

The Mind of Terry...

This past month when Larry gave his communion devotion, he made mention that we were trying some new things here with the Board. Since that time, I have had a couple of you ask me what he meant by that. I thought I would try to explain it here.

In an effort to try and take care of needs within the church faster and to also streamline our meetings, we have developed several committees. These committees oversee key aspects of the church and are given the authority to make decisions. Then when we meet together for our monthly board meetings, the committee head simply reports to the Board what has been going on. If there is a big need within that committee, the Board takes the time to work through the situation.

For example, we have a Building and Grounds Committee. This committee is responsible for taking care of any physical needs or maintenance that may come up. We have new doors. We have new windows. We have new rock for the landscaping beds. We have lights that have been fixed. That is because we now have a committee in charge of this area and we are not having to wait for one board meeting after another to get the issues addressed. We simply rely on the committee to take care of these needs.

Each committee is headed by a Deacon and has an Elder serving as an advisor for the time being. In addition there have been individuals from within the congregation who have been asked to help serve on the committees. Our hope is that by having board members and congregants working together we will be more aware and effective at attending to the needs of our congregation.

NOTE: To avoid privacy issues, the committees and members will be posted on the bulletin board in the hallway, not on the website. They can also be found in the paper version of the November 2016 newsletter.

Of course things pertaining to the preaching and teaching of the church will remain under the direction of the Elders, Terry and Darren. If you have any questions about these committees or how they function, you are more than welcome to join us for a board meeting. They take place the first Thursday of each month at 7pm unless otherwise stated in the bulletin.

Thoughts from Darren...

Sunday, October 23

I am trying to stay level-headed, but please do not be mistaken - I am excited about the Chicago Cubs' trip to the World Series. I am a Cubs fan because my great-uncle Joe Monroe put a blue hat on me when I was two. I left it on; my first rebellious act towards my father, a Cardinals fan. It was nice to be a small part (whatever part a fan can be) of the historic NLCS clinching moment Saturday night.

As exciting as it was actually watching the clinching game, my favorite part of the Cubs/Dodgers series was a moment that didn't factor into the results at all. In game four, Anthony Rizzo, Chicago's first baseman, mistakenly judged a 3-1 pitch to be a ball. Thinking it to be ball four, Rizzo began hustling down to first only to hear home plate umpire, Angel Hernandez, call the pitch a strike. As a player, I have been in that position, and I know the walk back to the plate is not a fun one.

Before Rizzo's next at-bat there was a break in the action as the Dodger's had a conference on the mound. Rizzo took that opportunity to apologize to the umpire. He didn't know it, but Angel Hernandez had been given a microphone before the game by the television station, so the entire exchange was recorded. The sincerity and humility in his voice, even after the umpire assured him it was not a big deal, made me proud to be Cubs fan. It made me hope I had been that type of player. It gave me a desire to coach that type of player. It gave me an example to show my own kids on how to remain humble, even during the most extreme competition.

Admitting when we are wrong is not something that comes naturally to anyone. The humility that is required to own your words or actions when they are not the correct ones is something that our sinful, "I am the most important person" nature does not allow to come naturally. This time of year in our country, when everyone has divided themselves by red and blue (and I do not mean Cubs/Cardinals), there is no greater example.

"What more could the Holy Spirit accomplish through me if I lived with the humility I am called to live with?" That is the question I have been asking myself. Romans 2:2 reads, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Loving people, putting them before ourselves, being humble—this is the transformation, the non-conformity, the will of God, if we believe Jesus himself:

“He said to him, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.’”

Matthew 22:37-40