

# The Word on the (F) Street

## Stop Talking

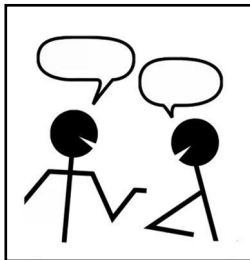
Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

In reading through the books of Timothy, I have been confronted, personally, on the danger of talking. In fact, just moments before writing this, I realized how easy it is for me to want to talk rather than listen. I had to go apologize for my desire to be heard rather than to hear. Paul states to Timothy, "Don't let them waste their time in endless discussion of myths and spiritual pedigrees. These things only lead to meaningless speculations, which don't help people live a life of faith in God. The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith." - 1 Timothy 1:4-5. Paul repeats this idea of the danger of talking, not only in 1 Timothy, but also in his second book to Timothy.

I have been left to ponder the modern equivalent of this for us today. In a time where there are many who have strong opinions about politics, COVID, and race. I wonder if we, as followers of Christ, too are too busy talking, with too little love in action. After all, Micah 6:8 states, "...this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

Each of the three things that Paul says God requires of us are actions bigger than our mouths moving.

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we are to be in conversation. In fact, I would more conversations. But a place where we listen, are speaking with. Con- where we speak the truth in love, offering grace, truth, or acceptance and direction to our world. Let's not forget what Paul states in his letter to the Corinthians, "For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power." - 1 Corinthians 4:20.

I want to encourage us, as followers of Jesus, to be careful in this time, about the amount of talk that we have that is not backed by the way that we live our lives. As our world seems to be becoming more and more divided and divisive, we need to be careful that we are "not wasting our time caught up in the endless discussion, that lead to meaningless speculation which don't help people live a life of faith in God." We need to love, love our neighbor as ourselves.

What if we were to:

- Think less about what we want to say in a post, or in response to someone we disagree with, or are angry with, and think more about how we can love that person, and take time to pray for them. We should seek to bless, rather than curse, those you disagree with. Jesus taught us, in the Sermon on the Mount, and modeled with his life and death, "But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven..." - Matthew 5:44-45.
- Spend more time listening to others, specifically those different than ourselves. Remember, James 1:19 states, "Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry."



A Place of Acceptance and Direction  
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**"For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power."  
1 Corinthians 4:20**

### Calendar for July 2020

2nd: 6:30pm FoodNet  
3rd: **Happy Birthday Terri Sikyta**  
5th: Sunday Service  
6th: **Happy Birthday Kat Jordan**  
7th: 6:30am Prayer; **Happy Birthday Caleb Bridges**  
9th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Beth Heerspink**  
11th: **Happy Birthday Blake Patterson**  
12th: Sunday Service  
13th: **Happy Birthday Dawn Bodfield, Jacki Knapp**  
14th: 6:30am Prayer  
16th: 6:30pm FoodNet  
19th: Sunday Service; **Happy Birthday Clarence Mabin, Marian Shackelford**  
21st: 6:30am Prayer  
22nd: **Happy Birthday Debi Crisler**  
23rd: 6:30pm FoodNet  
24th: **Happy Birthday Syncere Triplett**  
26th: Sunday Service  
27th: **Happy Birthday Anthony Gragg**  
28th: 6:30am Prayer  
30th: 6:30pm FoodNet

Please keep us up to date on birthdays & anniversaries! If you aren't sure that we have your information, talk to Jane Mailand or simply fill out a Welcome Card and hand it to her. In addition, if your address, phone, or email has changed, let Jane know.

- Leave vengeance to God as Christ did. We do not have to be right in the eyes of others. We need to do right. This is what Christ did for us, *“He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.”* - 1 Peter 2:23. Peter is also clear that it is by our living this way that we will show the world that we are his, and give them a reason to ask for the hope that we have.

I want to be clear. I am not wanting to silence anyone, nor ignore the great issues that we face. I would argue the opposite. We need to speak for truth, but we also need to be careful to listen. We need to stand up for what is right, and for Justice, but we need to start by praying for those who cause the hurt and injustice. We need to love in a time when there is much hatred.

