

More Than Things Appear

Luke 5:1-11

Pastor Pete Kontra

“Put out into deep water and let your nets down for a catch.” Sometimes I think we hear this command of Jesus to Peter as if this was something new and exciting for Peter to do. “Go into the deep water.” Yes, go where no one dares to go. Be adventurous! Take a risk Peter!!

No. Not quite. Peter had been there and done that, with nothing to show for it. “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing.” This was what Peter knew. This was something Peter made his living on, and no doubt had much experience in. And now the Carpenter/Rabbi is telling the fisherman how to fish. Please.

But we know, as Peter was soon to find out, that there is more to this picture than meets the eye. Peter follows Jesus’ instruction before he really is “hit” with the magnitude and reality of who Jesus is—much more than a carpenter. Peter is made aware that miracles still happen, and are happening before his very eyes. Peter’s sensitivity to who he is next to Jesus causes him to look into the deep waters of his soul. And, maybe most significantly, Peter and the others with him find out that Jesus’ purpose for them catching a whole bunch of fish that day went far beyond wowing them with wriggling aquatic life. Peter finds out that he is going to be a part of something far greater than he ever imagined possible, that is, Jesus’ transformation of the world.

With Jesus, things are always more than they appear—He makes something out of nothing (fish) and extraordinary out of ordinary (disciples).

What “deep water” is Jesus calling you to set sail for? Perhaps waters that you have sailed through and around countless times before with no real exciting result. “Go and let down your nets.”

“Yes, but Lord, I know this activity is fruitless. I know that these people will not hear me. I know that spending this money on this project is a waste. I know that doing “this” or “that” or whatever it is You are telling me to do is not going to get us anywhere.”

But remember what Peter said: “Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.”

“Okay Lord, whatever You say. I think, from my own experience, that this will be a waste of time. Nor do I see the purpose behind it. But because You have said so, Lord, I will do it.”

With Jesus, things are always more than they appear. The steps He calls you to take in your life may not make any sense to you. You may not be able to always see the purpose behind everything He calls you to do. But when you put your life in the hands of the Master and trust Him with it all, you will not be disappointed. You will be a part of something far greater than you ever imagined possible, for God’s glory and the good of the world.

Go deep with Jesus. “Do not be afraid.” There are great things in store. God bless you.

“You Keep Using That Word. I Do Not Think It Means What You Think It Means.”

--Inigo Montoya, *The Princess Bride*

Pastor Doug Hinton

Can we clear something up? I keep seeing this word, “Christian,” in social media posts and on the news. It’s used to classify people in political circles, debates, and social justice/cause arenas and I have to be honest: I’m tired of this word’s abuse and misuse. A little clarification is needed.

The word “Christian” first appears in the Bible in the book of **Acts 11:26b**, stating, “The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.” The first century priest turned Roman citizen, Josephus, wrote further, “He [Jesus] drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named for him, are not extinct at this day.”¹ This group of people, this ‘tribe of Christians,’ received their name because people recognized Jesus’ teaching, spirit, and power within them. **Acts 4:13** says, “When they (the religious officials) saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled (uneducated and untrained), ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” To summarize, *a person who lives out the teaching of Christ in the power of His Spirit so the people recognize one as being with or connected to Jesus*—this holds our definition of Christian. Do people recognize you, me, us---as having been with Jesus? Do we draw the holy people (Jews) and the unholy people (Gentiles) to Him and his teaching? Or do people recognize someone or something else as our first defining character?

There’s a saying in wrestling: where the head goes, the body will follow. If Christ indeed is the head of the church as we read in Ephesians 4, do people recognize us, His body, following Him? If not, we need to be nervous. Because if people do not recognize Christ in us, we may be following someone or something else. What defines us first? Our work? Our family? Our political party? Our social cause? These are noble and often worthy, but none should be before Christ. What about our character, what do people see first: Our love or anger? Our gentleness or forcefulness? Our peace or our battle? Our kindness or stingy-ness? When we follow Christ, the fruit of the Spirit will flow freely from our being and attitude. We must remember, to follow Christ is to assess and die daily to those things found in our American culture or family upbringing that contradict His character, *His* way of living. This may mean having to bite your tongue instead of lashing out against an opponent. It may mean learning to speak differently to better communicate your life in Christ. Know that I do not write this in judgment, but as an assessment and encouragement. We serve along many Christians here at Hempfield and the greater community. We must make sure that when we use the term ‘Christian,’ we know what it means and do not attach a political movement, party, or cause to it that would diminish or water it down—or change its meaning altogether. Instead, when people speak of Christians-when they speak of you in this way-may it be that they recognize that you have been with Jesus.

