



Discover Joy Church
Mastersonville, PA
www.discoverjoychurch.org

Pastoral update 8/2/09

We have now completed seven months of service here at Discover Joy. We are enjoying our ministry and getting to know each of you. We look forward to continuing serving the Lord together.

- I want to thank those of you who are faithful in the support of the work of the Lord here at Discover Joy in your attendance, service and finances. Offering and attendance info is posted in the bulletin (generally the first or second Sunday of each month) and a monthly financial summary is also available. Essentially thus far into the year our income per week is slightly more than the Bishop had projected in his budget prepared late last year. This is encouraging in light of the instability of the church at that time, some additional attrition and the economy. Our expenses thus far have been a bit lower than projected but we have some larger expenses coming such as an annual insurance premium.

A candid observation:

More than any church I have ever served or attended I note here at Discover Joy there is a considerable amount of attendees who appear to consider this their church home yet who are rather sporadic in their attendance. I ask that each of you seriously consider your commitment level as we approach the fall season. An interesting question for each to ask is, "How strong would our church be if others demonstrated the same level of support (attendance, service and finances) that I do? It is extremely important that we do not have a casual attitude toward our weekly worship with our brothers and sisters.

- I am always pleased to speak to any who may want any elaboration on the church progress during this time of transition. Call, email, write or stop in to see us.
- We now have job descriptions for most ministry positions and these have been posted on the back bulletin board. We recently made the decision to use the Manual of the BIC as a governing document. However it will take a while to phase in some of the changes that following this document will call for. In some cases there are changes from our current operating methods.
- We continue working on the rotations. (Actually I've never been to a church that's not always working on rotations!) Thank you to those "troopers" who hang in there even as we work through this process.
- We encourage you to pray for our outreach type events scheduled such as the VBS this week and several activities we are working on this fall. However please consider each time we gather as an outreach and invite your un-churched family, neighbors and friends.
- I feel there is a core group that wants to function as a church and is becoming more and more unified.
- The Vision board meets monthly. Please pray for this leadership team. In light of Warren Keperling's resignation from our Vision Board the current board has submitted a number of names for the Bishop to review in regard to a replacement. We expect this person will be announced and prepared to serve by our next Vision Board meeting in September.
- Sunday services continue to include blended worship with Brooksyne leading a praise team, prayer, offering, Scripture reading and a Bible-based expositional message. What you have seen the past seven months is essentially how we "do church".
 - We are committed by conviction to "blended worship" that is singing both hymns and choruses. We certainly welcome additional instrumentalists and vocalists pending a cooperative Christian spirit, proficiency and desire to honor the Lord.

- We are committed by conviction to prayer times during the church service.
- We are committed by conviction to the public reading of the Scriptures.
- We are committed by conviction to messages of Biblical exposition.

There seems to be a good spirit with people entering into the service with good fellowship before and after the service.

- Check out our website at www.discoverjoychurch.org This has info about the church, photos and links to material with spiritual resources. We also post a .pdf link on the website to the bulletin each week.
- If you have an email address please make sure you are receiving the weekly pastoral update. Also as many of you know we minister daily at www.dailyencouragement.net and this material is available as a free email subscription.
- We continue to focus on stability and steadfastness, not necessarily exciting to many, but it is the core foundation of a good functioning church.
- We are willing to continue in the part-time pastoral role we are serving indefinitely as long as there is receptivity to our ministry and I have communicated this to the Bishop. (In all other interim roles we have served there was no question as to keeping the church open and I was there merely until a new Pastor was called.) We hope that soon the uncertainty will be lifted regarding the church's immediate future, but that decision will be made by the Bishop.
- For the first several months we prepared for services with an entire Powerpoint presentation. The Powerpoint system works and we expect to occasionally do this or at times reinforce a message using it (such as today's message), but we also find merit to the song sheet method.
 - Frankly for us it's a bit easier to prepare for a service with the song sheet.
 - Several times we just haven't been able to get the Powerpoint to work right, such as last week!
 - We feel the song sheets actually provide a means of reinforcement since you have the opportunity to sing the songs here and at home.
 - In regard to sermon prep I found I was tending to focus too much on the slides and perhaps not enough on Biblical exposition. I also wonder what the expectation of having everything projected to a screen does to our listening skills!
- We hope to soon have the website and Midweek service time posted on our sign.
- We continue to visit and call on our shut-ins and expect to see Naomi Wolgemuth this Wednesday morning on our way out to the Midwest.
- We are grateful for the interest we have seen in the church the last several months by visitors. It is our prayer that we will soon see some of them attending regularly.

Working together for the Kingdom of God,

Pastor Weber