

THE NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR

Elevator/Lift

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

On March 13, the Elders of F Street approved moving forward with replacing our current “elevat” (not really an elevator) with a new lift similar to what we have. This will be a larger, safer, and of course newer lift. Moving forward means that we are placing the order and then we will be waiting for up to three months for the new lift to be built and shipped to Lincoln.

We are working at this time to have the time without a lift be as minimal as possible but there are some reasons that this may be out of our control. That said, please know it is our goal to get this replaced so that everyone can attend worship without limitations.

The elders did approve this work even though it was not fully funded through special offerings. We are still over \$20,000 short of raising the entire amount needed. We have some funds that we can use but want to encourage you to continue to contribute to this special request.

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Young Love

BETH HEERSPINK, COACH

For “Pie Day,” Jeff and I headed down to Blaze Pizza with the kids for \$3.14 pizzas. It was kind of a failure as the line was too long and we ended up with rainchecks instead of pizzas. Still, it was a nice effort on our part. Or so I thought. Until I heard about someone else. Someone else who had just started a new relationship. Someone else who got a French Silk Pie delivered to the office on Pie Day. How romantic and thoughtful. When I heard, I looked at Jeff, rolled my eyes, and said under my breath, “Young Love.” (He rolled his eyes back at me and said, “Old love is nice too.”)

I pondered the idea of “young love” more. It really boiled down to the idea of intentional thoughtfulness. I decided to look for an opportunity to practice. It came on a Wednesday morning. Jeff was discouraged. He sent me a text saying, “I want to fall asleep and not wake up ‘til a week from today. So tired and so stressed.” I decided old love would send a text and say, “I’m so sorry you are feeling that way. I love you and appreciate all that you do!” Young love had to do something more, so I hit the drive-through at Scooters for a Carmelicious and Green Gateau for an espresso muffin.

Transforming. All of our relationships should be transforming for the glory of God. Our hearts and minds and actions should be transforming to be more like Jesus. “The only one that wants a change is a newborn baby” should NOT be a true statement. We can all make the intentional choice to just do something different than we would have done before, and eventually the small choices compound and we find ourselves transforming.

“Transformed Life Coaching” is the name that we chose for the coaching ministry at F Street Church, because it represents our goal: That we would be “transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2).” We are enjoying our new location in the upstairs of the Atlas building, and love being part of the journey toward transformation for many. We also loved the initials “TLC”: Sharing God’s Tender Loving Care with one another!

For those of you who are wondering, Jeff is fine. The espresso muffin had a positive impact on his physical and mental health and he returned to his normal energetic self shortly after consumption.

3M Classes Scheduled on April 7th, 14th & 21st

BILL THORNTON, TEACHING PASTOR

With a view toward developing fully devoted Christ followers at FSNC, we plan to offer a series of hour-long classes during April that we call 3M which will include teaching on Membership, Maturity, and Ministry. Membership will help folks become better acquainted with what it means to be a part of our F Street family. Maturity will focus on the habits that will foster spiritual growth in our lives. Ministry will explore how each of us is uniquely shaped to serve the Lord and His people.

Each class will be offered in one session that will last sixty minutes and will occur following the Sunday morning worship service. We plan to provide lunch, so you will want to sign up in order that we will know how many to plan for. Our class schedule will be as follows:

Membership, April 7th

Maturity, April 14th

Ministry, April 21st

Please feel free to contact Pastor Bill with questions or to sign-up for these classes.

Cali Trip

SAGE PETERSON, YOUTH DIRECTOR

Time has been moving so quick and we can't believe that the end of the school year is almost upon us! With that though we are starting to move our attention to the summer and some of the trips that we are taking with our students. The biggest one of these being the trip out to Hawaiian Gardens, California. On this trip we will be partnering with The Way Out Ministries to help support their VBS that they put on for their entire city. Hawaiian Gardens is a small city that is located between Long Beach and Anaheim and struggles with poverty and gang related issues. Every year one of the biggest events that they put on is their VBS where a large number of the elementary age kids in the city attend.

