

The Homesteader

A Publication of Homestead Presbytery

January 21, 2014



Dear Kris

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Please share this with other members of your congregation - You are welcome to use it as a Sunday bulletin insert, forward as an email, print copies OR include all or part of it in your own church newsletter.



WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE...

Every once in a while I hear someone say, "I can worship God in solitude, so why come to church?" Here's some thoughts if you are in a similar conversation.

Yes, we can, and we should, worship God in our moments of solitude and quiet. Scripture gives us many examples of people doing just that. Jesus himself took time to go away from the crowds, and even from his disciples, to a quiet place to pray and meditate. Silent meditation and prayer are pieces of a whole life of faith.

But we are also instructed to gather with others, for corporate prayer and worship. With others, we are not just a bunch of individuals in the same room at the same time. The Holy Spirit doesn't just work in each of us. The Spirit also works among us, bringing us together in spirit and in mind. Together we can become the Body of Christ in the world.

In Hebrew, the word for "People of God" has a meaning broader than either singular or plural. The group of individuals is transformed by the Holy Spirit into something new...an indivisible whole. This new creation which begins when people submit to the power of the Spirit, agreeing to work together for God's glory, becomes the Church. A new life is created by the shared experience and shared goals, becoming a melding of personalities, talents and energy to become a single witness to God's goodness and power.

When we gather for worship, it is not us, individually, but the new creation that sings and prays and worships together. Worship is the Work of the Church, and the time the Holy Spirit can most easily work on the new

All Youth Invited to Summer Missions

Camp four work days (5-6 hours ea) and a Sabbath/Free Day at the end of the week. Work sites/projects are lined up with help from the Y's Volunteer Coordinator.

Where: Estes Park, CO.
YMCA Camp of The Rockies

When: June 2-8, 2014

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corporate creation it continues to create. So, when we neglect our corporate worship, we diminish the Church, shut ourselves off from the fellowship, and fail to make our lives available to the Spirit's desire for a new and glorious creation.

Both individual and corporate worship of God are components of our life in Christ. We must not neglect either.

Commit to keeping generosity in front of your congregation year round By Robert Hay, Jr., Presbyterian Foundation

Think about it: Biblical stewardship is more than just an annual appeal for church funding. It's a way of living and managing the resources (time talent and treasure) which God has entrusted to us. Shouldn't something so important be a year round facet of your discipleship teaching? Making the move from an annual appeal to crafting a culture of generosity and stewardship in your congregation takes time and effort. For resources to help plan for 2014 visit the Foundation website

<http://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/>

Tell us what's going on in the life of your congregation or ministry - Church news, event promotion, mission articles and photos are all welcome! Please submit articles to Jessica at hpooffice@homesteadpres.org or mail to 8300 East Pointe Rd. Lincoln, NE 68506

Contact Information

Congregational Resource Coordinator, Kris Peterson
Homestead Presbytery office, Jessica Kottmeyer

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