



March 1, 2007

Dear Prayer Partners,

Thanks to everyone who prayed for Tammy last week. She had a very good visit with her 94-year old Grandpa, Harold. He is now in Hospice care at home. Continue to pray for his health and family as they care for him.

PRAISE, LAMENT AND THANKSGIVING

In our preview services we have been looking at the different types of Psalms in the Bible. We started with a psalm of praise Psalm 150, then a lament, Psalm 3, and last week a psalm of thanksgiving, Psalm 30. Each provides a different “voice” that we use in communicating with God.

I feel that I am living these expressions daily, and most recently the voice of lament. This past Monday I found out that our top potential facility is most likely going to be leased by another company. The facility had been vacant for years, and just as we began to negotiate with them (for a lower lease price), this company came in and could pay full price. While it was disappointing, we are grateful for God’s clear leading through a closed door. We take instruction from the Psalms and have turn our corporate focus to trust in God and praise of Him.

As you know we had also been working and praying toward a community outreach event, the Crown financial Seminar, *Journey to Financial Freedom*. However, six days before the seminar, we only had 14 registrations and needed a minimum of 50. So, though it was also disappointing, the decision was made to cancel the event and reschedule for a later date. Another lament, and on the same day, to boot!

In the ministry of church planting, one expects to have ups and downs. God has greatly blessed our new church with many more ups than is probably normal at this stage in the process. Do pray for us though. That God will provide just the right facility (...as someone encouraged me, “It’s not Easter yet!”), and that he would give us unity as we continue to seek to reach out to the lost in the Lake Cities area.

OUR DISTINCTIVES:

When you talk about the distinctives of Lake Cities Community Church, I would like for you to remember a key phrase in our mission statement: “...the richness of historic Christian worship.” This is very much as part of our DNA that we carry from Trinity Fellowship Church.

Being connected historically is important to us, and is something lacking in many non-denominational and evangelical churches. The movement to “reinvent” church (for our generation) often discounts how the Spirit has worked through the centuries. And while methods surely need to change, many time-tested and biblical forms of worship have been set aside to the modern church’s detriment.

Last Wednesday, at Trinity’s annual Ash Wednesday service, we had two friends at the service who as adults raised in evangelical churches had never been to such a service. It was a moving time for each of them and their families. One person said to me, “I never knew what I was missing – it was powerful.” Ash Wednesday is a service that reminds us of our mortality (ashes) and serves as an introduction to the Easter season, the church’s highest

holiday. I wonder why so many evangelical church's shy away from these types of services that have been historically celebrated through the years?

As we have begun to worship as a new church, we feel blessed to carry forward a connection with "historic Christian worship." Among the evangelical churches (even in the Bible belt of Texas), this will be a primary distinctive for us as a new congregation.

UPCOMING DATES:

- March 4, Sun – Preview worship service, 6pm, Trinity Fellowship Church Fellowship Hall. Psalm 125, A Psalm of Trust.
- March 11, Sun – Craig preaching at Trinity Fellowship Church.
- March 11, Sun – Preview worship service.
- March 18, Sun – Preview worship service.
- March 25, Sun – Preview worship service.
- April 1, Sun – No meetings. Last Sunday prior to launch.
- **Easter, April 8, 2007, Sun. – FIRST SERVICE of Lake Cities Community!**

Pray for the Lord to continue to guide and be the focus of each activity. Guests are welcome at our preview services.

CHURCH PLANTING QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

This is an excerpt from an interesting article in Christianity Today a few months ago, challenging the Evangelical church to consider again their historic roots:

We call for public worship that sings, preaches, and enacts God's story. We call for a renewed consideration of how God ministers to us in baptism, Eucharist, confession, the laying on of hands, marriage, healing, and through the charisms of the Spirit, for these actions shape our lives and signify the meaning of the world. Thus, we call evangelicals to turn away from forms of worship that focus on God as a mere object of the intellect or that assert the self as the source of worship. Such worship has resulted in lecture-oriented, music-driven, performance-centered, and program-controlled models that do not adequately proclaim God's cosmic redemption. Therefore, we call evangelicals to recover the historic substance of worship of Word and table and to attend to the Christian year, which marks time according to God's saving acts.

- September 1, 2006, **A Call to an Ancient Evangelical Future**, *Christianity Today*, Robert E. Webber, Myers professor of ministry, Northern Seminary; Philip C. Kenyon, director, Grow Center for Biblical Leadership, Northern Seminary.

E-MAIL LIST INFORMATION:

The purpose of this e-mail list is to encourage prayer for the planting of Lake Cities Community Church. The anticipated launch date is April 8, 2007, Easter Sunday.

Each week new people are added to this list. If you are one of these – **WELCOME!** It is our desire that this letter will help you to pray effectively and stay up to date on the happenings of Lake Cities Community Church!

Praying with you for our world,

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