Our students here at F Street will be traveling out as a group in the first week in June to go and support the VBS by helping to transform the church into the theme of the VBS by creating sets, props, games, and advertisements! We are excited for our students to be able to experience a new context while also taking this time to serve and dive deeper into their faith!

Right now, our students are working to fundraise for this trip to help cover their travel expenses and also purchase building materials. If you're interested in supporting this trip or a student, please contact Sage at sage@fstreetchurch.org

The Seven Deadly Sins: Part 7 - Against the Thoughts of Fornication

ANDY BUTLER, TECH & BENEVOLENCE LEADER


Evagrius wrote this thought and scriptural response on the subject of fornication:

1. Against the soul that does not know that it is due to the desires that every kind of temptation from the demons comes upon it:

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your desires that are at war within you? (James 4:1)

I'm very thankful the Bible doesn't leave us on our own when figuring out what's right and wrong in the area of fornication, or sexual sin. The sex ethic in scripture is so clear, some of us become disheartened immediately, and never really choose to meditate on, or try to understand what scripture actually says about sexual purity or purity in general. When Paul addresses the Corinthians about some of their issues, he uses the word "porneia" which when translated means: "immorality." Also, this is where our English word "pornography" comes from. Then in the Latin translation of the Bible, "porneia" was translated to "fornicati", which is where we get our word "fornication." So, immorality, fornication, impurity, porneia and sexual sin are all closely related. When Paul chooses to call out the Corinthians in letter form, he calls their sin "immorality" so that's what we'll call it as well.

I chose the above entry from Evagrius's handbook because it made me realize something I don't often realize until it's too late. That is, how much my desires have to do with my choices. I believe that deep within all of us there is an original, edenic desire to be pure and holy in God's sight. To treat our own bodies and other people's bodies with respect. Further, to acknowledge the natural, God-imaging, aesthetic beauty of others without turning that into something perverse, selfish or even disgusting. However, this often feels like something we have little control over. This is partly because of a distinction I (and others) would make between our strongest desires and our deepest desires. Simply put, our deepest desires are often outweighed by our strongest desires. My deepest desire is for God's will or what is right, just, holy or good in any given situation. But my strongest desires; born out of selfishness, pride, perversion, et al, win out more than I would like. Understanding this distinction between your strongest desires and your deepest desires is one of the keys to battling your inner thoughts of sexual immorality and immorality in general.

Continued on next page 

The Seven Deadly Sins: Part 7 - Continued...

ANDY BUTLER, TECH & BENEVOLENCE LEADER

Getting back to Paul's warning to the Corinthians, in 1 Corinthians 6:15-16 he tells them: "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." What is Paul saying here? If you consider that later in 1 Corinthians 12 Paul talks about the body of Christ being one body with many members, then you begin to see that your sexual sin or porneia doesn't only affect you. Taken to its logical end, Paul seems to write as if you're dragging Christ himself with you into whatever perverse thing you choose to engage in. And that is, of course, leaving out the sin against yourself and whomever else is involved. To drive this point in scripture home a little further, we jump back to 1 Corinthians 6:18 where Paul says, "Every sin, whatever a person commits, is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body." All of Paul's emphasis on "the body" here is to address a belief some Greeks had at the time that I think some of us still carry. Many of them thought their bodies were unimportant. Some early Greeks even referred to their bodies as tombs or "a weight the soul is forced to carry around." Paul is saying, "No!" to that. Instead, Paul says, our bodies are important and the God he serves has a valuable, eternal plan for them.