### New Series



In the month of July, we will be going through a new preaching series from the book of Nehemiah, titled *“Rebuilding from the Ruins.”* In our current series, *“Better Together,”* we have looked at the key aspects that the early church was devoted too, as a means for bringing unity and seeing God work in their midst. July’s series will look at four mindsets that are necessary for our work in bring restoration and redemption to our neighborhood, and beyond.

I encourage each of you to read ahead and do some study in the book of Nehemiah. There are more than four chapters in this great, Old Testament book, and far more than we can cover in each of the four chapters we will be covering.

I am looking forward to uncovering what God had for us in this series with you.

### 12- Plex

Over the past year, we have been processing the idea of purchasing the 12 – plex, across the parking lot. We have had a vision for it to be a place for residents who are serving the church and neighborhood, for people in recovery or transition, and for people who love the neighborhood. We have toured it and put together a plan to purchase it.

In the end, the building sold, without a response to our offer, and for more than we would have wanted to pay. We believe that we have been faithful to God in the journey, and that he has closed this door for us as it was not meant to be.

We hope that God might allow for some new venture, but also see that he has given us plenty to do at “F” Street Church at this time. Thanks to everyone who has prayed and supported the idea. We know and continue to trust that God is at work in the Neighborhood.

### Family Meeting, July 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

For those of you who are new to “F” Street Neighborhood Church, we try to host quarterly Family Meetings. Typically, these are a potluck, with discussion, and vision casting about the church. Many of you might consid-



er this a congregational meeting, and we would agree, we just like the idea that we are a family.

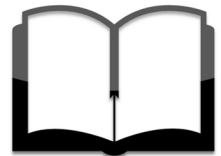
To be family is to be a member of “F” Street Church, and to be a member is defined by the following:

- You have a personal relationship with Christ
- Are active in: attending, serving, and giving at “F” Street Neighborhood Church

We know that for some of you, it might be more difficult to stay part of “F” Street Church, due to the resent merge. But these are some of the things that we will be talking about at this meeting. We hope to have a time to share about teams (which are areas that we would love to have you serve), giving (some of the specifics with that, as we enter this new phase of ministry, and will share some other things about “F” Street Church), and specific ministries as well as have a time to answer your questions.

For those of you excited about the idea of a church potluck... *sorry!* This meeting will take place in the sanctuary, practicing social distancing. Potlucks, Lord willing, will happen again soon.

## What Does a “Teaching Pastor” Do?



Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

As the newest member of the “F” Street Neighborhood Church staff team, you may be wondering what exactly I will be doing. That is a good question to consider, as our two congregations merge, and Jeff and I form a partnership as ministers of Christ.

My work alongside of Jeff will focus in four main areas: preaching, pastoral care and counseling, discipleship, and training. In this article I will briefly describe my responsibilities in the area of discipleship. I plan to do the same with the other assigned areas in future articles of our church newsletter.

There are two reasons why I have chosen to talk about discipleship first. One, is the priority that Jesus gave to this in his Great Commission, recorded in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20, and Acts 1. It has been well said that his last command should be our first concern. I believe that this is true! “F” Street Neighborhood Church desires to be a congregation where we make disciples (those who are fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ).

A second reason is due to the timing of the calendar. While summer has just begun, it will not be long before fall will arrive. With the start of the new school year, we want to be prepared to build upon our current efforts in two key areas of discipleship. One is our Community Groups, the other is helping new believers get established and growing in their relationships with Christ (including baptism).

Right now, I am in the process of learning how these things work at “F” Street Church. I want to see what we are doing well, so that we can adjust, and do these things even better in the future. In the days ahead, I will greatly appreciate hearing your thoughts on this very important mission we have been

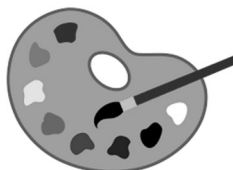
given: To make disciples!

P.S. Coming in September, the Lincoln School of Ministry resumes! More on this next month!

## New Art at "F" Street Jean Stryker

Our church building is a work of art, with its great architecture and colorful stained glass. Even though we love those things, it's important now and then to create new art that expresses our worship, our understanding of who God is, and of who we are as a body of believers. The "F" Street arts ministry has a couple of different projects in planning stages, and you're invited to take part in helping to make them happen.

Anyone who comes to our block parties can help create a mural for the Trans-Store building. We'll have the mural pieces at a few block parties this summer, and you'll be able to add your personal flair to them! Once the pieces are painted, they'll be mounted and sealed on the Transformations building for the whole neighborhood to enjoy.



