

Vision Casting Meeting 2/25/24

Pastor Jess opened the meeting in prayer

Joe Whitehead – explained format, housekeeping items and introduced Deacons / Brian Prue.

Joe started us on an icebreaker exercise - asked for words or ideas associated with “What is the Church?”

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Participant Responses Shared/Written on Notepad were as follows...

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Love• Fellowship• People• Body of Jesus Christ• Faithful• Christ Followers• Salvation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Believers• Forgiveness• Relationship• Caring• Redemption• Jesus Christ• Community• Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Heart• Prayer• Sharing• Song• Soul• Bible• God
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Pastor Jess led us in a short study of “What Is the Church”?

The Church Is:

- 1) The temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 3:6)
 - a. Where God presence resides, both individually and communally
 - b. The church is the unique, super-natural, living organism (not organization) of God presence on earth
- 2) The Body of Christ (1 Cor 12)
 - a. The church is the body and Christ is the head
 - b. We can not function/survive without our head. The head leads the body. The body belongs to Christ, the head
- 3) The Bride of Christ (Eph 5)
 - a. The church is those who Christ has died for, that He may sanctify her.
 - b. We look to Jesus, our husband, for our protection, provision and our “everything”
- 4) The posture of the church is “Come!” (see last paragraph of Revelation)

Then, all those in attendance offered their ideas on the following questions:

Where have we been? How has God been faithful to us in the past? / Where are we now? How is God leading us right now?

Participant Responses Shared/Written on Notepad were as follows...

PAST/PRESENT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preaching of God’s word tested & prevailed • Community of Bible Study Participants that grows • Outreach Programs / Loving our Neighbors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welcome bags, perishable food program (3yr anniv, went from 4 to 22 families) • Kids Camp – Reaching more families • Corporate Prayer (Monthly) • Prayer Opened Up (Bible Study, Alpha) • God’s provision (Sunday School, Outreach, Service Opportunities) • Children seen by Congregation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology/livestream (reach more people) • Christian Education / The Gospel Project Curriculum (not confusing “root” & “fruit”) • God Continuously Knocking/Seeking Relation with us. Always Faithful. • Unity: “Not I, But Christ in me” • Jesus to be seen as Wonderful, Beautiful • Continuously Preaching God’s word in our daily lives, making disciples • Men’s Ministry/Foundation for Future Ministry • Open houses/welcoming

Where are we going? How will God continue to lead us into the future?

Participant Responses Shared/Written on Notepad were as follows...

FUTURE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding our reach / Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Getting into more technology/livestream (Reaching the world) ○ Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, Podcasts ○ Investment (people, learning, \$) ○ Projector, audio, cameras • Filling Community Needs / Outreach Expansion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food Bank ○ Grants/Funding ○ Partnering w/ other churches ○ Expand beyond food (domestic violence, home repairs, etc) • Networking / Partnering with other Community Churches, resources, organizations, town hall/council • Educating our church on what all our needs are • Communication / Awareness • Giving the Word of Jesus Christ (Helping provide / make disciples) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add more Christ-centered (bible inserts) to giveaways (i.e., welcome bags) • Practice sharing the Gospel • Home Groups, Seminars, Family Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Build our own knowledge of bible, fellowship, spiritual gifts, sharing) • Strengthen / Grow Support for Missions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current Global Missions: Heifer, World Vision, Operation Christmas Child ○ Regional Mission: My Sister’s Place ○ Support a Missionary Family (or families) ○ Mission trips/teams • Focus on discipleship here so we can grow further – global • Financial Awareness / Help • Modernize Music Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Worship / Praise Leader/Team ○ Youth Program ○ Look for alternatives (choir sings among the people instead of upfront)

Lastly, Brian Prue offered this counsel to us all as we lean forward into our future, together: All change requires extra grace! Let's remember that our identity in Christ is NOT what we do in church. Rather what we do in church is one expression of (our response to) our identity in Christ.

Written on Notepad ...

CHANGE: Graciousness, Openness, Uncomfortable