Scripture has much more to say about this. I would suggest a close, meditative, slow reading of Corinthians if you're still not convinced. I would also suggest looking at the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus delivers a sex ethic that grows to include even our thoughts. This is why I started out with our desires, and I will also end there. We need to ask God to change our desires. We need to humbly repent and submit our desires in this area to God. God has a plan for our bodies and the greater body of Christ, which we are a part of. We can't see our bodies as unimportant, and we can't see our strongest, base desires as merely appetites that need feeding. For many reasons, this issue has been obscured in our culture. You might start with the sexual revolution in the 1960s-70s, but whatever has been inculcated at a cultural level in America seemed to be there, at least in part, all the way back in biblical times. My point is, we have no excuse. If you don't like the sex ethic in the Bible, I understand. However, we didn't create the universe, so we don't get to make up our own standard and live by it. Try to imagine the chaos of a world where scripture wasn't as clear on these issues. That doesn't sound super great to me either! I'm not saying sexual sin is the one sin God doesn't forgive. I'm only trying to point out its severity in a way that's fair to what Jesus and scripture teaches. I'm hopeful that we can start to see this issue through the lens of our strongest desires versus our deepest desires. If you follow Christ, then it is Him who is helping to shape the deepest desires of your heart. Lord, through following Jesus in our daily lives, let your deepest desires for us become our strongest desires also.

New Preaching Series to Begin on April 14th

BILL THORNTON, TEACHING PASTOR

New Preaching Series to Begin on April 14th

Living in the world as we do as believers, we need clear teaching from God's Word to inform our minds and hearts regarding who we are (identity), and how we should relate to one another. "The Family Album: God's Perspective on Identity and Relationships," will seek to do that very thing. The following is a list of the messages planned for this important series:

April 14	"Adoption into God's Family, His Church" (Ephesians 2:11-22)
April 21	"In the Image of God: Male and Female He Created Them" (Genesis 1:26-27)
April 28	"Marriage: The Two Shall Become One Flesh" (Matthew 19:4-6)
May 5	"Singleness is a Gift" (Matthew 19:10-12)
May 12	"Children: Precious in His Sight" (Psalm 127:3-5)
May 19	"Parenting: The Nurture and Instruction of the Lord" (Eph 6:1-4)
May 26	"Prodigal Sons and Daughters: The Freedom to Fail" (Lk15:11-24)

Community Groups

Topic: Genesis

Leader: Vince Grove

Location: Jean Stryker's office

Day/Time: Sundays, 9 am

Topic: Spiritual Disciplines

Leaders: Drew & Sarah Peters

Location: 6730 S. 41st Street

Day/Time: Last three Sundays of the month, 6:30 pm

Topic: Galatians

Group: Young Adults (20s) led by Bill & Marcia Thornton

Location: Grace Room

Day/Time: Thursdays, 7 pm

Topic: Testimonies

Leader: Ardeshir Mazhari

Location: 1750 Prospect Street

Day/Time: Thursdays, 7 pm

Topic: James

Group: Women's Study led by Beth Heerspink and others

Location: Fellowship Hall

Day/Time: Fridays, 10 am



Does Character Matter?

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

This is an honest question when it comes to the church today: Does integrity matter? This is a question that we hear different answers to in different contexts.

The 5 C's Document that we use states that a person is to:

...Be Transformed in Character:

Consistently demonstrates the following:

- A willingness to submit to the authority of Scripture in all areas of life, including but not limited to sexual purity and freedom from any illegal drug or excessive use of alcohol.
- A life that reflects the fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control)
- An ability to deal with conflict in a Christ-like manner.

The Bible is filled with statements that point to the importance of Character in our lives. None are more challenging than 1 Peter 1:15-16: But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."

This is where we can just want to throw in the towel; fight over, I give up. Yet this need not be the case for as we are called to be holy let us not forget that we are saved by grace, not by our works or our merit.

This is often where we in the church can fall into the trap of legalism, specifically when we look at the sins of others rather than our own. Yet we are sinners, broken, in need of God's Grace.

