



# The Fellowship Journal

*Rooted in Grace, Growing in Love*

339 LWE, Chambersburg, PA, (717) 504-8789

Volume 8, Issue 6

June 2016

## God Keeps His Word

*By Chuck Lawless*

The book of 2 Chronicles ends with the fall of Jerusalem as the judgment of God fell on His people. They had mocked His name and laughed at His messengers until “there was no remedy” (2 Chron 36:16) other than judgment. Even as God judged them, however, He already had a plan in place to bring them back to Jerusalem.

He would bring them back at the end of 70 years, and He would do so in fulfillment of His word: “He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years. Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia . . .” (2 Chron 36:21-22).

Twice in two verses is this mention of God’s fulfilling His prophecy that Jeremiah proclaimed. God moved on the heart of the foreign king Cyrus of Persia, who gave God’s people permission to return to the Holy City. God would do whatever was necessary to keep His word, for that’s His heart.

That’s also good news for us today. What God has said will come true. He will not leave us or forsake us. The enemy will not win against God’s church. We can trust that heaven is real when we die. We know that Christ will come again, and He will reign forever as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We are assured that He will wipe away our tears. Sin will be defeated, and death will be vanquished. No matter how rotten the world looks today, we believers are on the winning side.

### **ACTION STEPS:**

- Meditate on how many times God has kept His word to you in just the last week.
- Regardless of how crazy life seems today, see it with eyes of faith — trust that God is still in charge.

**PRAYER:** “Lord, thank You for always keeping Your Word. Make me long to know Your Word even more because it is so true.”

## The Signature of the Spirit

*By Charles F. Stanley*

Walking in the Spirit involves moment-by-moment sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's guidance. But is there an objective standard by which we can measure the vitality of our relationship with Him?

Yes, there is. Fruit is the telling sign. It is not simply one mark of a Spirit-filled life; it is the preeminent mark—the public testimony to a believer's sensitivity to and dependency on the Holy Spirit.

Those who walk in the Spirit possess the following nine virtues: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23). I believe there's a reason Paul simply listed these virtues and moved on. They aren't goals to pursue. Why? The fruit of the Spirit was never intended to be a demonstration of our dedication and resolve. Instead, it's the evidence of our dependency on and sensitivity to the promptings of the Spirit.

How else can we characterize believers who walk in the Spirit? The closer you get to them, the better they look. They radiate integrity and trustworthiness. They don't rely on personality, intimidation, or trumped-up enthusiasm to win you over. They accept themselves as they are and accept you as well. They're the people you want to be like because of the depth of their character.

We're not talking about perfection. They still have the flesh to contend with. They can be as unkind and insensitive as anybody else. But when they realize their sin, they are quick to apologize. They are aware that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, they can rise above their sinful desires. Tuning in to His presence results in spiritual fruit that remains even during difficult times.

Unconditional love in a marriage or friendship shines brightest in the midst of our differences; in a similar way, the fruit of the Spirit demonstrates its divine source when circumstances and relationships take a turn for the worse. Then it becomes most apparent that the source of the Christian's abiding character is something that lies deep within. When all the crutches and props are kicked away, and the believer is still standing, no one can argue that his uniqueness was simply a by-product of his environment.

Spirit-filled believers don't win every battle. Doubt, temptation, hurt, and disappointment trip them up from time to time. But they don't dwell on their missteps. They refocus their attention on the big picture, acknowledging the truth that their peace is from the Lord. Then they move on. They know "the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace" (Rom. 8:6).

The fruit of the Spirit is just that: fruit produced by God. When we abide in Christ and allow Him to live His life through us, the result is character that endures despite the chaos of life.

## The fruit of the Spirit includes:

**Love**—for those who do not love in return.

**Joy**—in the midst of painful circumstances.

**Peace**—when something you were counting on doesn't come through.

**Patience**—when things aren't going fast enough for you.

**Kindness**—toward those who treat you unkindly.

**Goodness**—toward those who have been intentionally insensitive to you.

**Faithfulness**—when friends have proven unfaithful.

**Gentleness**—toward those who have handled you roughly.

**Self-control**—in the midst of intense temptation.

It is not uncommon for the Spirit's fruit to take us by surprise. I have seen this happen many times, especially in the lives of new believers. When we shift our focus from self to the Holy Spirit, He can work freely in our lives. The results are uncharacteristic character, true change, and fruit that remains (John 15:16).

That is the nature of fruit. We don't produce it; we discover it. As you begin walking in the Spirit, you will finish a debate with your kids and realize you didn't raise your voice. You will walk away from a heated conversation and think, *Wow, I didn't lose my temper.* You will be asked to go somewhere you have no business going, and you will hear yourself saying, "No, thank you."