¹ Flavius Josephus, *The Complete Works*, trans. William Whiston Nelson's Super Value Series (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, ©1998), 576.

Mission Possible

Pastor Kent Rice

Why?

What a great question: “Why”? Did you ever notice that little kids ask that about everything?

“I need to put on my coat, son.”

“Why?”

“You need to pick up your toys!”

“Why?”

Here’s another “why”: Why do we forget to ask this question as we get older? (I’m speaking about everyone except for Pastor Geoff!) Do the “whys?” get replaced with “hows?” and “whats?” We do things out of habit or tradition and sometimes don’t even know why we’re doing them. Sometimes the reason has changed or become obsolete. For example, unless your car is practically a vintage carbureted model, “warming up” the engine actually does more harm than good, yet folks still do it.

Why do we serve? Why do we go to church? It is never a waste of time or effort to ask these questions. Pastor Geoff asked me why we’re starting worship at EPACC (February 4th at 7pm, by the way). My reply wasn’t the “why,” it was a bunch of “whats.” What was the “why”? More Jesus. We just need more Jesus. I was so glad to articulate the thing that God put on my heart. So if two people come or 200, there will be more Jesus and the purpose will be addressed. Why did God send us His son? Because He loved us.

HCOB Kids News

Karen Rice



Just in time for Valentine's Day...

What else can we say, **GOD IS LOVE!!!**

Let's focus on that.

Praying Attention



Dear Lord, help us to practice resting in your presence. Amen.

Messages in February

February 5



One God—*John 10:22-38; John 1:14-18*

Pastor Doug Hinton Preaching

On December 4, 2016, we discussed the Consistent Character of Christ with God in dealing with temptation. To further the discussion, we'll look at the Consistent Character of Christ with God by looking at his works. If God came to earth, as we believe He did in Jesus, how would He act toward others? What would He do to differentiate Himself from others claiming deity? How can we come to believe He is who He says He is? Is He the only one or the first Christ of many? We'll dig into our passages in John to see what Jesus may show us and see why it still may be important today.

February 12



Second to None—*1 Corinthians 8:1-13; John 1*

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

Jesus said He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Through Him all things came and through Him we live. He is second to none. He is Lord of all whether we acknowledge Him or not. So how does that shape the way I live, and whose life this really is? Am I living under His Lordship—are we as the church? What does that look like and why is this important?

February 19



One Spirit—*Ephesians 4:1-16*

Pastor Geoff Davis Preaching

Paul writes to the Ephesians to help them better understand God's eternal purpose and grace and come to appreciate the high goals God has for the church. Christ has given gifts to the members of the church to help them to minister to one another and promote unity and maturity – practical ways to fulfill God's purpose in the church. One of these gifts is the gift of the Holy Spirit. In Chapter 4, he pleads with them to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit...” How can God + Jesus + Spirit = One? What exactly is this gift of the Spirit and how does it apply to our lives today?

February 26



The Beautiful Mystery—*Matthew 3:13-17; 28:16-20*

Pastor Pete Kontra Preaching

When Jesus was baptized, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were all present. When Jesus gives the Great Commission, He says to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Trinity is one of the most difficult things to understand, yet is the most powerful way God has expressed Himself to us. God has given us life and done all He can to show His love for us and presence with us. In a world where knowledge is idolized, can we embrace this mystery? As Paul says, it's a scandal and foolishness to some, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

February Ministry Schedules

February 5
February 12
February 19
February 26

NURSERY

Carol Koser, Ivy Davis, Peg Layman
Marg Zurin, Carolyn Gingrich, Jen Lugar
Sue Brubaker, Sallie Hoppert, Kensey Rice
Betty Cox, Sarah Fisher, Jake Rannels



