MARCH 2021

PRESBYTS

Sterry Memorial Presbyterian Monthly Newsletter

No Little Jobs in the Kingdom of God

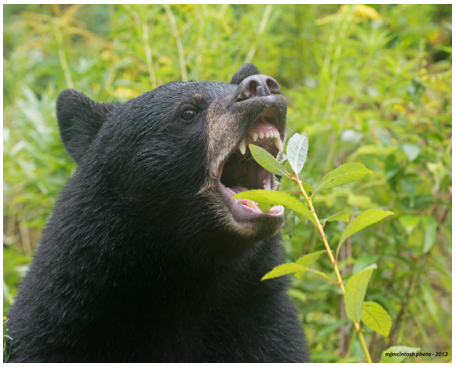
Get Your Carhartt On

By Pastor Nathan E. Lewis

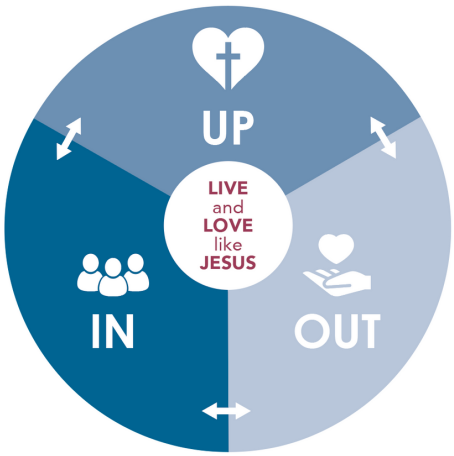
At Sterry we are starting to open and expand our ministries now that the vaccines are rolling and the numbers of positive cases are plummeting. Besides, we all have cabin fever and need to get a life - at least get out! It's time to trade your bathrobes for your Carhartt Bibs & Overalls.

The Kingdom of God is everything God is doing in this world to restore his creation. He works through institutions and individuals. The institutions God has established are the family, the state and the church. The headquarters for the Kingdom of God on earth is the church. It is charged with the proclamation of the gospel and the strengthening of its members so that each and every individual is equipped to serve the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

There are no little jobs in the Kingdom of God. And so, there are no little jobs in the church. Some jobs are so big that only God can complete them. In contrast, the jobs he invites us to do seem small - but they are nonetheless significant and productive. At the end of this article, I have supplied a list of seemingly little jobs that need to be taken up at Sterry so that we can move forward as our community awakes from its Pandemic hibernation. Imagine our church as a hungry bear emerging from its den. The work God is calling us to do is one huckleberry at a time.



In the church we are called to **live and love like Jesus.** Essentially, we are called to three jobs - worship, fellowship and mission. To be a follower of Jesus we must be engaged in all three collectively and if possible, individually. The following diagram shows how these three comprise the work of the church.



It is time to return to worship at Sterry. The vaccines are rolling. The positive case count is plummeting. We need to gather together for our encouragement, strengthening and mobilizing. Fellowship and mission flow from worship. But all three enhance and promote the others. A healthy church does all three simultaneously. Sterry has been that king of healthy church. It's time to put on our Carhartt and get back to work. In the diagram the "UP" is our worship of God.

The "IN" is fellowship. It's time to share a meal together. Soon we should be able to share a ...

No Little Jobs in the Kingdom of God Cont.

good ol' fashioned potluck together. Food in clamshells isn't cutting it! We need to open our homes to one another. Yes, we must do so carefully. But safety in health is only one priority among many when it comes to being the church in fellowship. Virtual fellowship is as oxymoron as it gets! (If you own stock in Zoom, then I recommend you sell it before Christmas 2021.) If you are high risk or overwhelmed by fear, then it's totally understandable. Consider the vaccine. Sooner or later we have to come out and interact.

The "OUT" in the diagram is mission - service in the name of Christ Jesus, loving our neighbor and proclaiming the gospel to the world. Sterry rocks on the "OUT." We are an outreaching congregation. It's time to go to the next level. The most strategic opportunity for Sterry at this moment is the establishing of a permanent building for Parma Launch Pad, biblical release-time education. It's missional, local, and pressing. We need money. We need prayer. We need labor. We need foresight. This is a growing ministry impacting our youth for years to come. And, this is only a part of what Sterry is doing to proclaim the gospel and to perform good deeds in the name of Christ Jesus. It's time to put on our Carhartt and get back to work.

