

Our purpose is to be a Biblical community of God's servants going into all the world reaching the unbelieving, the unchurched, and the unconnected and nurturing each other to become reproducing Christ-followers.



Crossings Community Church

“Communicating and Connecting with the Church

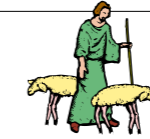
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Shepherd's Pen	1
Children's Ministry	2
Worship	3
Women of the Word	3
The Shepherd's Pen cont'd	4
Upcoming Events	4
A Special Thanks	4

A Word from the Shepherd's Pen



The Lukewarm Church

The seventh and final church mentioned in Revelation is probably the most well-known of the seven churches by modern-day Christians. It is the Church at Laodicea. Most know it as the church that God threatens to spit out of His mouth because she is lukewarm rather than hot or cold. There are some important things that we can learn from this church and there are also some parallels to the church at Laodicea and the church in America today that we will do well to recognize.

God tells the church at Laodicea that she is neither hot nor cold, but that He wishes she were one or the other (Rev. 3:15). I was always taught that this passage was referring to believers (hot) and unbelievers (cold). However, notice that God tells the church that He wishes they were either hot or cold. This raises an interesting question, Would God wish that

a church were cold, as referring to unbelievers??? Or, could the terms hot and cold be both referring to believers? I believe the answer to the latter question is, yes. Both hot and cold water were of value, both were able to be used beneficially, both terms were positive when referring to water. So when we read a passage like Revelation 3:15 we must understand that God is telling the church that He wishes she were of value, that she was useful for proclaiming the gospel. But she wasn't, God tells the church that she is lukewarm. Now lukewarm water was of no value. In fact, it was, in some ways, detrimental. Have you ever drank water that was lukewarm? It can be a sickening feeling to think that you are going to get an ice cold cup of water only to take a swig and find out that it is really lukewarm. Yuck! In the same way, when you think you are getting a piping hot cup of coffee or tea only to find that it is warm can be a real dis-

appointment as well.

The church at Laodicea was a wealthy church. Notice in verse seventeen that God tells the church that because she has such wealth she feels that she is independent of God. She has no need of anything. How tragically wrong they were! God tells them that they are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked (3:17). Wow! From God's point of view they were in terrible shape. Everything that they thought would sustain them has actually caused a spiritual blindness. Their wealth has turned into a curse that blinded them to their need for the savior.

The church at Laodicea fell into the trap of thinking that her external circumstances were an accurate gauge for her spiritual success. Simply because she was enjoying the material success of this world did not mean that she was a

(continued on page 4)



Children's Summer Calendar

Crossroads (5th-6th gr.) @ 6:30

June 5th & 19th
July 3rd & 31st
Aug. 14th

Family Movie Nights @ 7:00

June 18th—Tangled
July 16th—Apple Dumpling Gang
Aug. 20th—Toy Story 3

Kid's Praise & Worship Night @ 6:30

June 26, July 10, Aug. 7

Kid's Play (Birth-Preschool) @ 10-11

June 23 & 30
July 7 & 14
Aug. 4 & 11 & 18 & 25

Kid's Bible Study (K-6th) @ 11-12

June 23 & 30
July 7 & 14
Aug. 4 & 11 & 18 & 25

Cooking Camp (K-6th) @ 9:30-1:00

July 18-22

CEF Good News Camp (Age 5-12)

July 25-29 from 9-3

Disciplining Children

I remember as a new mom I would get upset when my child, whom I carried for 40 weeks, would not comply with me as a toddler! Our children are supposed to love us and want to make us happy, right!!!

Here's some discipline tips I have learned along the way from being a birth mom, adoptive mom, and teacher.

1. **Magic 1, 2, 3-** I can't explain why it works but it works! Typically, 1 is a warning, 2 means I am getting to number 3 where there will be a consequence, 3 has a consequence attached to it. If you get to number 3 and your child continues the behavior, a consequence needs to be ready! If you get to 3 and you do not follow through, your child will learn very quickly that he or she can control you. Brad and I commented one time that since we never got to a 3 with Grace that we had long stopped being prepared with any consequence! If your child is old enough, you can always ask the child what he or she thinks would be an appropriate punishment! There is a Magic 1, 2, 3 book that goes into a lot of detail. This is my watered down version!
2. **Counting Backwards-** Ok, your child is jumping on the sofa. Sometimes all you need to say is, "5, 4, 3, 2, 1 we're done!" Then you tell your child that jumping on the sofa is not allowed in your home because it isn't a safe thing to do. Counting backwards gives the child time to think and react.

It can also prevent a battle of the wills with a strong willed child that would simply jump harder and higher when you tell him or her to stop!

3. **Time Out-** I've always been told 1 minute per age of the child (so four minutes for a four year old). Sometimes, it's us moms and dads that need the Time Out also, so be prepared to take one when needed! When working with bigger kids that are not going to move to a Time Out area, I give the option to stop the current behavior or to take their time out exactly where they are. Then I walk away. Typically, a child will follow me and begin doing what he or she was asked to do. If the child chooses Time Out, I monitor and let the child know when the Time Out is over.
4. **Time In-** Sometimes what our children need is a Time In. Time In means that child and adult spend time together. In our busy and hectic world, some times our children are just trying to get our attention when they appear to be disobedient!
5. **Spanking-** You should never spank a child if you are angry. It's hard to keep your emotions from taking over. It's also not allowed when disciplining children at Crossings Kids and not wise to do in public! My advice is to try to stop the behavior before it becomes something negative enough to warrant a spank!

