



Tuesday, 24 January 2012

## Marks of a Disciple - Abiding

**The first step in becoming a disciple who makes disciples is being a disciple yourself.**

Spiritual fruit comes from the overflow of our fellowship with God. The more deeply we are connected with Christ and walking with Him, the more fruit there will be. The best investment you can make in combating the evil or advancing the Gospel or serving the poor is to focus first on your relationship with Jesus. To commit yourself as his apprentice – to learn everything he said and to seek to apply it all the time. *Abiding in Christ*, is the most basic and necessary commitment needed from a believer to grow into a more devoted follower of Christ.

“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

Remain in me, as I also remain in you.

No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine.

Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit;

apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:3-5).

When we become believers, the Holy Spirit – or the Spirit of Christ – comes to live within us, to be ever present in our life, to intercede for us, to remind us of everything Jesus said. He stays in us . . . present all the time . . .

active all the time. What would it look like for us to stay in Jesus all the time, to be present with him all the time, to be active with him all the time? That's what Jesus is talking about.

We all need to develop our own *Rule of Life* to grow as disciples who make disciples. Basically, this is a game plan for spiritual growth. A Rule of Life involves a rhythm for living that helps us abide in Christ and grow more connected to Him. To begin crafting a strategy for spiritual transformation, Pastor John Ortberg suggests these initial questions:

- How and when will I pray?
- How can I approach my work in a way that will help Christ to be formed in me?
- How will I handle money in a way that draws me closer to God?
- How will I invest in Christian community (such as corporate worship, fellowship and confession)?
- How can I fill my daily tasks with a sense of the presence of God?

The first step in becoming a disciple who makes disciples is being a disciple yourself, and the crucial and most basic element of being a disciple of Jesus is choosing to abide in Him daily.

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## Ministry Multiplication

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8)

Early believers were sent (as we are) for the same purpose for which Jesus was sent: to disciple all people groups and to seek and save the lost – both locally and around the world. New Testament Christians acted out these commands as any spiritually healthy, obedient believers would: they planted more New Testament churches. The Great Commission instructs us to evangelize and congregationalize people. Furthermore, Jesus even supplied the content of the message as Paul described it, only Christ and Christ crucified (1 Cor. 1:23).

The sending God sent the Son. We join him in his mission of seeking and saving the lost. Then we become God's sent people to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness in the power of the Holy Spirit both locally and worldwide to all people groups.

From “Planting Missional Churches” by Ed Stetzer

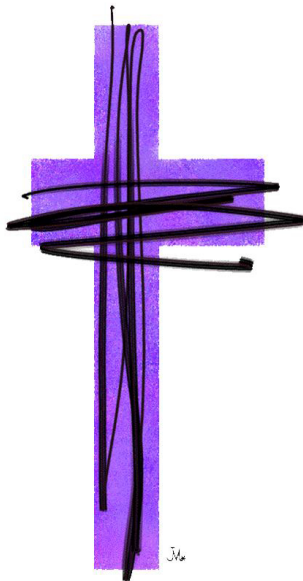
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## Time, Talent and Treasure

## Spending Time With God

It is helpful to think of time in the same way we think of money. We know that it is a gift from God. God has entrusted it to us as a manager not an owner. We should seek to “tithes” of our time as we seek to tithe of our money. That is to say we should proactively seek to return to God a portion of that which is already His. Our tendency is to give to God whatever time (or money) is left, after all of the other demands of life have been met. Somehow, God usually ends up on the short end of that approach.

Author Phil Stevenson puts it this way, “We must not complicate this. Spending time with God is just that: spending time with God. It is making the time, taking the time and spending the time. Time with God doesn’t just happen. It has to be scheduled. Some believe scheduling time with God erodes its spiritual aspect. I disagree. What erodes the spiritual aspect of our relationship with God is not spending time with him.” Even if it is just 10 minutes, schedule some time for God today and pray that He would grow you as a faithful steward of all He has given you.



