

Feltham Evangelical Church *Newsletter: January 2012*

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A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Calendar

w/c 25th December

25th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)
 25th 11.00.a.m. - Christmas Morning Service (Philip Venables)
 27th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
 28th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study (Robert Goodgame)
 29th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting

w/c 1st January

1st 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)
 1st 11:00.a.m. - Morning Service (Philip Venables)
 1st 5.30 p.m. - Together (*Looking Forward to the New Year*)
 4th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study
 5th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
 6th 10.00 a.m. to midday - Open House

w/c 8th January (Week of Prayer and Fasting)

8th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Matt Bater)
 8th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Service (Matt Bater)
 8th 11.15 a.m. - Sunday School (Trish and Comfort)
 8th 1.00.p.m. - Fellowship Lunch
 8th 2.00.p.m. - Afternoon Service (*Interview with Matt Bater on "My experience of serving God"*)
 9th 7.30.p.m. Prayer Meeting
 10th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
 10th 5.45 p.m. - Lighthouse
 11th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study
 12th 6.30.a.m.- Prayer Meeting
 12th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer Meeting
 13th 9.15.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
 13rd 10.00.a.m. to midday - Open House
 14th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
 14th 10.30.a.m. - Town Centre Evangelism

14th 7.00 p.m. - Feltham Bible Focus (Keith Wilson - Economic Turmoil; What does it all mean?)

w/c 15th January

15th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer and Praise (Philip Venables)
 15th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Service including Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)
 15th 11.15 a.m. - Sunday School (Sheila and Comfort)
 15th 5.30.p.m. - Equip (*Depression*)
 17th 5.45p.m. - Lighthouse
 18th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study
 19th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
 19th 7.30.p.m - Church Members Meeting
 20th 10.00 a.m. to midday - Open House

w/c 22nd January

22nd 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Peter Philpott)
 22nd 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship (Philip Venables)
 22nd 11.15 a.m. - Sunday School (Diana and Sheila)
 24th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
 24th 5.45p.m. - Lighthouse
 25th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Report (Istvan Salanki)
 26th 6.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting
 27th 10.00 a.m. to midday - Open House

w/c 29th January

29th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Marc Khunan)
 29th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Worship (Philip Venables)
 29th 11.15 a.m. - Sunday School (Trish and Sheila)
 31st 5.45p.m. - Lighthouse
 1st (Feb) 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study
 2nd 6.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting
 3rd 10.00 a.m. to midday - Open House

Notes

Feltham Bible Focus starts its sixth year with a look at a contemporary theme. The subject is: Economic Turmoil; What does it all mean? Keith Wilson from Ashford Congregational Church is due to be the preacher.

Bible Study We have now moved back to studying Proverbs on a Wednesday Evening. We have set ourselves to study Proverbs 10:1 – 22:16 over the coming weeks. Come and join with us if you can to study this very practical portion of scripture.

Fellowship Lunch is due to be held on January 8th. This will be on a bring-and-share basis. Matt Bater from Hayes Town Chapel is due to be preaching with us on that day (see calendar for details).

A Saturday Seminar at Amyand Park Chapel provides an opportunity to learn about God's love through the teaching of Gary Williams from the John Owen Centre. This is due to take place on January 21st from 10.30.a.m to 12.30.p.m.

Equip Researchers say that January 17th is the "saddest" day of the year. In view of this on January 15th we plan to look at the subject of depression. This is with a view to being equipped to help ourselves and others if this affliction comes upon us.

Newspapers It is good to read good material. Evangelical Times (ET) and Evangelicals Now (EN) are both available through the church. Contact Sheila for EN and Philip for ET should you wish to obtain these helpful monthly newspapers.

Ladies Conference On January 14th, 10.00.a.m. To 4.30.p.m., the church at Hayes Town Chapel are hosting a conference on the subject of "Prayer – The Soul's Desire". The speaker is due to be Ruth Williams from Swindon. If you want to go you have to book-in beforehand. To book-in send a registration form (available from May Lin) to Dianne Lodge by 5th January.