Eventually you will overhear someone make a comment to the effect of, "I don't know what's gotten into him, but he's really different." And you will realize that person is right, though not because you set out to change. Transformation will happen only when you surrender to the promptings of the Spirit. Remember, fruit is not something you work to attain. It's something that can take you by surprise as the Holy Spirit produces it in your life.

## Committee Updates

### Fellowship Team

The team held their meeting on May 3 at 6:30 p.m. The Hershey Bears Game was enjoyed by all attendees. They discussed participating in the Pregnancy Ministry Annual 5-K Run and Walk for Life on June 4 at Norlo Park. The summer pool party has been scheduled at the Municipal Pool, for July 9. A three month rotation schedule for fellowship in the gym following the church service was created. —Brenda Summer, Fellowship Chair.

### Outreach Team

The Outreach team would like to have a team for the Pregnancy Ministry WALK or RUN for LIFE on June 4. L.O.T. items requested for the month of June are toothbrushes and tooth paste. Plans to collect pill bottles in July are underway. Their next meeting will be June 14.—Brenda Hockenberry, Outreach Chair.

## Remodeling Project for the Church



The remodeling project is underway for the front entrance and hallway, offices, nursery, and restrooms.

The Leadership Team approved collecting a “Fifth Sunday Remodeling Offering” each quarter to help with these costs and to provide members an opportunity to give towards this project. The first “Remodeling Offering” will be held on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Special offering envelopes will be provided for this project.

Some of the costs have been estimated for this project.

1. Plumbing: \$2,000.00
2. New LED lighting in ceiling: \$10,000.00
3. New ceiling tiles: \$6,500.00
4. Paint, drywall, carpet: \$12,000.00



The project team is asking for volunteer help with various aspects of this project. The improvements to these areas have begun. If you are able to volunteer your help with the project, a sign-up sheet is located on the church office door.

## Children’s and Youth Retreat



A Children’s and Youth Retreat will be held at St. John’s Camp at Cowan’s Gap—June 3 and 4 for children and youth (1<sup>st</sup> grade thru college) of the church, their friends and grandkids of the congregation. It will be led by Pastor Gary and the Retreat Committee. This will be an awesome time in God’s creation—including, crafts, singing, worship, bonfire, games, and sleep-over. The age of the children for the sleep-over is 4th thru college. They will meet at the church and leave by van, on Friday, June 3. Parents are allowed to join us and spend the night. Saturday K-3rd graders will come up at 10:30 a.m. for remainder of the day. We ask that parents bring them up. We cannot have any drop offs. Registrations are in the church lobby! For more details read registration. **Please register ASAP.**

## Memorial Golf Tournament



**The Don Gordon Memorial Golf Tournament** will be held on Saturday, June 11 at the Rocky Spring Golf Course. Time 8:00 a.m. Please see Allen Bierbower for details, cost is \$30.00.

## Church Council Meeting in July

You are invited to attend the church council meeting on Tuesday, July 26, at 6:30 p.m.



## “Seasoned to Serve”

### Men’s Dinner, June 23 at 5:30 p.m.

The “Seasoned to Serve” group will be sponsoring a “MEN’S DINNER” at our church for ALL MEN OF THE CHURCH. This event will be held on Thursday, June 23, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The food will be provided by the Butcher Shoppe. Entertainment will be a chalk artist from the Lancaster area.

Tickets for this event can be purchased in the church office for a cost of \$15.00. Tickets must be purchased by **Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>**.

This event is for ALL MEN OF OUR CHURCH!

**PLEASE PUT THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR AND COME ENJOY AN EVENING OF GOOD FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT!**

### Upcoming Events

- June 23: Men’s Day Dinner at the church, 5:30 p.m. The food will be provided by the Butcher Shoppe. Entertainment will be a chalk artist from the Lancaster area.
- July 14: Bus trip to Bird-in-Hand Dinner Theater in Lancaster, Lunch at 11:30 a.m., Play, “The Confession” at 1:00 p.m. Cost: \$50.00 per person includes (meal, tip, play). Bus will leave the church at 9:30 a.m.
- August 12: Bus trip to Bird-in-Hand Dinner Theater in Lancaster, Lunch at 11:30 a.m., Play, cost \$40.00 per person. per person includes (meal, tip, play). Bus will leave the church at 9:30 a.m. Show: “The Magic and Wonder Show” by Brett Myers.
- September 11: Picnic at the Pletchers, Sunday evening at 4:00 p.m.

