



NEWSLETTER



September 2016

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From the Pastor

Being About the Savior's Business

This fall will be the busiest time ever in the history of Open Bible. Our Early Bird Bible study will begin an eight week course on Sunday mornings at 8:00 A.M. beginning on September 11th. The group will take a look at some Timely Topics that are under a lot of discussion. Topics such as Global Warming and Gender Identity are part of the studies. Our Wednesday in the Word class will begin a condensed chronological journey through the Bible. You will be able to see how your story fits into God's story. An NIV Story Bible along with workbook will be supplied to each participant. "The Story" begins on Wednesday, September 14th, at 5:00 P.M.

There will be several women's Bible studies available each month. See more later in this newsletter. Our Women of Open Bible start their monthly gatherings with a pizza luncheon on September 14th at 12:00 noon at church. The women will be looking at potential mission projects, and preparing to set up a booth at the Women's Expo in October.

The 466A group will meet twice a month in the homes of members. They will be looking

at the New Testament "Story" during their gatherings. A small screen and projector will be utilized to show a video clip as each session begins. Klaus and Helga Maas will be hosting the first 466A group gathering on September 13th from 2:00-4:00 P.M.

Our men's breakfast Bible study will meet once a month at Perkin's restaurant under the leadership of Dennis Duessler. Our Defender's group led by Bill Sigurdson and Ken Wells will be meeting monthly at the shooting range on Highway 44.

Our Long Range Planning committee has a weekend planning session with Elton Stroh on September 16th and 17th. Elton Stroh will help us formulate a 3-10 year plan for the ministry of Open Bible. Our planning committee has done a lot of groundwork in preparation for this workshop.

On September 25th at 11:00 A.M., we will have a special groundbreaking ceremony in the back lot of our church with a luncheon following. If you haven't signed up yet, there is a sign-up sheet at the kitchen pass through.

Open Bible will be celebrating mission festival on October 16th. Our guest speaker that day is Dr. John Lawrenz, who has served as President of Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Michigan, president of Martin Luther College, and professor at our seminary and ministerial training school in Hong Kong. Dr.

Lawrence will also host our Jewish Seder meal on Monday, October 17th at 5:00 P.M.

If everything moves along smoothly, Signature Enterprises will begin digging the foundation of our new addition sometime during the month of October. During October, Pastor Schulz will be training the Capital Funds Drive Committee.

Open Bible will have a special Reformation service on October 30th with guest speaker, Pastor Mark Goeglein, conducting the service. Great reformation hymns and message will be at the forefront that Sunday.

November 6th will mark the beginning of our capital funds drive. A special service and message is planned for that day. What a wonderfully active and loving congregation we have here at Open Bible. Pray that God supply your pastor with continued zeal and passion for the great work he has set before us. Keep our Vision growing!

A Christian Passover

When the Lord was going to go through with the last plague on Egypt, the visitation of the angel of death, He instructed the Jewish nation in Egypt to smear the blood of a lamb on their door posts so that their houses would be spared from this last plague. He also instructed them to prepare a special meal which came to be known as the Passover Meal or Seder. The Jewish nation observed this meal each year. Our Lord when He started His ministry also observed this meal. Remember, on Thursday of Holy Week He instructed His disciples to go into the village and make ready to celebrate the Passover.

Have you ever wondered what preparations had to be made or what foods would be served, or

what was so special about this meal? Well, you will have the opportunity to participate in a Christian Seder or Passover on October 17 right here at Open Bible.

On Monday, October 17th, Dr. John Lawrenz will be hosting a Christian Seder for our congregation. Dr. John, as he is known, is a leading scholar on Jewish culture and the Hebrew language. He will take us through the entire meal explaining each food item and the meaning of the entire meal. I think you will enjoy not only the meal but also his presentation and knowledge of Jewish life.

There will be a sign up for attendance on the pass-through counter during the Sundays in September. There will also be a sign up for a committee of women and men to make the necessary preparations. Think of yourself as one of early disciples preparing Christ's last Passover Meal.

This is really a special opportunity and one that you won't want to miss. Ask your friends to join you to learn about the Passover Meal for Christians and to introduce them to Open Bible.



Who's Who at Open Bible

Jeff Yonce



Jeff Yonce is one of our newest members and a rarity here, a Florida native. Recently widowed, Jeff moved here in June following a brief stay in Portland, OR so he

and his late wife Joanne could be near his daughter and two granddaughters there. Jeff has a grandson in the Navy by that daughter as well as a son and daughter-in-law living in Colorado. They have two daughters and a son; one daughter is currently doing mission work in South America.

