



DOERS OF THE WORD

Hey folks!

A couple of Sundays ago, in a sermon entitled “Actively Seeking,” I talked about how passive belief is not enough, we must actively seek Jesus Christ. I quoted the epistle of James, which instructs us to be “doers of the word and not only hearers who mislead themselves.”

I thought it was a solid sermon, but it had a notable weakness: although I gave an illustration from my youth, I did not give any specific suggestions for how we could make our faith more active.

I’ve always struggled with the discipline of daily devotionals. Adding something to my morning routine has eluded me for most of my life. I imagine many of y’all are like me in that your life is already quite full, and the idea of adding another thing to the schedule is onerous at best.

I wonder, though, if there are things you’re already doing which you can dedicate to God?

I wonder if there are ordinary acts which you can transform into acts of faith? I wonder if there are parts of your life which you can consecrate as holy, rather than trying to squeeze in a little extra God time?

Back during the pandemic, I worked with my choir director, Jimmy, at the church I was serving at the time. We came up with a number of hymns which were about the length of time that it took to properly wash one’s hands. It’s said that cleanliness is next to godliness, and these hymns meant that those ordinary acts could become prayers.

If you spend a good bit of time listening to the radio, what would it be like to find a devotional podcast to occupy that time, instead of mindless talk?

I recommend “Ask NT Wright Anything” if you’re looking for some theology and biblical scholarship. It can take time that would be filled with fluff and instead become a time of devotion.

This month begins the season of Lent, when many of us will either give up something that separates us from God, or take on something to grow closer to God. Sometimes there’s not room in a busy life, or a stressful schedule, to add something new. Other times things are so precariously balanced that it’s hard to give something up. If that’s the season in which you’re living, you can still actively seek Christ, you can still be a doer of the word. It’s just a matter of reframing and reforming what you’re already doing so that your action reflects the faith we all share.

Your Brother in Christ,
Rev. Joseph W. Taber IV

HYMNS FOR HANDWASHING

Baptized in water

Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;
heirs of salvation,
trusting his promise -
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Here I am, Lord

Here I am Lord
Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
And all I have needed Thy hand hath
provided
Great is Thy faithfulness
Lord unto me

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

How Great Thou Art

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. That evening, we will offer a "walk through" worship experience of prayer stations in the sanctuary from 6- 8 pm.



Our Lenten theme is Wisdom's Call and stations will include scripture readings, prayers, and activities that are engaging for all ages. Pastor Joseph will be there to offer ashes at the last station for those who want to receive them.

FOUNDATIONS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning February 22nd, Pastor Joseph will lead the Foundations Class in a five-week study on Wisdom, which also coordinates with the message in worship each week.

During the season of Lent Christians develop our discipleship with intentional practices. This Lenten season we are paying special attention to pursuing wisdom, a timeless tool and a gift of the Spirit which allows us to belong, to become, to move beyond the voices of this day, and to better understand the will of the Lord.

This study includes a personal devotional booklet and video introductions to each lesson, which will be available on-line to anyone who wants to follow along, whether you attend this Sunday School class or not.

BREADBREAKERS

Make plans to attend our February Breadbreakers at the home of Mike and Mary Nelle Cate: 1329 Vale View Rd. on Saturday, February 21st, at 6:30pm.

Signups will be in the bulletin or you can call the office. Come for a relaxed evening of fun, fellowship, and great food!

JUSTICE KNOX LUNCHEON

We'll meet in the fellowship hall after Worship Sunday, Feb. 22nd. We welcome team members and anyone wanting to know more about Justice Knox!

MARCH 15: FISH PANTRY LUNCHEON

Want to find out more about FISH Pantry?

Mark your calendars now, then join the Outreach team for a lunch after church on March 15 to learn how the funds we contribute through Erin's Outreach budget are helping people in greater Knoxville who don't always have enough to eat. Watch for signups in the bulletin later this month.

We'll have a speaker from FISH to talk about this critical ministry – what they do, who they serve, how they got started, and how you can help. If you've volunteered at FISH in the past, find out how the time you donated made a difference.

If you've hesitated to volunteer, come and hear more so you can join us at our next Erin work day on Saturday, March 21.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas Joy Offering

Many thanks to all who contributed to our denomination's Christmas Joy offering. Erin church collected \$1,359, which will help two important recipients: current and retired PC(USA) pastors and church staff facing financial hardships, and Presbyterian-affiliated colleges serving communities of color to prepare future leaders of the church.

Angel Tree Gifts

Thanks also to everyone who purchased an angel tree gift for children served by Sunset Gap Community Center in Cosby, Tennessee. Erin church donated a total of 65 gifts, including toys and games, clothing, coats, and shoes, for 11 children age 8 and under. All together Sunset Gap enabled 343 children to have presents under their tree on Christmas morning. Extra special thanks to Chloe and the members of Erin's youth group, who wrapped all of our gifts.

