

JERICO CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

JANUARY 2012 NEWSBITES Full Edition



Pastor's Desk

An Exciting Year

Two thousand twelve looks like it is going to be an exciting year. For the five Sundays in January we will be taking a closer look at David Platt's Radical Experiment and the five commitments he is challenging us to consider making for one year. May 2012 be that year! And then on January 14 & 15, we have an opportunity to hear Elaine Phillips, Professor of Old Testament at Gordon College, speak on the geography of the Bible. I think you'll find her lectures fascinating and enlightening. Her schedule is as follows:

Elaine Phillips: Geography and the Bible

Saturday, January 14 in JCC Fellowship Hall

3:00-5:30pm - 1st & 2nd Sessions

5:30-6:30pm - Dinner

7:00-8:30pm - 3rd Session followed by Q&A

Sunday, January 15 in Choir Room

9:30-10:30am 4th Session

Dinner will be a covered dish, so bring a main course, salad or dessert to share. Come get to know Professor Phillips. She is the one who will be leading the Holy Land study tour in April 2013.

Also in this newsletter you will find an article from Pastor Carter about a mission trip to Mexico for the youth and anyone else in the church who would like to join them this summer. This is an opportunity to serve Christ in a different culture as David Platt spoke about. I hope you'll prayerfully consider doing this or else give a week of your time to another mission closer to home this year. Ed Guilfoxy started envisioning what this might mean when people like us commit to doing five days of service that glorifies the Lord, shows Christ in us and brings Christ to the world. If one hundred of us serve in 2012, that's 500 days of outreach by JCC and a great opportunity for personal growth in an area that challenges your comfort level - such as volunteering at Joni and Friends camp, or Respite House or a nursing home or Kids Alive, or working with refugees/immigrants in Burlington, etc. I think you get the idea.

I asked last fall's small groups to report back about some of the ideas their groups came up with. One group wrote in part: *The six women in our group have been deeply affected by reading Radical. It is our intention that our response will be life changing and permanent. (They have named their group CHRISTA - Christ's Heart Rooted In Service To All)... Part way through the study of Radical, we decided to begin to try to practice sacrificial giving. Because of these efforts, at the end of November, we were able to purchase a well, Operation Christmas Child booklets, a bicycle for a Missionary and animals for families in need through Samaritans Purse, Gospel for Asia and Compassion. Our group is also doing a meal at the Burlington Emergency Shelter in late December. We hope to continue this practice as well as determining future service projects (Feed My Starving Children, serveburlington.com, etc.) that we can all be involved with. As part of our efforts, we will be exploring and learning about organizations in Chittenden County as well as across the globe, which exemplify and execute the commandments from Scripture emphasized in Radical. Our desire is to walk in love and obedience along the narrow way to bring glory to God.*

Another group came up with some suggestions of ways to implement the service component of Radical, both as individuals and as a church. 1) *Those who are vegetable farmers, for every nine paid shares, give one share to someone in need.* 2) *Vegetable gardeners, commit to feeding two elderly people fresh vegetables each year.* 3) *Have JCC develop a sister church relationship in Appalachia or Vladimir, Russia or Papua New Guinea.* 4) *Sacrifice a portion of retirement security nest egg and give to others.*

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(Pastor's Desk Cont.)

5) Give Bibles, hymnals, school supplies, desks and chairs that would enrich a school experience in a third world country. Send a carpenter to teach them how to make benches and chairs, etc. 6) Help Gibson Santos on Ponape outfit or get music equipment to augment his choirs' outreach around the Pacific islands. 7) Assist local National Guard families undergoing deployment. 8) Take a mission we already support as a church and find out how we can volunteer to help them.

As you can see, our study of Radical helped prime the pump and many of us came up with lots of good suggestions. Now the challenge is finding what we as a church can get behind and putting feet on those ideas. We'll work on that in 2012. In the meantime, be praying about how the Lord wants to use you and our JCC family this year.

In Christ's love,



Time for Some Radical Steps...South?

Well, the Radical study is completed. I know that the book has stirred much thinking in me and I hope it has in you as well. This book, along with our family's mission trip last summer, has had me thinking about what's next. For the past month or so I have been exploring various mission trip opportunities. After gathering information from about seven different sources as well as consulting with Pastor Peter, the youth board, deacons and missions committees and spending time in prayer on this issue, I am ready to make a proposal. That proposal is that we put together a group from our church that would travel with Dayspring Outreach Ministries (the organization my family went with) into Mexico for ministry next summer. The reasons for choosing Dayspring follow. First, I already have a relationship with the people in this organization. They are a great group comprised of Americans and Mexicans working hard together for the sake of the gospel. Secondly, there are many needs in Mexico that I know the people of our church can help meet. Thirdly, this trip would get us beyond the comfort zone of our own borders and yet is among the most economical. We would fly to southern Texas and then be driven across the border by Dayspring. This saves on international airfare and the cost of passports (passport cards can be used).