Church Members Meeting This fellowship meeting is due to take place on January 19th. We should seek God that He might be glorified and ourselves blessed as we share about the life of the church together.

Lighthouse re-commences on January 10th. Pray for Sheila and Trish as they lead. May these be beneficial times for the children which are to the glory of our LORD.

Week of Prayer and Fasting A new year means we must freshly seek God to make sure that we are moving forward in fellowship with Him. During the week commencing on January 8th we thereby have a week of prayer and fasting. Prayer meetings are at different times of the day (see calendar). Why not consider also fasting from food and so use this biblical means to show our devotion to and longing for the LORD.

Open House re-commences on January 6th. May these be fruitful opportunities to contact many for the LORD and His gospel.

News

Zac Mollallegn is now engaged to be married to Amy Stock. He and Amy plan to marry in May 2012. Let us pray for them.

Elsie Darling is presently in West Middlesex Hospital as a result of her general physical weakening and contracting of an infection. We pray she would be knowing the LORD and His goodness at this time of weakness.

Spiritual Notes Building Projects.

God is interested in building that which is for His own glory. In this age he has two particular building projects which he is undertaking. He is in the business of building individual believers and building churches. However, these two are not separate projects. Rather we can say God builds Christians so that he can build churches.

Building Christians

Jude writes: **But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith** (Jude 20a). We need to each take personal responsibility for ourselves and our growth in Christ. We are each building projects and we need to make sure progress is being made. The fact that “build” in this verse is in the present tense indicates that this work should be continually be going on in our lives. We will never be too old to be built up.

Paul provides further detail of this project when he says to the Colossians: **“just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness”** (Col. 1:6-7). Pulling together the truth quoted in the verses from Jude and Colossians quoted above we can say that Christian growth involves growth in Christ and that involves growing in the knowledge of the truth, **“your most holy faith”**, which we have in the Word of God.

Not only do we need to be concerned for ourselves though, but we need to be concerned for one another. If we love our fellow believers we will want them to grow in Christ. Paul says to the Thessalonians: **“encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing”** (1 Thess. 5:11). Further, in writing to the Corinthians, Paul emphasizes that in the church meetings the activities should lead to edification. **Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church** (1 Cor.14:12) is what Paul says.

Building Churches

As we have looked at Paul's desire for building up the church we have started to move on in our thoughts to see how Christian growth is not an end in itself. As individual Christians grow, churches grow. Peter develops this imagery when he says **you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ** (1 Pet. 2:5). God has provided a place where believers are to grow; that place is the church. And as they grow as part of a church that church comes more and more to be to the honour of His Name.

In the Old Testament God constructed a building to be for His glory; the temple. Accordingly we read that **The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it** (2 Chron. 7:2). In the New Testament the church is seen as the spiritual continuation of this temple. Paul says to the Corinthian church **Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you/** (1 Cor. 3:16). One of the implications of this is that we should be careful what we build into this temple; that is for us, Feltham Evangelical Church. Paul challenges the Corinthians (and us!) by developing the thought as follows: **By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light** (1 Cor. 3:10-13).

Specifically the following challenges are implied:

- If the local church is represented as the temple (1 Cor.3:16) and we are all spiritual stones (1 Pet. 2:5) then all Christians should be members of a local church.
- The church is God's special building project. The raises significant question marks as regards to para-church Christian organisations which exist outside the church. No doubt much good work is done through many of these. But, if possible, should it not be the case that all organisations should be operating in connection with the church and preferably under the authority of a church?
- This temple is made up of living stones. We are all involved in effecting each of the others stones in our church,. If we never attend, never get involved in the lives of other believers then we are a discouraging “wood , hay and stubble” (1 Cor. 3:12) believer. Similarly if we are always criticizing and discouraging other stones then we are not building up.
- Using our gifts for the benefit of other stones makes us to be gold, silver and precious stone believers (1. Cor. 3:12).

As we move into 2012 let us then be considering the building work that God is involved in. In the light of His building how is our building going?. And how much are we contributing, through our our personal growth and encouraging others to grow, to the growth of Feltham Evangelical Church.