Prior to his time in Oregon, Jeff was very involved with Faith Lutheran, a WELS Church in Tallahassee. He served as the Congregational Chair as well as the Head of the Board of Elders during his time there. Jeff observed about Open Bible, "It's a little different to have a congregation that's less diverse, due to being in a retirement community. I've enjoyed going on men's bible study retreats in the past and I hope we can get that started here at Open Bible, particularly as most members would have the time as retirees. It's a very enriching experience."

Jeff chose The Villages when moving back to Florida because of the diverse activities available in the community. He's located in the Village of Duval and enjoys Softball, Basketball, Democrat Club, Philosophy Club, Shuffleboard and Billiards. Another hobby he enjoys is deep-

sea fishing. Jeff's favorite sport is football and favorite teams are the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Florida State Seminoles.

Jeff not only served in the Army but also had a 36 year career as a law enforcement officer, so a double "Thank You for Your Service"!

Submitted by: Ruth Ann Niermeyer

Small Group Ministry

Sunday Morning Bible Study (Led by Pastor Schulz)

Early Bird Bible Study: September 11th, 18th, 25th, October 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
8:00am



The **Timely Topics, Timeless Truths** series brings the discussions people are talking about today into a Bible study setting. The studies will equip learners with biblical truths for engaging in challenging issues with their family, friends, and coworkers.

The God who made me

Intelligent Design: Friend or foe in the war of worldviews?

Global Warming: How concerned (and how green) should we be?

Gender Identity: Who makes the call (and how)?

The God who saves me

Santa Claus: Does the man in the red suit spell "Saint" or "Satan" for Christmas?

Secret Baptism: A grandparent's right--or wrong?

Close Communion: Are we closing the door on reaching the lost?

The world around me

Duel Citizenship: Can my pastor talk politics?

Broke to Bankrupt: Does my faith let me file?

Wednesday in the Word at 5:00 PM. (Led by Pastor Schulz)



SPLASH Single People Loving and Serving Him (Led by Pastor Dale)

SPLASH is a special group for singles at Open Bible. Newcomers and friends are always welcome.

Meeting twice a month, once for study, and once for recreational activities.

First meeting on Sunday, September 11th at 11:30am. After church. It will be Brunch and a planning meeting at Water Oak Country Club.

SPLASH has great plans for the coming activity year. Bible Study options and many fellowship opportunities including Sunday brunches & day trips.

Journey with Judy: Bible Study:

A ladies home Bible Study will begin Monday, September 12th at Judy Hainen's home 3171 Gooding Place. The study guide is titled, Conversations with Jesus by Martha Reapsome. Time: 9:15-10:30am. Please let Judy know if you are coming so there is enough material. 750-5320.

Men Of Leisure: Men's Breakfast Group (led by Dennis Duessler)

The group is discussing a Bible study booklet on some of the issues retired men and men in general face.

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 9th at the Perkins Restaurant. The time 8:30am and location on CR 466 near Walmart. The Topic of discussion: Thessalonians 2.

THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY.

A condensed Chronological journey through the Bible.

Come along on a 31 week journey to discover how your story fits into God's story.

Starting Wednesday, September 14th from 5:00 – 6:00PM

As a church, our goal is to know God's story and to see where our story fits into his. The story is a church-wide journey for all ages, helping each of us connect more with God through scripture.

ACT 1 the ABC's of The Story:

9/14: God Creates and loves/Creation

9/21: God Provides/Abraham

9/28: God Has a Purpose/Joseph

North Country Group (Led by Alan Johnson)

These are a group of Open Bible members from the Ocala area who meet twice a month on Sunday nights from 6:30---8:30 pm. They will begin in October at the home of Alan and Pam Johnson. Topic: the "Book of Acts" using the People's Bible.

466A Group and Vicinity (Led by Pastor Schulz) This group will meet twice a month on Tuesday's from 2:00 – 4:00pm.

Come along with us as we travel on a 10 session study of the complete New Testament. A condensed Chronological Journey through the New Testament.

First meeting will be Tuesday, September 13th at the home of Klaus & Helga Maass. Topic: The Birth of a King.

The next meeting will be Tuesday September 27th at the home of Jim & Sandy Fehlhaber and the Topic: Jesus' Ministry Begins.