Sunset Gap Christmas Ham

Several Erin members also responded to our request to help Sunset Gap buy hams for all 436 families who came to the food pantry in December. The Outreach team donated \$600 from our funds to help with this as well.



**WED. FEB. 11 & TUES. FEB. 24
6:30-7:30PM FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

Pioneer Club now meets twice a month!! In addition to meeting on the 2nd Wednesday, Pioneer Club will meet on the 4th Tuesdays in conjunction with Pub Theology.

This month, our Wednesday group will read "Thidwick the Big Hearted Moose" and craft some homemade valentines. On Tuesday, February 24, Pioneer Club kids will read "Gerald McBoing Boing" and learn all about the magic of making sound in the movies.



PLANET WORSHIP FEBRUARY 8TH

Planet Worship will meet only once in February. We will finish our study of Erin's Vision Statement, focusing on Unity in Christ and sharing God's love.

GIFTS OF OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICE February 22nd

Our annual Gifts of Children and Youth worship service will be February 22nd at 11am. This is a very special service planned and led by the youth and children of Erin Church. The worship message will be "Live in Courage."

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR JOHN LAMSON

John Lamson was our dear - and always fun - janitor at Erin Church for many years. He passed away peacefully in his sleep a little over a week ago, a few months after losing his wife, Vonice, to Alzheimer's.

John's son, David, took over the janitor position a handful of years ago, and requested the Celebration of Life to be held here at Erin with Pastor Joseph officiating. Please join us on Tuesday, February 3rd at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary as we celebrate the life of our funny, mischevious, and loving friend.

John's cat needs a new home...

If you have room for a sweet 9yr old kitty named Princess, let April know. Princess is spayed and up-to-date on shots. She just needs a new family to love her.

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS MINISTRY IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS FROM ERIN

Thirty years ago, God selected Erin Church as the home for The Creative Expressions Ministry. We are now known as a home “for creatives and their gifts & a place for children interested in theatre education regardless of their financial means.”

But maintaining this ministry requires involvement of more than just a few.



You may be thinking: but I don't act, sing or play an instrument. CEX needs those with many more diverse gifts:

- Organizing & tracking costumes, set pieces, props, music, stage makeup.
- Designing, building, painting and solving problems related to show sets.
- Helping SonShine kids during rehearsals with reading & memorization.
- Supporting teens in J7, & assisting their director.
- Advertise & market SonShine & Journey7 shows.
- Show programs – selling ads, gathering information, taking pictures, etc.
- Tracking & purchasing snacks & water for Saturday rehearsals.
- Helping with ticket sales.
- Food for the green room during SonShine and J7 shows.
- Gathering and set up of snack s& drinks for show intermissions.
- Makeup & costumes during tech rehearsals & performances.

- Sound or lights during tech rehearsals & performances.
- Backstage help during tech rehearsals & performances.
- Helping young instrumentalist to grow and those wanting to improve their presentation skills.

CEX will meet on the 4th Sunday of each month following the morning worship service in the Heritage Room.

Our next meeting is Feb. 22nd. Please consider finding your place of service with us!



PRAISE BAND REVIVAL

Do you play an instrument or sing?

Interested in Praise & Worship music?

Want to lead the congregation in a time of praise & worship?

Great! Join us on February 11 at 5:00 o'clock in the room across from the choir room for all the fun with Erin Express. All ages welcome!



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 1	FEBRUARY 8	FEBRUARY 15	FEBRUARY 22
COFFEE	COFFEE	COFFEE	COFFEE
Pat Wallin	Mary Nelle Cate	Suzanne L.	David Eggers
BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER	BELL RINGER
Lucas Barber	Eliza Barber	William Taber	Craig Strand
GREETERS	GREETERS	GREETERS	GREETERS
Kelli and Tony	Pat Wallin	Kathy Boyd	Gabby Denny
Denny	Sara Leckie	Jim Montgomery	Brooks Eggers
GUIDE	GUIDE	GUIDE	GUIDE
Eliza Barber	Erin McCallum	Stacvie Armsworth	Henry Fellers
READER	READER	READER	READER
Neill Murphy	Rickey McCallum	Betty Gibbs	Kim Jaynes
USHERS	USHERS	USHERS	USHERS
Jim Montgomery	Mike Cate	Kim and Dusty	Dave Leckie
Brooks Eggers	Erin McCallum	Pennington	Robbie Levering
David Eggers	Linda Quinley	Gary Pennington	Kelcey Levering
COUNTERS	COUNTERS	COUNTERS	COUNTERS
Neill Murphy	Craig Strand	Ann Snodgrass	Andy Sarles
Andy Sarles	Rickey McCallum	David Eggers	John House

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Stephanie Tanksley

2 Ginger Thompson

6 Neill Murphy

7 Lisa Osborne

12 Rose Armsworth

13 Kathy Boyd

13 Nathan Barber

13 Dan Gibbs

20 Anna McKay

27 Mike Cate

28 Robbie Levering

28 Harter Crisp