The church, or more importantly you and I who are the church, can get into the danger of also overplaying the grace card, acting like we can do whatever we want, so long as we say a prayer of forgiveness at the end.

My friend Keith Morrissey used to say something to the effect of, "We cannot expect the freedom if we do not take the responsibility."

Character matters as we should be living in accordance with what God wants for us as what God wants for us is best for us.

It is also what is best for others, because our character represents Jesus to the world, our neighbors, and our family. That means we, you and I, the church should look different than the world. We should be those who are offering grace, as we have found grace, not living for the things of this world, or even striving for the things of this world, but living for the kingdom of God.

One of the most difficult things to see and hear about is people leaving the church because the church looks more like the world than like Jesus.

Let us strive to live with character out of response to what Jesus has done for us. Let us strive to live with Character knowing we are representing Jesus to everyone around us.

Immerse Projects

SAGE PETERSON, YOUTH DIRECTOR

Summer is fast approaching and if you have been around F Street at all during the summer, you know that means it's Immerse season! We are so excited to be having six groups of students joining us over the course of five weeks. As usual we are starting our search for some projects for the groups that will be attending. We love when we are able to bless individuals or families by being able to serve them and the neighborhood. If you happen to know of any projects, please contact Sage at sage@fstreetchurch.org. Some of the projects that groups have worked on in the past are yard work, cleaning, house maintenance, and painting. We look forward to being able to bless our neighborhood this summer!



Building Improvements

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

Thanks to the professional painters of Barton Painting who came in and repainted the Fellowship Hall, making it look cleaner and brighter. The facelift is amazing. Thanks also to Jean Stryker for the paint colors and to Jean and Susan Hofman for the curtain repairs.

Thanks also to Dave Widman, who is finishing up the new cabinets to store the chairs and some of our seasonal decorations etc. Love the continued progress in cleaning the church up!

One thing that you may not have noticed unless you noted all the dirt dug up is that we replaced our old water line that was in desperate need of being repaired as it still had some led pipes and galvanized piping.

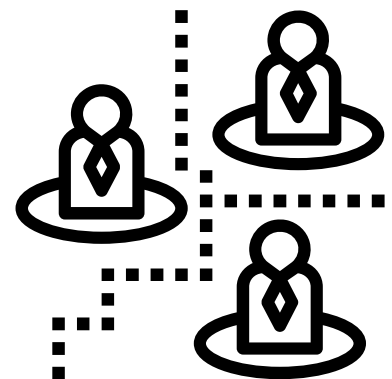
Thanks to Drew and Henry Peters for building the greeting table and to Barry Sloan and Dave Widman for staining it.

Boundaries Training

ATLAS: LINCOLN

Join Atlas: Lincoln on Wednesday, April 24th from 6:30pm - 8:00pm at our offices for training on Boundaries!

Through this time, we will be looking at what exactly are boundaries, boundary problems, how boundaries are developed, and how to develop healthy boundaries!



Church Plant / Special Family Meeting

JEFF HEERPSINK, LEAD PASTOR

On Sunday, March 24 we held a special Family Meeting. This was called as part of a process of discerning whether God is calling us to purchase the current City Light building, which is located at 2820 O Street (backing up to the Hartley Neighborhood).

For the past 5 plus years we have talked about planting a church. The desire to plant in another neighborhood where there are needs and opportunities to share the gospel as we see in our neighborhood has been the goal. In the past year we have been working specifically with a plan to raise up Pastors and Leaders so that we can plant another church in Lincoln with the DNA of F Street. This idea of raising up leaders is personal to me as that was my journey. Ephesians 4:11-12 states, "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

So as this has been our hope, I have been on the lookout for potential church buildings in which we could do this work. Then we discovered that City Light was moving ten blocks to the west and inquired about their building. This led to us touring the building with our Staff and our Elders. In the process we received a verbal pledge from an outside donor for \$750,000, which is half of the cost. This is something we celebrate but also it has a time delay on it and is only a verbal commitment at this time.