Speaking of Carhartt, I'm one of the guilty parties, who only wears Carhartt as a fashion statement. Carhartt has made its name on providing work clothes. But so many of us wear it because it is a cool fashion statement. All to say, we don't want to be Christians, who simply wear the uniform of hard-working members of the kingdom of God, but never do the work God has called us to perform. Carhartt boots are cool, but they are also work boots. At Sterry we desire to actually wear working clothes that aid us in doing actual work in the Kingdom of God. Our Carhartt Bibs & Overalls should be stained, ripped and worn by real work. Back to the image of the hungry bear emerging from hibernation…

Huckleberries to Eat at Sterry

a list of jobs to be filled

1. Office volunteers in March and April (during Secretary Irene Olivo's maternity leave).

2. Mission Team members to work with Elder Karen Sample and team member, Glenna Bizeau on caring for our missionaries and increasing our mission support.

3. Audio-Visual Technician for our Wednesday Worship service.

4. Youth and Children's ministry team members.

5. Fellowship Team members to assist Elder Sherrie Olenick.

6. Three new Deacons and three new elders in 2022.

7. Musicians for Wednesday worship service.

8. Greeters on Sunday morning.

9. Meals on Wheels Volunteers on Wednesdays.

10. Launch Pad sight development and donors.

11. Prayer warriors at Tuesday morning Prayer Meeting - 9:00 a.m.

Contact Pastor Nathan concerning your interest in assisting. Or, jot down on an orange slip in the pews your interest in serving in one of these areas. Or contact the church office. Get your Carhartt on!

ADULT EDUCATION

A WORD FROM ELAINE OOSTRA

As Education Elder it is my joy to let you know all the wonderful things going on at Sterry from a word of those attending these Bible Studies and or serving in different way. I hope you will want to join one of these studies. Or, maybe you are interested in being part of the Library team! Let me know!

I am still trying to find someone to be over Woman's Ministry with a team of woman. This will involve Bible Studies, Retreats and the Woman's Advent Service. Does anyone feel the calling?

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

A word from Chris Maddocks

"We meet in the gym at the church from 6:30 to 7:20 Wednesday mornings. We serve Food! We began our new study Knowing and Doing the Will of God and it will be led by Skip Smyser and Jeff Baroli. Hope to see you there."

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

A word from Rachel Nicholas

"We are doing an awesome study! Sarah VanVliet is our amazing leader and I am just welcome/host…. She is amazing and deserving of all the credit. We are just about to finishing wit. hour study "Matchless the Love of Jesus" by Angie Smith.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CONT.

Next, we will start "Jesus and Woman." On March 3rd at 10a.m. RSVP to Sarah (208) 989-6632 or Rachel at (208) 250-4760 We meet every other Wednesday from 10:00-11:30, and have any where from 4 to 10 woman join us. You are welcome to join us!"

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

A word from Danette Pool

"I've been attending Kathryn Zeiss's Bible study on the book of Exodus since September. I have really enjoyed being a part of this amazing group of people who are all so knowledgeable about the Bible. The time and effort Kathryn puts into preparation for each week's Bible study is evident. Each week she brings out new truths and gives fresh perspective in passages I have read many times over.

The in-depth study has been very meaningful to me and helped me grow in my relationship with Christ. I love studying God's word and seeing the correlation between the book of Exodus and new testament prophecies. I'm thankful we have opportunities like this and Bible studies offered at Sterry, where we can learn about and grow in God's word. Come and join us Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. "

LIBRARY UPDATE

Glenna Bizeau, Tammy Harder and Becky Obendorf. Are making a great team! None of these women have ever done this before but are excited about this project. Tammy has offered to make Children Bulletins for any age child attending church on Sunday. Extra ones will be left in the Library. Glenna and her team will inform Sterry of new books on the shelves in the Presbyts each month and how to check in and check out books.