## SPECIAL EVENTS for LENT

### Ash Wednesday Worship

February 22 ~ 6:30pm (follow's 5:30 supper)

### Stations of the Cross

April 1-7

(Interactive Activities depicting the last week of Jesus’ life on earth)

### Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion

April 5 ~ 7:00pm

### Easter Sunday Worship

April 8 ~ 10:00am

Fifth Reformed Church ~ 2012 Griggs, SE ~ Grand Rapids, MI  
245-9247 ~ [www.fifthrc.org](http://www.fifthrc.org)

## Mid Week Meal & Activities Wednesday, January 25



## Prayer and

### Mid Week Meal 5:45-6:30pm:

Beef Stew, Honey Dijon-Pear Salad and Dessert

**Activities:** (for full event calendar, click [here](#))

- Wednesday Morning Study, 9:15am, [Kimber Sprik](#)
- [King's Kids Choir](#) Rehearsal: 5:15pm
- [GEMS \(Girls Club\)](#) and [Boyz Club](#): 6:30pm
- [Junior High at Fifth](#) (JHAF): 6:30pm
- [Chancel Choir](#) Rehearsal: 6:30pm
- Vantage Point<sup>3</sup>, Disciple and Financial Peace Classes: 6:30pm, contact [Bruce Mulder](#)
- Community Prayer: 6:30pm, contact [Jon Sherrill](#)
- Video Café: 6:45pm, contact [Greg Wilkins](#)

### Inclement Weather

For cancellations due to weather, tune into the following stations:

[WZZM TV-13](#), [WOOD TV-8](#), [WOOD AM radio](#).

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## Worship and Sunday School Opportunities

### Sunday, January 29

**Sunday Worship:** begins at 10:00am.

#### Children and Youth Education:

- Childcare: for children newborn - 4yrs old, available from 10:00am-12:15pm.
- The Gate (4-4th grade):during 10:00am Worship (The Gate uses a small group/large group format during the 10am service and rotates between learning stations for the 11:15am hour).
- Sunday School: (youth through adult) is from 11:15am-12:15pm.
- College and Young Adults: meet in the bell tower at 11:30am.
- YAF (Youth at Fifth): high school large group at 6:00pm upstairs in the YAF room.

**Profession of Faith** for students 6th grade and up begins Sunday,

## Encouragement

**Person to Remember:** **Marvin VanGeest** who lives at 2121 Raybrook St SE #361, 49546

**Remember in Prayer:** the family of **Anne Brommet** as they grieve her death; **Ted** and **Heidi Henning** for **Maddie** who has an upper respiratory infection; **Jim Shumate** who is recovering from gall bladder surgery; **Joan Berends** who is recovering from eye lid surgery; **Lance Phillips**, son of **Don** and **Sue Phillips** who began chemo therapy for melanoma; the **Pastoral Search Team** as they enter into 2nd interviews with multiple candidates. Pray for wisdom for them as this is probably the most critical part in this process; the **Nomination Process** of electing administrative and pastoral elders and deacons, as we seek God's call on our lives and the lives of others; bless the **Words of Hope** broadcasts in Bhutan and the people who respond to the good news of Christ.

### Thank You

Dear Fifth church, may you be blessed for the kindness you've shown me. Thanks for all the Christmas cards. A special thanks to the GEMS for their pretty Christmas cards . **Love and prayers, Marie Tornga**

### February Birthdays 80 and over

6 Jim Drenten  
7 Lois Bultema  
14 Elaine Eldersveld  
14 Dede Cooper  
21 Edna Claire Schooley  
24 Donald Tillema

### Missionaries

February 26 following morning worship in the Music Room. If you have a student interested, email [christianverwys@gmail.com](mailto:christianverwys@gmail.com) by Sunday, February 19.

**Adult Education:** 11:15am-12:15pm

- Christian Issues: leader Clyde Richardson, meets in the west community room. Topics change from week to week. Guests are welcome to stop in anytime.
- Message Continued...: discuss the day's sermon with others. Coffee, juice, and donut holes are provided! Meets in the east community room.

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## Community Life

### Name Tag Sunday

The first Sunday of each month we would like everyone to take part and wear a name tag. We will have a table set up with name tags and sharpie markers and ask that you participate and get to know who is worshipping with you as a family.

### Sunday Morning Opportunity to Serve

Opportunities are available for greeters and coffee servers on Sunday mornings. If you are interested please contact Lori Kerns at [lorikerns@comcast.net](mailto:lorikerns@comcast.net) or 433-2417.