We held the meeting to share with the members of F Street, to get input into the process and to take a vote to approve the process so that we could apply for a loan for the building.

The vote did pass by over 2/3 of the vote and we are moving forward with the loan as well as hope to make some additional asks for funding.

We will continue to update and inform our church about the process and progress. There will be continued opportunities for involvement and input. It is difficult to include all of the details in a newsletter article, so please feel free to reach out to me or any of the elders for more information.

We are excited and ask that you pray for God's will, God's way, and God's timing.

Missionary Corner

Email Updates

To be added to regular email updates about the church, email fstreetchurch@gmail.com

Prayer Requests

If you have any prayer requests, please fill out the back of the communication card or come up to the front after church service

Up to Date

To keep information up to date, please fill out a communication card or email Hollie at hollie@fstreetchurch.org

Transformations Thrift Store

Good morning from your favorite neighborhood thrift store! The month of April is upon us. We've had extraordinary donations the last couple of months. My challenge to you is to keep it going for the month of April!

The Thrift Crawl was a huge success this year. Thank you to all who participated. A special thanks to all who generously gave their time to help. Next month is "Give to Lincoln". Have you decided which local non-profits you would like to support? Just as a reminder, our hours are:
Tues-Fri: 10:00 - 5:30 and
Sat: noon - 5:00
Donations are accepted anytime during business hours.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

The Howells

Dear friends,

65 years ago, Ms. Chris's mom babysat my (Michelle's) dad and uncles in Ann Arbor. My grandfather also baptized her brother. Now, many years and continents later, Ms. Chris and Mr. Steve, who also live and serve in Lithuania, at times babysit for our children. They have become like family to us in many ways. We are grateful for them.

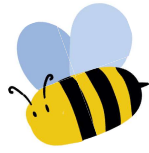
What a testimony to God's grace and care for his children. What a beautiful example of his working in the lives of people over generations and across many countries to tie stories together. We have an intimate God who knows us, guides us, and provides for us. Praise him.

Please pray:

- for us as we parent 4 children to know and love the Lord.
- for full health for our family and community.
- for both of us as we mentor students 1-on-1 and in small groups.
- for the students who attend our home Bible study.
- for the LCC community as we finish the final month of the school year. Pray for success on thesis defenses, final assignments, exams, and preparations for summer involvements.

Thank you for standing with us,
AJ, Michelle, Leah, Lydia, Aaron, and Little Joshua





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 Easter 10:30am - Sunday Service	1 Psalm 3	2 Psalm 4 6:30am - Prayer 6pm - Youth Group	3 Psalm 5 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	4 Psalm 6 5:30pm - FoodNet	5 Psalm 7	6
7 10:30am - Sunday Service	8 Psalm 8	9 Psalm 9 6:30am - Prayer 6pm - Youth Group	10 Psalm 10 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	11 Psalm 11 5:30pm - FoodNet	12 Psalm 12	13
14 10:30am - Sunday Service	15 Psalm 13	16 Psalm 14 6:30am - Prayer 6pm - Youth Group	17 Psalm 15 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	18 Psalm 16 5:30pm - FoodNet	19 Psalm 17	20
21 10:30am - Sunday Service	22 Psalm 18	23 Psalm 19 6:30am - Prayer 6pm - Youth Group	24 Psalm 20 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	25 Psalm 21 5:30pm - FoodNet	26 Psalm 22	27
28 Block Party 10:30am - Sunday Service	29 Psalm 23	30 Psalm 24 6:30am - Prayer 6pm - Youth Group	1 Psalm 25 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	2 Psalm 26 5:30pm - FoodNet	3 Psalm 27	4

Birthdays

1st - Jeri Johns
2nd - Robert Howard
 Richard Walker II
9th - Xander Mailand

14th - Linoma Wingate
15th - Todd Barton
 Blake Aspen
16th - Bonnie Chapman