I would ask that you would be in prayer about your part in this trip. If you feel the Lord may be leading you to be among those that go, please mark **January 13th** on your calendar. That evening, at 7:00 p.m. we will have an informational meeting in the youth room of the Sunday School Building. This trip will be open to all ages. However, those younger than high school age will need at least one parent to attend with them. If you do not feel led to go at this time you can still support the trip by praying that God raises up those who should go and

by giving toward the trip. It really does take the whole body to accomplish this kind of venture.

Some may raise the objection that the economy is tight now and that it is not the best time to go on a mission trip. I would respond by saying that if we are relying on God to provide, then it may be the very best time to go! I know that if it is His will that we go, He will provide the resources. Let's pursue His will together!

Glenn Carter

Committee News

Christian Education

"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

Rev. 21:3- 5a

Happy New Year! Even though these words from the book of Revelation refer to Jesus' second coming and his reign in the New Jerusalem, I cannot but stop and see many parallels with his first coming. At Christmastime we sing about "Emmanuel" God with us. That Jesus came down from heaven to physically dwell among men in order to show them and us, the Father. When his earthly life ended, he sent us another Counselor to be with us forever - the Spirit of truth. So through this gift of grace and God's Word, we have in all things, at all times, everything we need to abound in every good work. It is our responsibility in this "new" year to allow the LORD to transform our thoughts, emotions and actions through His Spirit and His Word. And then we are able to hear Him whisper, "Behold! I am making all things new in YOU!"

Just a few important happenings to note...

Praise the Lord! We have a **VBS** director and we haven't even turned the corner of the new year! Michelle Jaquith has graciously come forward to continue her role as director that began last year. She is seeking someone to come alongside and share this responsibility. Please speak to Michelle to explore this possibility.

Sunday School Teachers: We would like to hold a teachers' meeting on committee night in January to talk about the next phase of our "Share-Care-Tell" focus for this Sunday school year. More details will follow.

Ladies Bible Study, with Bonnie Bound, resumes Thurs. January 12th at 10 am with a study in Philippians entitled "Joy in the Journey". Study that day will be followed by a potluck

luncheon and celebration. For more information, contact Maureen Ashley or Dawna Moultroupe.

Deacons

The JCC church-wide small group study of David Platt's book "Radical" this past proved to be stimulating and challenging, bringing up many good questions and discussions. Feedback tells us people are still "chewing on" and digesting the material and scriptures presented, both individually and with each other - and praying about the response the Lord would like to have from them. Some are formulating ideas, some are already taking steps in a new direction... (and yes, first steps or baby steps count!) We are looking forward to hearing reports from the JCC Body that will encourage and inspire all of us.

Starting in January, Pastor Peter will be doing a sermon series based on the ninth and final chapter of "Radical". Together we will be exploring the five components of David Platt's challenge in this order:

- Jan. 1st - New Year's Day - Introduction
- Jan. 8th - Praying For The World
- Jan. 15th - Reading The Bible
- Jan. 22nd - Sacrifice
- Jan. 29th - Exploring A Different Context
- Feb. 5th - Committing To A Church

What a wonderful way to start out the New Year 2012! Heading into a deeper walk and adventure with Christ, let's commit ourselves to follow Him and the truth of His Word more closely than ever before. So, get a little 'radical' - This could be the best year of your life!

Darilynn McClary, Board of Deacons

Stewardship

Have you ever thought about the giving of monetary offerings as an act of worship? Under the Old Testament, the tithe--or the first ten percent of one's income--was the baseline of giving for the support of God's temple and the priests to run it. That hasn't changed. The church still depends entirely on the tithes of its members to do the Lord's work, support our pastors, and keep up our buildings. To give the tithe is a commandment, but we don't have to stop there. Under the New Testament, we are encouraged to give joyfully, thankfully, and also sacrificially, as Christ gave himself to us. (See II Corinthians 8:1-9.) Just as we raise our voices in song to praise God and thank him for all He's done for us; as we reflect on the cross, and our souls well up with gratitude for a debt we could never repay, the giving of offerings is yet another way to praise our Lord. Think of how often we give each other gifts of appreciation: a jar of homemade jelly or a basket of flowers brought to dinner for the host and hostess, a potted plant for teachers on Sunday School Recognition day, a box of

chocolates for the nurses at the hospital. None of those gifts is required, but are given out of love and appreciation.

So, how much do we love and appreciate our Lord? Enough to sing to him with all the joy in our hearts? Enough to offer prayers of heartfelt gratitude? Enough to empty our wallets sacrificially? Now there's something to ponder as we start the new year!

Chicken Pie Supper News

Each year, the proceeds from Chicken Pie Supper are used to reach into the local community, as well as charities in line with JCC's mission statement. At the December Advisory Board meeting, agreement was reached to use \$1300 of the proceeds to support CareNet's operation, the 2nd sonogram machine they are obtaining. To reach out a helping hand in the wake of hurricane Irene, it was decided to give \$500 to Jericho Settlers Farm. They lost crops and animals in the flooding. Bethany Johnson, from our congregation, has been working with orphans in Russia through "The Boaz Project" and recently reported the need for more funding to remain in Russia for the full year. \$500 will be sent for her support. This will leave a little over \$100 as seed money for the 2012 supper.

