Yvonne Graf and the Worship team of Shorewood Church of God

Retreat registration is \$30, this includes dinner Friday evening and Saturday breakfast.

Accommodations at the Camp Warren Retreat Center is \$65, needed by September 14th; or you may use Hawthorn Suites, in Decatur at \$74 plus tax, by August 21st.

Contact Cora Ruppe, Spiritual Life Coordinator, at 618-335-6804 for additional information.

2nd Saturday, Senior Luncheon

Saturday, August
11th, 11:30 a.m.
at Sunny Place
Church

Please join us for a Senior Luncheon!

Come be our guest
for food, great
speakers and
activities.

Free event for
Seniors 55 & up.
register now
at 630/398-2314



Meet Steven & Peggy Beverly, our missionaries to Sri Lanka



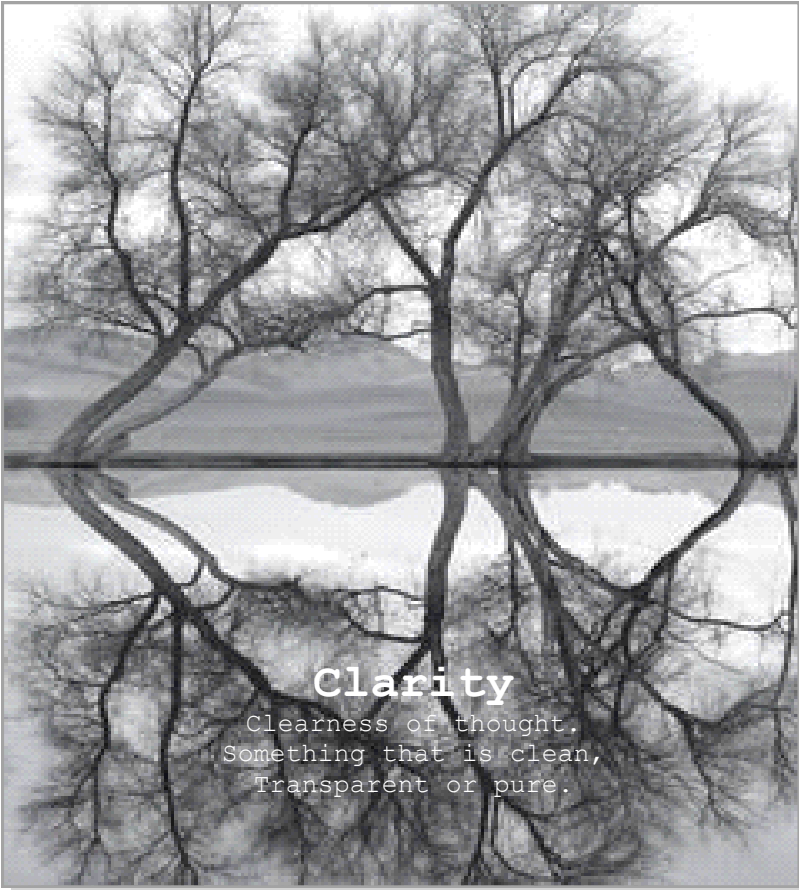
Steven & Peggy Beverly grew up together in Kansas City, KS. Steven graduated from Anderson University, and after teaching journalism and English in the Cayman Islands, became the associate editor of Vital Christianity. Peggy studied at Emporia State University in Kansas, and attended Rhema Bible Training College where she accepted God's call to missions. Peggy's call to serve took her on multiple trips to Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Nepal, Katmandu, Thailand and Israel. She is currently the itineration specialist for Global Missions. They were married in 2007. Both have a heart for missions and desired to fulfill God's call on their lives. They served together on short-term assignments in Catadupa, Jamaica, and in Poza Rica, Mexico, while making plans to pursue a career missionary assignment. After much prayer and seeking God's direction, Steven and Peggy soon answered God's call to serve in Sri Lanka.



The Assignment: Many Sri Lankan pastors live in remote villages where Buddhist antagonism to Christianity is strong. The pastors are excited about the hope that Christianity is bringing to their communities, but need additional training and support. After language study, Steven and Peggy will spend two years working closely with national leaders and pastors to develop relationships with pastors, in remote villages; teaching at the Christian training facility; and help develop a sustainable support network that will provide spiritual, biblical and leadership development.

About Sri Lanka: The major religions of Sri Lanka are Buddhism, Islamism, Hinduism and Christianity. Located just off the southern tip of India, the island has recently emerged from a twenty-six year civil war, and a tsunami in 2004. Ethnic and religious tensions, idol worship, the caste system, create an environment where sharing the love of God and the saving hope of Jesus Christ is imperative. Protestant Christians make up about 1.3 percent of twenty-two million people in Sri Lanka. The Church of God began in 1990 and now has thirty-three churches with more than four thousand believers.

AFTERNOON OF PRAYER
Light lunch following
Sunday, August 19th, 12:30 p.m.
at Sunny Place Church



Come and Join Us for Our,
ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC
Sunday, September 14th
12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place

Lot's of food!
Lot's of friends, Lot's of Fun, Lot's of Love
Please invite family and friends, all are
welcome!

Please bring a dish to pass.

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

“Discipleship”

Adult
Bible
Study

This class is essential
for everyone - new
believers, seasoned
Christians, growing
Christ followers.



Led by Pastor Pete

Children's Classes

Led by Carla Weber

Nursery services are provided

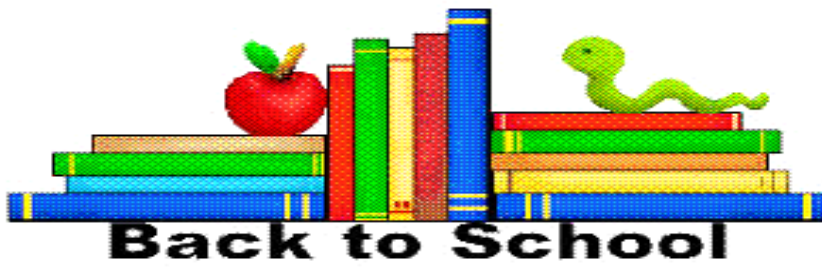
Thursday Evenings
7:00 p.m.
at Sunny Place



**“The Fullness of the
Deity in Christ
and in Us”**


A Bible Study
Through Paul's letter to
the Colossians

Led by Pastor Pete



September

2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2  Holy Communion	3  HAPPY LABOR DAY	4	5 Elder's Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	6 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	7	8 2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. at Sunny Place
9  Church Picnic 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place	10	11  PATRIOT DAY 09-11	12	13 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	14	15 Church Work Day 9:00 a.m. at Sunny Place
16 Afternoon of Prayer, light lunch following 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place	17	18	19 Christian Education Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	20  Autumn Begins <u>NO</u> Adult Bible Study	21  INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY Christian Women Connection #RECHARGE Prayer Retreat Camp Warren, Decatur, IL	22
23	24	25	26	27 <u>NO</u> Adult Bible Study	28	29
30						