In response to our merger with the Jacob's Well community, we'll also be making a collaborative artwork at our Family Meeting on July 15. This piece will express our identity as a diverse group of individuals who choose to join together as one family, united in Christ. It will be displayed inside the church when it's finished.

If you have ideas for using art to enrich our worship, please contact Jean Stryker.

## Getting a Ride to Church in the Age of COVID-19 Tad Stryker, Elder

Do you want a ride to church on Sunday morning? Do you know of someone who does?

Our Transportation Team would be glad to pick up anyone who needs it. We can make it work, even during the age of COVID-19. Tad Stryker is team leader for Transportation. Call or text him at 402-802-0597 and ask to be included. You can call on behalf of someone else. If at all possible, make your request by early Saturday evening.

Due to COVID-19, we recommend you wear a mask when riding the van, although we do not require it. We are temporarily limiting the number of people in the church van, which leads to more trips required. This means you may not be on the first vanload to arrive at church, or the first to leave church for home. Thanks for your patience.

## Health Ministry Corner Barb Douglas, PHM

God's Blessings to all of my brothers and sisters in Christ, I hope you are all doing well and staying connected to each other and the body of Christ. Granted, it has been a challenge for all of us. But our church leadership has made it possible to stay connected through availability in person, sermons on YouTube and Facebook, and the open air services in the parking lot. It has been wonderful to be able to open the church building again for services on Sunday. We hope to be able to reopen the Sunday

School and Nursery soon. Phase 111 started on June 22, 2020. This means we can move into these areas with less restrictions, and we are making those decisions and preparations now. We will try to keep you all updated as we move toward God's will for us in the coming days, weeks and months.

Following are a few verses from scripture that seem to fit our need for direction in this uncertain time.

1. Proverbs 16:9, "A man's heart devises his way: but the Lord directs his steps."
2. Proverbs 3:6, "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths."
3. Isaiah 28:26, "For his God does instruct him in truth, and does teach him."
4. Isaiah 54:13, "And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children."

I hope and pray that many of you are beginning to open your Bibles and read the best instructions we have been given to live and navigate this life we have been given. God's blessings, grace, and benevolence be with each one of you throughout this next while, as we wait for God's hand to be revealed in all things.



## Thoughts From Jenn Bender, Health Ministries

Hello to my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

What a strange season it has been. However strange it has been for us, God knew long before it happened that it would happen just as it is. Ecclesiastes 3 states, "For everything there is a season, and time for every purpose under heaven." We may not always understand why things are the way they are. But I don't think it is important to always understand, but more importantly to know that God will sustain us, and to trust him no matter how bleak a situation may seem.



COVID-19 has been a hard season for so many. Many people are without work, and pay. Many others are losing, or have lost services that they counted on for their wellbeing. Personally speaking, I work at a treatment center, and it has been a substance use crisis, as well as depression and mental health crisis. Also many of you know that I have been experiencing my own personal crisis with my daughter. She has been struggling with depression and alcoholism. Recently she has been hospitalized fighting for her life with catastrophic health issues that have arisen from her condition.

My brothers and sisters, it has been a tough time all the way around, but still I find my peace and hope with Jesus Christ. Hebrews 12:2, "Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross, and he is now seated at the right side of God's throne." AMEN.

No matter the distance we have experienced with each other, let there be no doubt that God is with us, he will not abandon us, nor forsake us. I look forward to serving with you all in the days, weeks, and months ahead. And a huge welcome to all merging with "F" Street Church from Jacob's Well. I look forward to getting to know you, pray with you, sing praises with you, and serve the neighborhood with you all.

Never cease to praise God, no matter how bleak the road is. He is still the great *I AM*, he is still good, and he is still worthy. Peace be with you, and God bless you.

### **Regular Email Updates**

If you would like to, but are not getting regular updates about things at "F" Street Neighborhood Church, please send a request to be added to the email list at [fstreetchurch@gmail.com](mailto:fstreetchurch@gmail.com)

### **Prayer Requests**

If you have prayer requests, please send them to our office email at [fsncoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fsncoffice@gmail.com)



***Farmer's Market***  
***June 9 - August 23***  
***4:30 - 7:00 p.m.***