Contact Reid and Linda Pletcher for information or sign-up for events: Phone 423-5288 or email: [reidlinda@hotmail.com](mailto:reidlinda@hotmail.com)

Total Offering to date: \$ 127,405.17

Total Special Offerings to date: \$ 16,903.10

“Steady plodding brings prosperity; hasty speculation brings poverty.”

Proverbs 21:5

# *Our Church Family*

## **June Birthdays**



Karen Adams  
Kimberly Collins  
Patti Gable  
Cameron Hall  
Mike Hampton  
Michael Hockenberry  
Dylan Horst  
Harrison Kramer  
Wendy Lee  
Olivia Mason  
Alvin Meyers  
Diana Meyers  
Rachel Murray  
Keith Myers  
Janet Musser

Charles Newman  
Ruby Pentz  
Gary Rebok  
Richard Reichard  
Bernie Roberts  
Jenny Shatzer  
Sharon Shipp  
Harold Smith  
Daren Statler  
Lorna Toms  
Gregory Toms  
Sallie Wagner  
Bob Wall  
Brittany Wells  
Karen Walsh Hampton

## **June Anniversarys**



Federico and Alicia Alvarado  
John and Peggy Armstrong  
Darin and Jen Horst  
John and Mim Martin  
Alvin and Diana Meyers  
Reid and Linda Pletcher  
Dennis and Karen Statler  
Alan and Connie Washabaugh

## **Changes to Your Information**

If your address, telephone number, cell phone number or email has changed please let the church office know so we can keep in touch with you. You can email Mona at [brethrenfel@hotmail.com](mailto:brethrenfel@hotmail.com) or place a note in the church mailbox. If you haven't received a birthday card or anniversary card, please let us know the correct dates for our records.

# June 2016 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:15p-Prayer Time 6:30p-Youth 6:30p-Bible Study	2	3 Children - Youth Retreat at Cowan's Gap	4 Children - Youth Retreat at Cowan's Gap
5 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service 1-7:00p-Gym reserved	6 6:30p-Property Team	7 12p-CTC 12:30p-HOG Yoga	8 6:15p-Prayer Time 6:30p-Youth 6:30p-Bible Study	9	10	11 6:30p-Bible Study
12 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service 4:00p-Back-up Concert in the Park*	13 8:30a-OSI In-service Day	14 12:30p-HOG Yoga 5:30p-Family Fun Night 6:00p-Outreach 6:30p-Worship and Music Team	15 6:15p-Prayer Time 6:30p-Youth 6:30p-Bible Study	16	17	18
19 <b>Fathers Day</b> 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service 4:00p-Back-up Concert in the Park*	20	21 12:30p-HOG Yoga 6:00p-Finance Team 6:30p-Deacons	22 6:15p-Prayer Time 6:30p-Youth 6:30p-Bible Study	23 5:30p-Men's Day Dinner	24	25 6:30p-Bible Study
26 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service 4:00p-Back-up Concert in the Park*	27 Gym-Prep for Creation	28 Gym-Prep for Creation 9:30a-HOG meeting 12:30p-HOG Yoga 6:30p-All Church Council meeting	29 6:30p-All Church Prayer Time Youth at Creation 6/29-7/3	30 Youth at Creation		

\*Concerts in the Park begin at 7:00 p.m.

a=A.M.

p=P.M.

Pray Time is held in the Prayer Room

All Church prayer time in the Chapel

STS-Seasoned to Serve

HOG-House of Grace Yoga-in the Chapel

## ***WALK or RUN For LIFE***

Join us for our 11th annual WALK or RUN for LIFE at beautiful Norlo Park, 3050 Lincoln Way E, Fayetteville. This is a leisurely 2 mile walk with lots of extra fun added in! Door prizes, Snacks, Clown, Face painting.

**Saturday, June 4:** Check in begins @ 8:00 a.m. but you may walk anytime between 8:00 & 11:00 a.m. The fiveK Race, \$25 to be bibbed. You may register with Timber Hill Timing at: <http://cvraceseries.us>, look for the PMI race to register on-line. Race day check in begins at 8:00 a.m. Run begins at 9:00 a.m.

We will have a team participating in the walk. Please contact Brenda Hockenberry, chair of the Outreach Team, or the church office, M-F from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., if you would like to be part of the church team or support the team. Go to <http://pregnancyministries.org> for more details.

## **Affiliation with A Fellowship of Churches**

The team exploring consideration of the congregation affiliating with a fellowship of churches are currently looking at these fellowships. If you would like to find out more information about them, go to the links listed below:

Converge World Wide: <https://www.converge.org/>

Evangelical Free Church: <https://www.efca.org/explore>