February 5
February 12
February 19
February 26

SOUND TECHNICIANS—8:00

Dick Caldwell & Rich Bushong
Rich & Jamie Bushong
Dave Schott
Matt Markey

SOUND TECHNICIANS—10:15

Blaine Garber & Rich Bushong
Matt Markey & Rich Bushong
Mitchell Barnes & Rich Bushong
Matt Markey & Rich Bushong



February 5
February 12
February 19
February 26

WORSHIP LEADERS—8:00

One of the pastors
Dennis Hughes
Joel Kettering
Randy Ziegler

WORSHIP LEADERS—10:15

TBA
TBA
TBA
TBA

SPECIAL MUSIC



February 5
February 12
February 19
February 26

CHOIRS/SPECIAL MUSIC

Sanctuary Choir
TBA
Sanctuary Choir
TBA

VIDEO TECHNICIANS—10:15

Doug Howard
Dave Bendit
Ben Johnson
Dave Bendit

February 5
February 12
February 19
February 26

DEACON GREETERS

Doris Wright
Joel Kettering
Paula Connelly
Betty Cox

JNH GREETERS

Faye Rohrer
Carl & Lisa Polonchak
Tom & Carolyn Fritz
Curtis & Jean May



OFFERING TABULATORS

Glenn Brubaker, Allen Hurst

HCOB Adult Sunday School

† **THE CHRISTIAN HOMEBUILDERS** classes will meet in the library. We study the International Lesson. We have three or four regular teachers who each teach about one Sunday a month. We have several socials a year with the majority of our class participating. Our offerings are used for special needs within our congregation or community. The contact people are Ruth Johnson and Millie Hoffman.

February 5	Re-created to Live in Harmony	Teacher: Denny Bushong
February 12	New Birth Brings Freedom	Teacher: Butch Nachbar
February 19	Freedom in Christ	Teacher: Jim Kettering
February 26	Christ Creates Holy Living	Teacher: Galen Brumbaugh

† **THE OTHER ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WILL BE STUDYING THE E100 CURRICULUM.** The readings for the upcoming week will be in the bulletin every week. Then they can be discussed in the various Sunday Schools and small groups. If you have any questions about the E100, please contact Pastor Doug.



HCOB Leadership Team Retreat Report

“Firmly rooted and living deeply in the character of Christ to become a healthier church that powerfully shares Christ with the world.”

“Making Christ’s purposes our own.”

On January 6th and 7th, the Leadership Team participated in our fifth annual Leadership Team retreat. We met in Glenn and Sue Brubaker’s outstanding garage. I can’t thank them enough for their gracious hospitality this year and each year we have held the retreat there. It is a wonderful feeling to be so welcomed by brothers and sisters in Christ. I would also like to thank Pastor Geoff who facilitates our retreats. Yea...I know he does that for a living...but here...I know, he does it for Christ. I’ve been on many different teams in my career in education over the span of forty years and I can tell you that the most effective, high functioning teams were intentional. Geoff has the expertise and the heart for helping us identify how our attitude of servant leadership is our responsibility as Christ’s followers. We are not volunteers...it is not our choice, but rather...our responsibility to serve. Also, I have to especially thank Mary Lou Ruth for preparing the Saturday morning casseroles. Some members probably thought that that was the highlight of the retreat...You didn’t hear that from me...and I was certainly not one of them. But it is a great way to start the day sharing breakfast in fellowship with one another. And lastly, I would like to thank the Holy Spirit for being present...moving our hearts and our minds within our discussions, during the retreat.

This year we began the retreat by focusing on the context for Christian leadership. Geoff led us through a reflection of implications for Christian leaders, characteristics of Christ followers, conflict-handling modes, our attitude of participation, and what spiritual leadership means for us as leaders. We identified transitions that have occurred in the church last year and what new beginnings stemmed from them.

We made two lists; one highlighting things we really care about at Hempfield, and the other identifying our concerns. We made a list of components of why we are a Leadership Team and what’s at stake in the decisions we make. We then identified our team’s guiding principles for meetings and reviewed our Leadership Team Handbook which all Ministry Teams have available to them.

