



PATHWAY NEWSLETTER

IN THE KNOW

MAY/JUNE 2024



MARK THE CALENDAR

Church Picnic & Baptism
Church Event

June 9, 2024

Membership Classes
Church Event

June 12 & 19, 2024

Volunteer Celebration
Church Event

June 23, 2024

1 Peter 4:10-11

"¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."

"Serve your church." A simple enough sentence. Three words that encourage someone to get involved in their community of believers and partake in what God is doing there. These are not fighting words. They are not inflammatory in nature or designed to bludgeon people to the point of submission to a particular opinion. Most times, these words are spoken to a group of people (the Church) that is saved and seeking what God would have them do. So, with all of that in mind, why is it that these three little words, "Serve your church", seem to make us so uncomfortable? What is it that makes us shift uneasily in our chairs on a Sunday morning when someone gets up on stage and asks for our help? Why do we feel attacked when someone asks us to take part in what we already enjoy anyway?

Scripture is clear that we are each blessed with gifts that can be used to serve the body of Christ (His Church) in various ways **Ephesians 4:11-13** says:

"¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

What is indicated here is that we are to serve in order to become more like Christ. He serves His bride (the Church) and even gave His life for her (Eph. 5:25) and so too are we to serve the body of Christ in order to conform our lives to the image of Christ. Sometimes, though we know the truth of this statement, it can feel difficult to see what, if anything, we can do to serve the church. Sunday morning comes and goes, kid's go to children's church, youth groups run during the week, worship teams are going and even the lights are on and the building is unlocked! It can feel like the church is running just fine without our help and, with busy schedules in today's high-paced world, that can be a relief to some that there are seemingly no immediate needs to be met. The most important thing to remember in all of that information though is that, even though the church may or may not need another volunteer, our service to the church is less about need and more about growing personally to be more like Christ. As we grow to look and act and be more like Jesus, we will desire to serve Him and His people.

One of the more difficult aspects of church ministry is that volunteer service is so complicated. Whether it be scheduling issues or personality conflicts or an area that requires some level of training, there are always hurdles for ministry leaders to jump and it can be hard to juggle it all while trying to run an effective ministry. As believers serving the church is a requirement in our walk and something that should be done with joy and grace. Something I often will tell people when they ask me if they are ready to serve somewhere is that I don't necessarily need people who are ready to serve, I want people who are willing to serve. **Colossians 3:23-24** says:

"²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Training and learning how to do a particular ministry will certainly be done but, most important is that we just desire to serve Christ and utilize the gifts that He has given us. Note as well that at the end of these verses, Paul tells us a key point of service. We are serving Christ. Yes, by extension we serve His Church but, first and foremost we serve Him and His purposes. We glorify Him by helping in whatever ways His bride needs our service. There is no small task within the Church. Everything is designed to help people grow closer to God in their relationship with Him.

Is serving the Church a sacrifice? Absolutely. Will you be made uncomfortable? Likely. Does God expect you to do it? Yep. Will God bless you for being faithful to the calling that He has given every single Christian? More than you can imagine. Serving the Church was not designed by God to ruin our lives. It was given to us as an opportunity to die to ourselves and to bless others. This opportunity should be jumped on in order to conform into the image of Christ more and more every day.

There is a challenge that I will give you. Find somewhere to serve in the Church if you aren't already. Don't wait for a ministry leader to come to you, reach out to them and ask how you can serve the church in that ministry. Don't ask if but how.

- Pastor Andrew

A SERVICE HIGHLIGHT

MYRON JANZEN

My wife Anne and I have been attending Pathway Community Church for 14 years. During this time, we have enjoyed serving in various different roles in the church and still continue to serve.

In the early years when our four children were very young, life was very busy as you can imagine. Between life, work, kids and church there really wasn't much time where there was nothing to do. As a young parent you sometimes wonder if some of the things that you are doing are actually really important. After some time, it's easy to look back and wonder if you could have invested your time more wisely. Moments go by and you quickly realize that time in your life has passed, especially when you're raising children. I once read a quote that says, "The days are long but, the years are short."

When I was away serving at church I often felt the separation from my kids and wondered if I was spending enough time with them.

Last year, I was able to see the fruit of the time spent serving at church when two of our sons mentioned to me at the 2023 volunteer drive that they would like to sign up to serve in Kids Church! I took them over to the sign up area and registered them both. The coordinator mentioned that they would probably not be old enough to lead their own class however, they would make great helpers. That's when one of them suggested if I could lead the class and they would serve with me! Since then we've all had a great time serving together and look forward to more fun in the future!

If you're not sure about volunteering because of an already busy life and don't want to spend any more time away from your kids, I encourage you to look for opportunities to serve together. The memories will last a lifetime!

**CURRENTLY, 25% OF OUR
PATHWAY FAMILY ARE
ACTIVELY SERVING
WITHIN OUR
CHURCH COMMUNITY!**

• PERCENTAGE BASED ON THOSE WHO ATTEND
PATHWAY TWO SUNDAYS PER MONTH