Next month we'll look at possible reasons why children behave the way they do.

-written by Jen Rhine

Additional Parenting resources:

1. Sacred Parenting by Gary Thomas—How raising children shapes our souls— Parenting is a school for spiritual formation—and our children are our teachers. Instead of discussing how parents can change their kids, Gary Thomas turns the tables and demonstrates how God uses our kids to change us.
2. Shepherding A Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp— This book teaches you how to speak to the heart of your child. The things your child does and says flow from the heart. Luke 6:45 puts it this way "...out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks." This book provides perspectives and procedures for shepherding our child's heart into the paths of life.

- submitted by Cindy Hiestand



Questions—Part I

written by Brad Rhine

This month, we begin a multi-part series on questions to ask yourself before entering into worship. The first question is “Why am I here?”

Really, that’s a valid question to ask yourself before doing almost anything, but I think it’s especially relevant before worship.

So why are you here? There are a lot of reasons we come together as a body of believers every Sunday. But ask yourself what your primary motivation is. Are you here to be encouraged by the teaching of His Word? Are you here to experience fellowship with other believers? Are you here to lift up the name of the Lord Almighty?

Or are you here because of a sense of obligation? Are you here because your parents or spouse forced you to come? Are you here because you have to be?

Search your heart and examine your motives before entering into worship. What you find may surprise you.

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” Matt. 5:16 (NASV)

Remember the Sunday School song, “This Little Light of Mine,”--I’m going to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine?

In the above verse, Jesus had just finished teaching the beatitudes and the lesson about salt losing its value. He then taught about allowing our lives to be lived in such a way that what we do and say bring glory to God, our Father.

Through our relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, we receive knowledge and grace (free and undeserved favor) which we are to spread to others.

By doing deeds of love, being open and generous, and through showing care and concern, our lives will bring honor and glory to our Father God. In the coming weeks, I challenge you to find new ways to share your zeal for following Jesus through your actions, your conversations, and your sincere caring for others.



Girlfriends groups

Ladies, if you are looking for a fun relaxing evening enjoying one another’s company, join us for one of our Girlfriend’s groups.

The Reading Rendezvous meets every other month to discuss our book of the month. For details contact Deborah Chu @ 381-6759.

The Cuisine Queens enjoy an evening out at a local restaurant. To RSVP call Reva Hall @ 684-1769 or JoAnn Dilloway @ 285-4369.



**Reading
Rendezvous**
6/15 @ 6:45

Night by Ellie Wiesel
A Rose from the Ashes by Rose Price



Cuisine Queens
6/13 @ 6:30
@ Ciro’s at
605 Richmond Square, Lancaster

The Lukewarm Church (cont'd from page 1)

spiritual success. God invites the church to come to Him to receive true riches “refined by fire,” garments to “clothe their nakedness,” and eye salve to heal their blindness (3:18). The true litmus test for the success of a church is whether or not she is willing to submit to the Head of the church, Jesus Christ. God does not gauge success by a church’s bank account, attendance records or building program. He judges success by submission to Him. When a church submits to God she will be an effective witness for God.

God makes a final plea to the church. He is standing at the door knocking. One has to imagine that the sound of His knocking is

reverberating through the church. Will they open the door? Will Christ be allowed into the church? God says to those who do open the door, He will dine with. To dine with someone was to show that you had a close fellowship with that person or group of people. That is why the Pharisees were so appalled that Jesus would dine with pagans and tax collectors. He was associating with them and that made the “spiritual elite” uncomfortable. But Jesus mission was not to come and “put on airs” and look as spiritual as he could to all who would judge Him. No. Jesus came to “seek and to save that which was lost.” That has always been the mission of God, to save lost sinners from eternal separation from Him.

Here we see God standing at the door knocking. I believe the door referred to here is the door of the church at Laodicea. Which raises an interesting point...there are unbelievers within the church! The church at Laodicea was obviously filled with unbelievers who thought they were Christians. God gives a warning to the church to repent. He is knocking at their door, pursuing them. Will they respond? The choice is theirs. But if they do not, God will spit them out of His mouth because not only are they despicable, they are of no use to Him and are even detrimental to the furthering of God’s work.

A Special Thanks

Thank you to all those who are the first smiling faces that we see as we enter the church building: from those who greet us each week at the front doors—to those who help with ushering and handing out bulletins—to those who provide coffee and yummy snacks after the service is over. Your role is invaluable to the church body and to those who are entering our doors for the first time.



Thank You!



Upcoming Events

June Events

- June 5th—Annual Business Meeting
- June 11th—Barnstormers Game
- June 12th—Hymn Sing & Ice Cream Social
- June 18th—Movie Night
- June 19th—Keystone Quartet
- June 26th—Kid’s Praise & Worship Night
- June 29th-July 3rd—Creation 2011

July Events

- July 10th—Kid’s Praise & Worship Night
- July 14th—Women’s Picnic
- June 16th—Movie Night
- July 18th-22—Kid’s Cooking Camp
- Jyly 25-29—CEF Camp
- July 29-Aug. 8—Mexico Trip

August Events

- August 7—Kid’s Praise & Worship Night
- August 20th—Movie Night
- August 21—Church Picnic