



Messenger Lite  
August 28, 2013

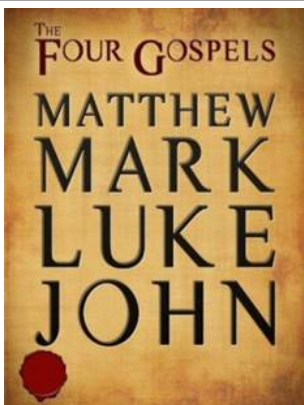
**the**

Casual. Refreshing. Worship.

**gATHERING**  
Sundays at 5pm



Join us Sunday evenings at 5pm for a casual and Spirit-filled worship service in the Fellowship Hall. We will join together for 30 minutes of song, prayer, communion, and a scriptural meditation. Services start in September!



### GOSPEL STUDY

Beginning Sunday,  
September 15 – 6 p.m.  
Cole Parlor

Want to invite you to a Sunday evening study, to begin Sunday evening, **September 15th from 6-7 pm in the Cole Parlor**. The study will be structured differently than studies I've done in the past:

More casual meeting area, conducive, I hope, to greater participant conversation. Study offered on ongoing basis throughout the school year (with stops and starts as necessary for holidays and other church wide events). Gospels as our primary and chief guide, using a harmony of the gospels (a book that puts gospel parallels together) to help us chronologically, methodically examine the Gospel story. We'll take as long as we want to look at details, words, or peculiar teachings.

Hope to see you! Bring your Bibles.

-Dan

### THIS WEEK'S SERMON

September 1, 2013 (Labor Day)

Sermon: "Keepers of the Flame"

Scripture: Hebrews 12:18-29

Synopsis: I can still remember the priest and his anxious attendant at the Holy Easter Vigil service. In the dark of night before Easter morning, they were battling to protect the fragile, nearly-extinguished, flicker of the Pascal Candle flame against a strong Texas wind. I don't remember anything the priest said. I don't remember the liturgy, the songs. I don't remember anything but the near comical display of heroic effort to keep the flame alive. Nearly a hundred folk were there that night for God's knows what. Important enough, apparently, to stop the march of their lives to come to church on a Saturday night to hear words of great hope. Jesus lives! For where else can you come on a Saturday night to hear words, sing songs like that? I wonder sometimes if we fail to rightly appreciate the urgency, the great value, of our church's work. Not to us, but to others. The writer of Hebrews says God is consuming fire, holy fire, life-giving fire, and he's entrusted us, the people of his Church, to carry it carefully from one generation to the next; to hold up its tender flicker for all those who seek it. On this Labor Day weekend, we pause to remember that the work we do here at Church isn't done exclusively for our benefit.

**We will officially kick-off our youth ministry activities for the school year on Sunday, September 8th. The schedule is as follows:**

**"The Gathering" at 5pm**

**Snack Supper at 5:30pm**

**Youth Activities 6pm-7:15pm**

**We are asking each youth to bring \$3 to cover the cost of food.**

**ALL groups are invited  
(including ages k-12<sup>th</sup>).**

**Please email Allison if you have any questions.**



## GENEROSITY IS REVEALING

Matthew remembers a line from one of Jesus' sermons. In the sermon Jesus told would-be followers that there's a close connection between your greatest passion, the focus of your heart, and how you invest the resources of your life including time, energy and, of course, money. Jesus put it this way: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

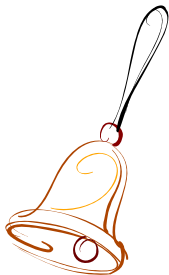
Years of pastoral ministry have taught me the truth of those words. Therefore, I was startled a couple of weeks ago when I read the results of a survey by ICM, a London-based polling agency. It shows that the United Kingdom's estimated 280,000 Muslims give more money annually to charity than do Christians, Jews, Hindus, and Sikhs. The survey showed that Muslims say they donate about \$567 per person per year, with Jews (also numbering around 280,000 in the UK) in second place, giving \$412 per person annually. Christians give considerably less—just over \$300 per person. Even atheists, the survey noted, give at least \$177. (Reuters as noted in *The Christian Century*, August 21, 2013, 8).

If Jesus is right; if, as Eugene Peterson paraphrases Jesus' sermon, "The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being {and, I might add, want to invest yourself most fully}," then what do you suppose the results of that ICM study mean for we Christians living in an affluent American society? Dan



## Members needed for Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir is currently in need of additional members. If you have minimal to vast musical experience (or anywhere in between), you can master the skill needed to be a member of the choir. Rehearsal time is Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm. Because each person is responsible for a certain set of notes, it is extremely important that those who express interest be committed to being at rehearsal each week. The choir performs (on average) once a month, with additional performances often scheduled during Advent and Lent. Church membership is not required. Interested persons should contact Virginia McBee at [972-816-6068](tel:972-816-6068).



*It's Coming*  
*September*  
8, 15, 22, & 29

*McBee*

## PRAYERS, JOYS, & CONCERNS... FOR THE FOLLOWING:

KENNY KIRKER

JENNY JONES

WAYNE & PEGGY SMITH

JOANNE TERRY

LAURA LEMASTER

We will be holding our one and only blood drive on October 13th. The Outreach ministry would like this drive to be successful. We need you!

Please be aware you may only donate every 60 days.



**We need you!**