A word from Glenna Bizeau

"The library is getting an overhaul and we hope to have more people checking out and reading our church library books. Stay tuned for more information about that. Someone has graciously donated a step ladder to make access to the higher shelves easier. If you need to borrow this step ladder, please return it to the library. It is currently being stored near the TV. We are moving the children's books to the corner nearest the TV on the lowest shelf. If your child would like to borrow one of these books to look at during the service, please feel free."

MISSIONS

Dear Sterry Memorial Church, Thank you for your gift of $1,250.00 which allows us to go after our mission of "creating a refuge of light and life for girls from dark, difficult places and restoring identity and purpose for the future." -New Hope Girls

How Did We Get Here? -- A Musician's Road to 2021

By Mary Lou Koto

Sometime around 1984, Mick and Peg Sharkey began attending Sterry Memorial Church. Mick is deeply passionate about music's role in the life of a church and focuses his fervor like this: *"I have been in all types of bands throughout my life. The music that has always spoken to me the most is the music that has a message and has value. That is worship music in a nutshell. How more important could it be than giving honor and homage to the God who made us and the God who saved us. There is no music as important."*

His family was passionate about music, too. His dad said that the Lawrence Welk Show was the ultimate example of real music. Mick's aunt and parents decided he should learn the trumpet and someday make an appearance on the Welk show! He tortured his family with that instrument.

Although there were no instrumentalists in the family, Mick's mom was always singing and so too were her children. They didn't sing well but they sang. Believing he would be a star someday; Mick did his first appearance singing Silent Night to his second grade class. They applauded, Mick remembers, out of kindness most likely but it got things started.

Because his family was good-sized, Christmas time was joyous but not extravagant. Mick's mother would make sure each child got one important gift. In the fifth grade he made known to his mother he wanted a folk guitar. As it got closer to Christmas, she talked to him privately to tell him a guitar would cost too much. She said it was a tough year and to make ends meet, the gifts would need to be scaled back. Mick, being the oldest child, told her to get the other kids what they wanted, and he did not need a gift. She thanked him for the sacrifice and said she would make sure he got a guitar the next year.

Christmas eve he helped set the gifts out for his brothers and sisters. There was no gift for him. He was a little disappointed but was prepared to hold to his promise to his mother. Christmas morning, after all the presents were opened, his mother said she saw one more gift way back in the corner behind the tree. It was a triangular box containing a Stella Harmony folk guitar. He remembers holding it and being absolutely sure it was going to take him places...

Since guitars were not used in the formal church services of Mick's upbringing, it was years before he could lead and serve in music worship. During those years, his parents listened to "all the noise pollution" and encouraged him to keep it up! He got a job at Safeway and opened an account at Len Waters Music Store. He paid small installments on a $120 Suzuki D25. What a great feeling to make all the payments and own it all by himself!

Mick says, "It was a good guitar and it taught me how to play. I had it restored and gave it to my daughter Cora for Christmas several years ago. She cried and cried over getting such a great gift."

Mick went on to acquire instruments. "Just out of high school I leveraged my pickup truck for a loan to buy a Guild D50 acoustic guitar. It is a beautiful instrument and has played to thousands of people. It, at times, has been my closest friend and confidant. I am old enough and done well enough to purchase a couple really nice guitars but those first three have the most value."

Mick came to the Lord through an outreach ministry called Young Life. He used his guitar and voice to lead worship for hundreds and even thousands of young people. *"My wife and I started coming to Sterry sometime around 1984. The pastor was Phil Hughes. He asked me to do a couple of specials for the membership. Over the course of the next few years, he involved me more and more. My ability and heart have grown so much in this church. I have been asked to do worship in several other churches and I have to tell you, this church praises God. It is a church that loves to sing and has patience enough to put up with me and the style of music I bring." The Lord led Mick to believe that it was his mission to use his guitar and voice to lead worship wherever he went and what a blessing it has been.*

"God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit... Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!"
--I Corinthians 12:4-11 The Message

Easter Memorials

On Resurrection Sunday there is an opportunity to honor or remember someone by:

- ✞ Purchasing a Lily $10 each

And/Or

- ✞ Making a donation to this year's Special Ministry Fund is for Launch Pad, a new home for our Launch Pad programs and students.