466AAA Group is invited to join the 466A group in their Bible Study. See information above.

Happy Hearts---Happy Hands Handiwork -- Facilitator is Sandy Pawlowski

New Meeting Date:

Meets on the Fourth Thursday of each month at church from 9:00---12:00 PM. Next meeting **Thursday, September 22nd**. Group creates quilts for those in need in our community. Also does knitting, crochet, and embroidery.

Friday Fore---Giving Golfers: Facilitator is Sandy Fehlhaber

This group meets once a week on Fridays to golf the Executive courses in The Villages. Teams are determined by the Sunday prior to the golf date. Each golfer is equipped with a small plastic bag with extra--- long tees and a business card from Open Bible to hand out to unchurched golfers.

Fellowship Group (Led by Joe and Paula Malec, Dan & Karen Pearson)

Meets once a month for a recreational activity. Plans are being made now.

Adult Choir (Led by Judy Hainen)

Meets on Wednesdays from 6:15---7:15 PM. Starting Wednesday, September 21st. Welcome to all singers, especially those who have sung previously in choirs.

Defenders (Led by Ken Wells and Bill Sigurdson)

This group meets twice a month to shoot 50---100 rounds at one of these two places: The Gun Club off 44 near Leesburg and also R/D Tactical Solutions 1031 NE 16th St. in Ocala. Ken and Bill supply everyone with targets or you can buy one for \$1.25. In Ocala, your spouse can shoot for just \$6.00. The next shoot is Thursday September 8th in Ocala and Sept. 29th on Hwy 44 in Leesburg. Following the activity, the group has lunch at Beef O' Brady's and devotes time to pray for our country and military. On some months, to save on ammunition costs, the group will look at battles in the book of Judges.

Women of Open Bible : Fall is almost here and it is time for Women of Open Bible to start up again. We will be meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 14th at 12:00 pm in the church fellowship hall. All ladies of Open Bible are invited to attend. This is a great opportunity to get better acquainted with your sisters in Christ. We will kick off the year by having a Pizza Party lunch sponsored by the Women of Open Bible.

Ladies Bible Study: (Led by Pam Johnson)

Ladies Bible Study will begin again on September 16th, at 1 p.m. in the fellowship area. We will be looking at the book Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn from Them by Liz Curtiss Higgs. In this Bible Study the author looks at the lives, situations, and personalities of 10 Bad Girls from the Bible. The premise is that while women

can learn from Good Girls, they can also learn from the Bad Girls of the Bible, as well. In each chapter, Higgs focuses on a different woman. She begins each chapter with a fictional account, set in modern times, that resembles the story from the Bible of each woman she is discussing. The lessons cover such women as Eve, Potiphar's Wife, Lot's Wife, Delilah, Rahab, etc. and are designed to help today's women to be better Christians, Wives, and friends. Contact Pam Johnson (352)390-6982, lambteach@cox.net. If you are interested in this Bible Study. I can order the books or if you prefer you can download the e-book version through Amazon or Christian Books.

Happy Anniversary

Mike & Judy Keintz - 6
 Pastor Rodger & Connie Dale 9
 Ronald & Lois Klatt – 11
 James & Sandra Fehlhaber – 14
 Ken & Jeanne Nelson – 23
 Russ & Monine Follett – 28

Happy Birthday

Ground Breaking Ceremony

**SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 25th at 11:00 A.M.
 GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOLLOWED BY
 LUNCH!**

It's exciting to witness another milestone that Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church will undertake. Thirteen years ago in August, twelve people decided to get together to form Open Bible Church. Their vision for a free standing building was in their future. They even made plans for expansion. Well, Open Bible has grown and will be bursting at the seams. So, on Sunday September 25th at 11:00am, a ground breaking ceremony will take place. A new wing will be built. So stay tuned for an exciting fall and winter. Everyone is welcome and a luncheon will be served following the ceremony.



Bill Whitford --- 3
 Del Draeger – 4
 Keith Mackey – 5
 Skip Owens – 5
 Bob Riches --- 7
 Karen Herring – 8
 Bob O'Connell – 9
 Mike Benrud – 14
 Dan Pearson – 14
 Dennis Knack – 20
 Audrey Hoerchner – 21
 Pat Krahn – 22
 Connie Dale – 23
 Jeanne Nelson -28
 Mike Holmes – 29

