

From the Lead Pastor's Desk for February 10

New This Week

Potluck Menu Needs

Please bring an entrée or soup and your choice of a side dish/salad or dessert.

Feb 10 Member Voting at Annual Business Meeting and Potluck

Ministry Reports for 2018 and the 2019 Budget will be voted on in the Feb 10 congregational meeting and are available for your review on the ministry table.

Anyone interested in becoming a member which will enable you to vote in the Feb 10 meeting, please discuss joining VCF with Pastor Jim or any elder.

Baptismal Service

A baptismal service is being planned in the nearing months so if you desire to take this step or wish to discuss the possibility, please take the opportunity to speak with Pastor Jim or an elder.

Scripture Reading Opportunities

VCF family participation in the service is welcome. If you would like to read the scripture one Sunday please see Nancy D or simply sign up for a week on the clipboard at the ministry table.

Thank You!

The Dupres' would like to thank everyone for their prayers and kindness during this past week.



Last week, Chad led us in a time of confession during community prayer. In conversations following the service, a couple of questions seemed to surface from some I talked with.

Is it possible to be repentant and forgiven for something without telling anyone you did it? Or is confession to another person a necessity?

Well, the short answer is that confession to another person is not always possible. If you were to have a lustful thought and then a heart attack, you wouldn't go to hell if you were born again. But I think a person asking this question may be operating under a kind of mechanical notion of the way repentance towards God and confession of our sins towards others works.

It may be more helpful to ask: *What is the role of confession to other people? When should you do it, and why would that be helpful?* James 5:16 is the key text here: *"Confess your sins to one another ... that you may be healed."*

So, something really valuable happens when we confess our sins to one another. If you sin against another, the Bible is pretty clear that you must first go and get it right with your brother or sister in Christ before you go to the altar (Matthew 5:23-24). So, confession is crucial at that point to another person.

But even there I don't want to say it's absolute, because my guess is that the thief on the cross had offended so many and hurt so many people when he became a Christian and he had no time to make any of it up. He went straight to heaven half an hour later, as Jesus said: *"Today you will be with me in paradise."*

So, while there are circumstances when forgiveness is not always possible, however it is very healing for relationships. We want two things to happen in repentance:

1. We want the air cleared with us and God. So, we say, *"God, I've sinned. I'm sorry. Apply to me afresh the blood of Jesus,"* and we enjoy that fresh fellowship and forgiveness.

2. And we want this horizontal relationship to be clean and clear and open, because so much pain comes into life, and even physical maladies come into life, when we are keeping our sins inside. *"I kept my sin in and my bones wasted away"* (Psalm 32:3).

There is a healing that comes at the horizontal level as well as the vertical when we confess our sins to one another

In addition to our relationship with God, we are also children of light (Eph. 5:8-9). That means you need to be known as an open book, appropriately read by accountable, mature people in your life. You're not a secretive person, a hypocritical person. Eph. 4:25 says, *"Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another."* As members of the body of Christ, part of our healthy spiritual lives include confession.

VOLUNTEERS

We are very grateful for our many volunteers that serve faithfully week after week as well as those who step forward to meet periodic needs that come up in our church family. If you would like to volunteer in any area please contact Nancy D or complete the tear off page in Sunday's bulletin and place it in the offering bag.

www.vcflynden.com

Ministries for Serving Your VCF Family

Worship-singing, playing an instrument, operating the soundboard

Children's Ministry, being part of a teaching team or assisting a teacher

Men's Ministry-share your faith story, help cook a breakfast, facilitate a Bible study

Women's Ministry- be part of the planning team, facilitate a Bible study, Partner with another woman in our Heart to Heart Partnering, share your faith story

Youth-be available to provide transportation for meetings and activities, be a mentor or prayer partner, host a youth event, provide snacks

Fellowship-be on a rotational list to prepare snacks for fellowship on Sunday

Greeting-greet and take the offering on a rotational basis for Sunday service

Hospitality-reach out to guests to help them get connected to our VCF family

REACH-be part of a intergenerational team that plans events for our VCF family

A complete calendar of events is located at www.vcflynden.com but here are this week's highlights!

Saturday

Sunday

Annual Business Meeting and Potluck

Monday

Design for Discipleship 6:30@ministry center

Men's Bible Study Group on Philippians 7 pm in Bellingham

Tuesday

Women's Bible study and Prayer at Ruth's 9:30-11:30

Wednesday

Men's Bible study with Garrett Wise at Lynden Starbucks

Community Group Study on Acts at Hilda's

Old Testament Study 7 pm @Laurel Baptist Church

Thursday

Prayer 1-5pm in Ruth's home

Pray about anything on your heart! If you are willing to be a part of passionate prayer for prodigals, please e-mail Ruth at rrleon50@msn.com.

Men's Group Bible Study on Philippians @ 7 pm in Lynden



Praying for Marriages and Families

Prayer Requests, updates
and praises can be sent to
prayer@vcflynden.com