It's a baby shower!

A baby shower brunch is planned for Katie Hamm & Jess Courtemanche Sat. Jan. 7 at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Both ladies are registered at Babies "R" Us & Katie is also at Amazon.com. Group gift by Katie Griffin

Nursery Schedule for January

Please look for your name on the nursery schedule. If everyone in the church is willing to help, no one will have to serve more than once a year. Call Liana Szczecinski to fix any conflicts you may have.

- 1st Cari & Andrew Causey
- 8th Sharon Anderson & Joshua Carter
- 15th Katie Griffin & Nathan Brown
- 22nd Pat Bartlett & Jeff Johnson
- 29th Betty Rainford & Michaela Lick

♥ Anniversaries & Birthdays




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|--|---|
| 3 rd Leslie Meyer
Ama Hannan | 15 th Karin DiPietro
Mike Daniels |
| 6 th ♥ Steve & Bonnie
Klimowski | 18 th Jonathan Brown |
| 10 th Isaac Post | 20 th Shengying Qu |
| 13 th Maura Ashley
Eileen Fisher
Nathan Brown | 22 nd Sarah Jaquith |
| 14 th Reed Sims | 23 rd Tina Kurrelmeyer |
| | 24 th Sue Strifert |
| | 28 th Bea Hassler |
| | 31 st ♥ Rich & Karen Parker |



January 2012



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>Worship Service & Communion</i> 11:00 am Worship *1 NO Prayer meeting NO Youth Group	2 Pastor Carter's Day Off	3 6:00 am Men's Book Study *5 5:30 pm High School Bible Study at Davis' 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Gagne's	4 <i>Annual Reports Due</i> 1:30 pm Mom's In Touch @ Carter's 7:00 pm Special Congregational Meeting	5	6 Pastor Anderson's Day Off 5:30 pm Jr. High Night at Davis'	7 9:30 am Brunch Baby shower for Katie Hamm and Jess Courtemanche *2
8 <i>Worship Service</i> 8:00 & 11:00 am Worship *1 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship *2 6:15 pm Youth Group *6 6:30 pm All Church Prayer *1	9 Pastor Carter's Day Off	10 6:00 am Men's Book Study *5 5:30 pm High School Bible Study at Davis' 7:15 pm Meeting Night	11 1:30 pm Mom's In Touch @ Carter's 7:30 pm Adult Choir Resumes *3	12 10:00 am Ladies' Bible Study resumes with Lunch 6-7:30 pm AWANA	13 Pastor Anderson's Day Off 7 pm Mission Trip Information Meeting *6	14 10:00 am Flower Committee *2 3:00 pm—8:30 pm with dinner Elaine Phillips: Geography & the Bible *2
15 <i>Worship Service</i> 8:00 & 11:00 am Worship *1 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am 4 th Elaine Phillips session *3 10:30 am Fellowship *2 Reception of New Members at both Services 6:15 pm Youth Group *6	16 Pastor Carter's Day Off	17 6:00 am Men's Book Study *5 NO High School Bible Study 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Gagne's	18 1:30 pm Mom's In Touch @ Carter's 7:30 pm Adult Choir *3	19 10:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6-7:30 pm AWANA 7 pm Food Shelf Set Up (Have your donations in by Sun the 15 th) *8	20 Pastor Anderson's Day Off <i>January Newsletter Deadline</i> 5:30 pm Jr. High Night at Davis'	21 9:00 am Food Shelf Distribution *8
22 <i>Worship Service</i> 8:00 & 11:00 am Worship *1 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship *2  Sanctity of Life Sunday 6:15 pm Youth Group *6	23 Pastor Carter's Day Off	24 6:00 am Men's Book Study *5 5:30 pm High School Bible Study at Davis'	25 1:30 pm Mom's In Touch @ Carter's 7:30 pm Adult Choir *3	26 10:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 7 pm Annual Meeting *1 with Fellowship before at 6:30 *2	27 Pastor Anderson's Day Off 8 pm Night Flight *meet at church	28
29 <i>Worship Service</i> 8:00 Worship *1 11:00 Praise Service *1 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship *2 Potluck after Praise Service *2 NO Youth Group *6	30 Pastor Carter's Day Off	31 6:00 am Men's Book Study *5 5:30 pm High School Bible Study at Davis' 7 pm Deacons *7	Church Office Hours: Closed Mon, Tues.-Fri. 10:30-5 pm E-mail: officejcc(at)comcast.net Web site: www.jccvt.org Phone # 899-4911 Fax # 899-5211 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1022, Jericho Center, VT 05465		JCC Location Codes: *1 Church Sanctuary *2 Fellowship Hall *3 Choir Room Church Bldg *4 Community Center *5 <i>Village Cup</i> *6 Ofc Bldg.-Upstrs. YG Rm *7 Ofc. Bldg.-1st FL Mtg Rm *8 GSLC-Rt.15	