Please fill out this form by
Palm Sunday and give to Kristy Sterling or Pastor Nathan .
(If form is received after Palm Sunday, your donation will gratefully be accepted, but your dedication will not be printed in the bulletin.)

Make checks payable to ***"Sterry Church"***
(Note On Memo line write either or both Lily and/or Launch Pad)
(Attach money to form when submitted)

Names will be published in the bulletin on
RESURRECTION SUNDAY
Please take your lily home after the worship service.

Name of Giver(s): _____

in HONOR of	in MEMORY of	LILY	Launch Pad

Please contact one of our Deacons or the church office with any questions.

Easter Memorials

The Deacons are again providing the Lily project for Resurrection Sunday. You can purchase a lily $10.00 or if you would rather, you can give a donation in any amount. Each of these would be made in Honor of or in Memory of someone, which you can indicate on the form.

This year's donations will be given to Launch Pad. Since the onset of Launch Pad, a Christian release classroom "release time" we have been involved with the Launch Pad Ministry from teaching, fixing meals, to sitting on the board. For the next school year, Launch Pad is without a facility to house classes for the students. If you choose to not buy a Lily but want to make a donation, the funds will go to the Launch Pad or you may do both. Write checks to Sterry Church indicating on the memo line either "Lily" if you are buying a Lily or "Launch Pad" if you are making a donation to Launch Pad or "Lily" and "Launch Pad" if donating to both.

Those who purchase lilies can pick them up on the front steps as they exit on Easter morning.

The list of those who are being honored or remembered will be included in the bulletin on Resurrection Sunday. If the form is received after Palm Sunday, your donation will gratefully be accepted, but your dedication will not be printed in the Easter bulletin.

The money must accompany the form and can be given to Kristy Sterling, put into the Offering Plate on Sunday morning, or given to Pastor Nathan

Forms also available on the Narthex Desk.

IMPRISONED *for* CHRIST VIRTUAL EVENT

FRIDAY | MARCH 5, 2021 | 6:30 P.M. CST

Seeking to share God's love in three different Muslim nations, each was arrested, interrogated and imprisoned. Although all three struggled to find God's purpose in their suffering, they ultimately recognized His faithfulness and love amid desperate circumstances.

SPEAKERS

PETR JASEK

As leader of VOM's work in Africa, Petr Jasek was arrested by Sudan's Islamist regime in 2015 while in the country to help persecuted Christians. Convicted as a spy, sentenced to life in prison and forced to share a cell with ISIS terrorists, Petr shared the gospel with fellow prisoners during his 445 days in prison. Today, Petr serves as VOM's Global Ambassador. His book, *Imprisoned with ISIS*, was published in 2020.

ANDREW BRUNSON

In October 2016, following a failed coup attempt against the Turkish government, authorities arrested Pastor Andrew Brunson in a purge that included the arrests of tens of thousands of military personnel, civil servants, educators, journalists and dissidents. Brunson, who pastored a small church in Izmir, became a pawn in a geopolitical chess game and spent two years in a Turkish prison. His book, *God's Hostage*, was published in late 2019.

DAN BAUMANN

While traveling in Iran in 1997, Dan Baumann was falsely accused of espionage and detained in a high-security prison for nine weeks. After his release, Dan published an account of his ordeal in his book *Cell 58*, which shares the details of his miraculous release. Dan has worked at Youth With A Mission training centers in Colorado and Hawaii, and he frequently visits surrounding churches and universities in his work discipling young people.

TODD NETTLETON

Todd Nettleton is the host of VOM Radio, heard weekly on more than 1,000 radio stations. Todd has served at VOM for more than 20 years and traveled to numerous restricted nations and hostile areas to interview believers who have faced persecution for their Christian witness.

NATALIE GRANT

As an eight-time Grammy nominee and five-time GMA Dove Awards Female Vocalist of the Year, Natalie Grant is a leader in Christian and gospel music. Over the years, she has garnered more than 500 million streams and multiple #1 albums and singles on the Billboard charts.

REGISTER

1. **Register your family for free and watch wherever you are, OR**
2. **Register to host the Imprisoned for Christ Virtual Event at your church and receive a free copy of the six-session *Wurmbrand Group Study*.**

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REGISTER FOR *free* AT VOM.ORG/EVENT.