

Mitchell Community Church

1507 S. Mitchell Rd. Turlock, CA 95380

www.mcchurchturlock.org

Church Phone (209) 632-5335

Sharing the Love of Christ



We at Mitchell Community Church are dedicated to providing a Biblical ministry to the people of this community. Our goal is to provide love and support for each member of this body of believers and to share the love of Christ with all members of our community. We are convinced that the Bible is God's word to man. We believe that "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised again on the third day according to the Scriptures..." (1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

If you have any questions or needs, please feel free to contact one of our Pastors or Elders.



SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

9:30 - Sunday School

10:15 - Coffee & Donuts

10:45 - Church





Newsletter

Senior Pastor - David Sotelo

Office: (209) 632-2111 Cell: (209) 702-1801 E-mail: pastordave@hotmail.com

Discipleship Pastor - Rex Wright

Cell: (209) 648-1924 Email: <u>pastorrex@rocketmail.com</u>

<u>Church Officers 2022 – 2023</u>

Chairman Randy LaFollette Vice Chairman Vern Larson Elders Rex Wright Rick Frazier Treasurer Christina Ruiz Secretary Cathy Black **Trustees** Jon Fletcher Roger Parks Vern Larson Dan Ruiz **Cliff Sanders** Don McFarlane Jay Mohr Steve Weber Deaconess Kathy LaFollette Diane Parks Jill McFarlane Sherry Sotelo Leslie Mohr Cheryl Weber Sunday School Superintendent Jennifer Maimone

Asst. Sunday School Superintendent Kathy LaFollette

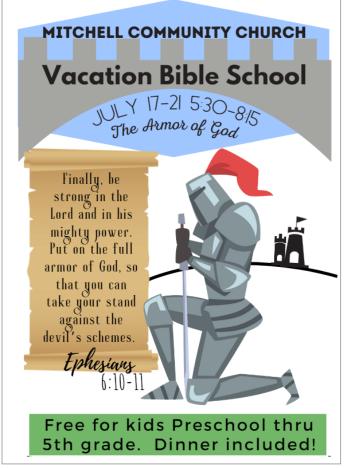
Our church calendar is online:

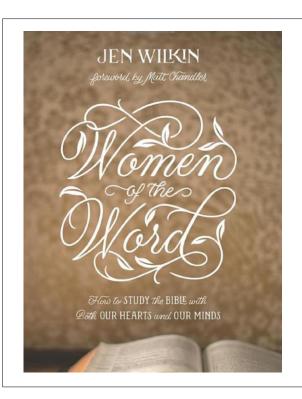
https://www.mcchurchturlock.org/google-calendar/











Women's Summer Bible Study

Begins on Wednesday morning
July 5th 9:30-11:30 a.m.
at Jill McFarlane's house

This is a 5–6-week study.

Please let Jill know if you are coming so books can be ordered!

209-345-9028



For more information or to sign up please contact Ed Maze 209-262-5665, Don McFarlane 209-345-9169, Brian LaFollette 209-226-5495

Doing the Right Thing in the Right Spirit

by Wally Norling

I feel that church growth must be a by-product of doing the right thing in the right spirit, rather than an end in itself. The philosophy around which we would build churches could not violate these convictions. In my search for a philosophy of ministry as a Superintendent with the Evangelical Free Church, I came up with five goals for the establishment of a healthy church. These five distinctives are not all- inclusive; the five I have chosen are designed to set the tone around which a church can be built and have a distinct ministry.

The first goal relates to a style of preaching. I quickly discovered that there were plenty of men with fine seminary backgrounds interested in helping us build churches. But I was looking for a particular kind of preacher. I had long been a voice in the wilderness calling for a certain kind of preaching, while having difficulty finding it. But I noticed that churches, once they benefited from this style of preaching, were never quite content with anything else. I look for men who can capture the logical flow of a text. Every applicant claims to be an expositor; yet sometimes when I listen to their tapes, I can't recognize their text unless they open by reading it. Others pick out three or four ideas or phrases from a text, preach topically about them, and then claim to have explicated the passage. But what they said mayor may not have captured the logic of the text. When a sermon is over, I want people to reread the passage and say, "Yes, that seems to be a legitimate statement of what God is saying here!" Secondly, the listener should say, "In light of what the text says, the message made a fair application to my life." The appeal for action should not be a contrived invitation, but should be based directly upon the message, placing upon the listener an accountability to the Spirit of God to be obedient. Finally, having heard the message, parishioners should find it impossible to leave the service saying, "So what?" These are three very simple, reasonable things I look for, but I have had difficulty filling our pulpits with men who did this well- with color, life and powerful illustration.

The second goal we plan for a church is a genuine experience of worship. Form is not the issue in worship. A problem we do face, however, is that typically people do not arrive at the service in a spirit of worship. If we arrive in the wrong attitude and then balk at the form chosen for worship, what chance do we have of a suitable worship experience? The biggest thing church leaders can do to produce a powerful climate for worship is to make sure the leaders of worship are themselves worshippers, not performers. Self- consciousness will turn a person into a performer very quickly. Someone who is worried about their appearance or about what people are thinking is in no condition to focus the attention of the body upon Jesus Christ. It is tremendously important that worship leaders be comfortable enough with themselves that they are able to focus their attention completely on the Lord. Only then will they be able to lead the body in a genuine experience of worship.

The third point in our church philosophy is that people must be loved - not used. Through the years I've seen many ministers who have felt used by their organization or their church, and on the other hand, many church members who have felt used by their pastor. Many ministers suffer from insecurity. They view the church as their little empire. Consequently, they evaluate people according to how they can help them in the building of that empire. I am committed to the principle that we are not called to plug people into a church program; we are called to train, equip and release people to be the persons God endowed them to be. Should that mean they find greater fulfilment in another church, that shouldn't be of any consequence to me. We are not here to build a local church; we are here to build the kingdom of God, and in doing so, to build people's lives. If they are better fulfilled somewhere else, I should rejoice with them that they are able to have that experience.

Fourth, I am desperately concerned that we foster a climate into which we can bring the wounded of this world and let them find acceptance. We are incurably social creatures, but the typical church is a group of strangers who support the same building and preacher. They are not intimately involved with one another. Church is not a climate of openness and transparency; rather, people are cautious because they don't trust each other. They don't dare open their hearts and share their pain for fear someone will use it against them. Some people come to church so conscious of their sin, that if they are allowed to remain apart from caring people for the briefest time, they feel that every eye is upon them in condemnation, though most people may not even know they are there. We must have sensitive hearts to reach out to people and let them know that for Christ's sake, and their sake, we love them and accept them. I'm not talking about approval necessarily, simply acceptance. We want best for them and, in order to achieve that, are willing to share our lives with them, to be honest and open, not hiding behind fences.

Finally, we must help people share their faith. We may accomplish the first four goals reasonably well, but if we do not achieve this last one, we quickly become ingrown, a "mutual admiration society." The seed of death is already sown in us. We aim for these goals and ask people to join us in moving in that direction, thoroughly persuaded that if we do this, God will be honored, the church will be built up, and we will be blessed.