

Bethany Renew



Midweek Email Devotion

2 September 2015

WELCOME!

I welcome you to Bethany Renew! This is our church's weekly online connection on the topic of church and spiritual renewal. Every midweek, you will receive a devotion, a prayer, or an essay that are intended to stir up conversations and ideas of how we will proceed on the path of church renewal. Feel free to forward this email to anyone who you think will be interested in receiving these readings. You are welcome to respond or make comments, or otherwise just sit back and enjoy your weekly readings and reflections!



RALLY SUNDAY

Sept. 13

with...

BACKPACK BLESSING

Invite families with their kids to bring their school backpacks to church to receive a special prayer and a backpack tag!

POTLUCK



STOP!

reflection on spiritual renewal

One day Jesus was walking down to go to Jericho. Suddenly, "*Two blind men shouted 'Lord, have mercy on us! Jesus **stopped** and called them. 'What do you want me to do for you? (Matt. 20:30-32)*

Did you see it?--Jesus stopped.

If we want to serve like Jesus, we must be willing to be interrupted. Because it seems that most of Jesus' ministry and miracles were results of interruptions: the blind men, the sick people, the paralyzed fellow, the dead child - all of

N.O.W.

Nurture. Outreach.
Witness.

Sept. 6, after worship

Topic: Worship
Service

& Sunday Sch. for
kids

Jump in, if you want to
join the discussion!

THIRD PRAYER & DISCERNMENT MEETING

Sept. 20, after
worship

Topic: Our Church
Mission Statement

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

STARTS: SEPT. 16
6:00 p.m.

"REVIVAL"

A bible study on faith
and spirituality as
John Wesley lived it.
Click [HERE](#) to watch
promotional video.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Starts: Sept 13
10:00 a.m.

A lectionary-based
study on our weekly
scripture lesson.

them were intermissions to his already full schedule. But Jesus was willing to set aside his 20-to-do-list, to stop, and touch someone's life.

Jesus also reminded us that *we are the light of the world and we are the salt of the earth*. This carries a responsibility to be conscious or mindful of opportunities to ease someone's pain; or to restore a wayward faith; or to defend a victim of hearsays; or to receive an outcast; or to relieve the disheartened.

And a lot of times, these opportunities will not be in your calendar two weeks in advance. Suddenly, it's in front of you. Will we be too busy to stop? Are we too organized to be interrupted?

Life in the fast lane can be exhilarating...at least for a while. But when we live without margin, without breathing, and without time for a simple act of kindness, bad things eventually happen. One of them is when our engines in due course seizes. Because the more we say we don't have time to do an act of kindness, the less energy we have in accomplishing our own daily goals. Experiences prove that a spontaneous gesture of goodwill towards someone is **a daily pill for our own spiritual renewal.**

John Wesley said, *Do all the good you can by all the means you can by all the ways you can in all the places you can and at all the times you can to all the people you can as long as you ever can.*

As bearers of Christ's name, **we must not only be willing to follow his steps. We must be willing to follow his "stops."**

Let's try it today!

NOTE ON GROUP STUDIES

I will put out a sign up sheet on Sunday for both Adult Sunday School and Bible Study. If interested, please sign your name or you can also reply to this email.

It will be great to know if you're interested so I can prep for the meetings. Group studies are great for learning, fellowship, and spiritual growth! Join us!

FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE

Please like our new Facebook Page at Bethany United Methodist Church.

Please click [here](#).

Visit our website for other church info, and you can listen to sermons:

bethanytacoma.com

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