As in the previous retreats, we made lists of what we achieved and where we fell short over the past year. We tend to be pretty hard on ourselves regarding the things we didn’t achieve, but it always provides us with challenges to bring a renewed determination while working on our goals this year.

Geoff then directed us to consider our team focus. We discussed our understanding of our roles as strategic leaders in a spiritual setting...ways to fulfill our roles...and how we get better in our roles. We identified things that are likely to get in the way of fulfilling those roles and possible ways to overcome them so that our areas of energy remain positive. We made a list of characteristics that...when we get better at demonstrating them...we’ll get better at being servant leaders here at Hempfield Church of the Brethren.

We compiled a list of big questions here at Hempfield and then rated them for priority. We recognized ten areas that we feel need to be addressed in the upcoming year and developed three goals to accommodate them. We understand that we are a communion of believers who are always in transition. The reality of pluralism in our country, rapidly changing technology, instant newsfeeds, longer lives, and a different level of servant commitment...to name a few. We have no control over outside forces that influence those changes. But we recognize that this body is responsible for the health and welfare of all its members. We, as the Leadership Team, recognize our responsibility to help manage these concerns within our Ministry Teams; listening to each other and God, maintaining focus, establishing better communication, staying involved in conversations, maintaining vision, and caring for each other in humility in a spirit of grace.

So, what’s our priority for 2017?

Unity.

Our first goal is to create a stronger Hempfield Church of the Brethren community.

We feel it is important to provide a safe place to belong and feel cared for making us more effective witnesses for Christ with that support. The goal champion is Kim Stauffer.

Our second goal is to generate a daily, consistent, Hempfield Church of the Brethren community-wide commitment to serving Christ.

We want to better equip Hempfield to provide and encourage new service opportunities to engage the community in Christ's love. The facilitator is Doug Hinton.

Our third goal is to intentionally listen to and discern the Spirit of God through you, the Hempfield Church of the Brethren community.

We know we become better servant leaders when we know your cares and concerns. We recognize every member is important and no one should feel like they are "faceless" among us. The goal champion is Pastor Pete.

I hope you will look forward to initiatives that result from an intentional look at each of these goals.

And, in closing, we look forward to serving your needs this year. Please contact us with concerns, praises, and suggestions. Your input is always welcomed.

Thank you.

Ray O'Boyle, Leadership Team Chair

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM Quilting Group 6:00 PM E 100 Study 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Brethren Village Worship	2 7:00 PM Prayer Experience	3	4 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
5 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	6 3:00 PM Pastor Doug at class 7:30 PM Education Team	7 12:30 PM Pastor Doug at class 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting	8 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 8:00 AM Sewing Circle 6:00 PM E 100 Study 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Stewards of Property	9	10 6:45 PM WORDD Worship	11 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
12 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	13 3:00 PM Pastor Doug at class	14 8:00 AM Sewing Circle 12:30 PM Pastor Doug at class 6:30 PM Fellowship & Hospitality Team 7:00 PM Worship Team	15 HERALD DEADLINE 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM Quilting Group 6:00 PM E 100 Study 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	16	17 Youth Winter Retreat	18 Youth Winter Retreat 9:00 AM Schott Baby Shower 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
19 Youth Winter Retreat 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	20 Youth Winter Retreat 3:00 PM Pastor Doug at class 6:30 PM Outreach Team	21 12:30 PM Pastor Doug at class	22 6:00 AM Ladies Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM Quilting Group 6:00 PM E 100 Study 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25 6:00 PM June Lantz practicing organ
26 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Blended Worship 6:30 PM Youth Cell Group	27 3:00 PM Pastor Doug at class	28 12:30 PM Pastor Doug at class 7:00 PM Leadership Team				

For more details about upcoming events and up-to-date calendar information, please visit

<http://www.hempfieldcob.org/whatsup.html>

**Toon of
The Month**



The whole church watched with nervous anticipation as the visitors sat where the Martins have sat for 42 years.

**Toon of
The Month**



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

Hempfield Church of the Brethren
P.O. Box 246
East Petersburg, PA 17520