### Transportation Partners

As you might know, we have been blessed by several new families and young adults from Japan, Sudan, Iraq, and Iran. Many of these new friends have no vehicle and require the help of others to get to Fifth Church and back each Sunday morning. If you are able to pick up and/or drop off on a Sunday morning or two, please let us know. This is a great opportunity for you to get out and get to know these remarkable people! If you are able to assist please fill out the tear off tab in this Sunday's worship guide, or email [Chad Farrand](mailto:Chad Farrand) or [Chris Vanderzee](mailto:Chris Vanderzee) and one of them will contact you and put you on the schedule.

### Christian Baptism

On February 12, we will celebrate the sacrament of baptism. Jesus left his church with this command: "Go make disciples of all nations.

6 Harry Miersma  
8 Daniel Pennings  
20 Donna Swart  
28 Dr. Bruce DeJong



## International Focus

Be with the people in Bhutan who listen to the broadcasts from WOH (Words of Hope) telling them of Jesus in their own language, Dzongkha. Provide safety and courage for the new believers and broadcasters who live in fear of prison for following Jesus. Giving thanks that Fifth Church "adopted" this people group 20 years ago and have been providing the finances needed to allow these broadcasts. For more information, see [www.woh.org](http://www.woh.org).



### Sunday, January 29

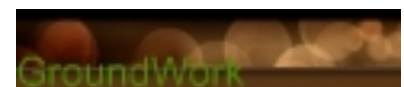
Title: "The Awesome Name of God"

Text: Psalm 99

Preacher: Verlyn Verbrugge

Leader: Bunk Van Ark

[www.driveinchurch.org](http://www.driveinchurch.org)



### Groundwork Radio Broadcasts

Sunday, January 29

Pastor: David Bast

Baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And teach them to obey everything I have told you.” Thus, we believe baptism is a very important part of our spiritual journey. If you have never been baptized and would like to discuss that possibility, we would love to connect with you. Just mark that box on the Welcome Tab, drop it in the offering plate during the service, and a pastor will contact you. Likewise, if you are a parent and would like baptism for your child, please mark that box on the Welcome Tab, and a pastor will contact you.

### **IMA Mission Trip to Valladolid, Yucatan**

The [IMA mission trip](#) to Mexico is quickly approaching – the last two weeks of February, 2012! Participants from Fifth Church and around the U.S. and Mexico will be doing medical work/surgeries at Centro Medico San Lucas and in the surrounding Mayan villages. In addition, the Water Filter Team from Fifth Church will be helping install clean water filters in some villages with monies donated from Fifth friends. Your prayers and donations are greatly appreciated.

In addition, items that are distributed to the people in Mexico are greatly needed to take along. Please deposit any items on or before February 12 in the collection box near the hub in the church lobby.

- Reading Glasses – 2.5 strength and higher in plastic frames. Particularly need 3.0 and higher (Dollar Store or other)
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Toothbrushes/Travel-size toothpaste
- Cloth Bags/Bolsitas (approx.. 5x7 with string closure)- given out in the villages with medications & Bibles

### **Members of Wayfarer**

Your 2011 giving statements are available. Please contact Dan Ronda and give him your giving number. He can be reached at [fifthrc\\_treas@att.net](mailto:fifthrc_treas@att.net) or 437-7401 and he will email them to you.

### **The Getty's in Concert!**

If you recognize songs titles like “In Christ Alone” and “Speak, O Lord” by Keith and Kristyn Getty you will enjoy the evening of worship and music at Sunshine Community Church in Grand Rapids on February 9 at 7:00pm. Call 1-800-965-9324 or see the poster in the Lobby on the Community News bulletin board.

Coming up on Groundwork: *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*. Christians agree that the Bible is by far the most important book for our faith and life. In fact, that's what the word means. "Bible" come from the Greek word for "book;" as far as Christians are concerned, it is the Book. But we don't always agree on what the Bible teaches, or how to interpret it. So if you've got some questions about how to read and understand the Bible, join the Groundwork conversation on 2 Timothy 3:16.

Tune into your local radio station or listen online at [Groundwork Online](#). Presented by Words of Hope and ReFrame Media.

Listen on [WPNW \(1260\) AM](#) on Sunday at 8:00am and 5:00pm or [WJQK \(99.3\) FM](#) on Sunday at 7:30pm.

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**Our mailing address is:**

2012 Griggs SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

About Fifth Reformed Church

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