



## Pastor's Perspective – Caring for the Assembly

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

This past week I was surprised to keep running into Hebrews 10:24-25—the verses pastors always drag out when they want to make their church members feel bad about not coming to church (or so it's assumed).

The encounters occurred in several small-group Bible studies of which I'm part, and then in my own personal quiet time in the Scriptures. Oddly, I wasn't convicted at all concerning my pattern of church attendance (☺), nor did I feel compelled in any way to lecture you about yours (people hear what they want to hear). What struck me was the prospect of those who are exemplary in their attendance and who aren't failing at the same point—the point of really caring for the assembly.

Hear me out.

The concern of the writer is not with people going to church (the common, but faulty interpretation). His concern is that the members of the church would be giving careful thought and deliberate consideration as to how they can be spurring one another on to greater love and service for Christ, and then, when they gather together (and wherever they gather),

### Easter, a Time to Celebrate, Welcome Guests

The joy of celebrating Easter with other believers is a special blessing. And, once again, we will be doing so with a continental breakfast at 8:30 AM, followed by the Easter service, on April 20. Often, Easter and Christmas are the two times of the year in which those who don't normally attend church services feel more inclined to do so. If you know of friends and neighbors who don't attend church regularly, be sure to invite them to participate in our planned activities.

Not only is this an opportunity to reach out to guests, sharing food together is a good way to fellowship with one another. Acts 2:46 reminds us that the first-century Christians, with their new-found faith in Christ, "continued to meet...and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." May we do so, as well.

actually doing those things so as to encourage each other in Him and thereby to nurture the life of the church.

Read the text:

*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works—not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (NKJV)*

Imagine doing what the text calls for.

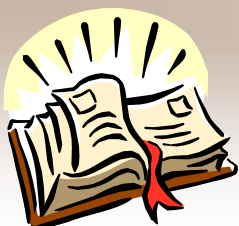
How would your priorities change?

What would our church look like if everyone followed your example?

My surprise encounters with this text last week have forced me (in a good way) to look in the mirror. I saw a lot of blemishes. But I am confident that as God brings about change in me, He'll help me to encourage you that together we'll see the fruit of Hebrews 10:24-25 wonderfully being worked-out in our church.



For the 17th year, Purdue University international students visited the DC area and were hosted by Fellowship families. The students, coming with Salt and Light Christian Fellowship International, toured during the day and met for Bible studies in the evening. Our supported missionaries Paul and Geri Briggs received a love offering the following Sunday.



**2014 Bible Memory Project**  
April Verse

**Those who had been scattered  
preached the Word wherever they went.  
Acts 8:4**



## Helping Our Children Worship - Recipe Pictures Death, Resurrection of Christ

Children learn best by experience. Teaching is important, but nothing helps seal in a truth like doing an activity that emphasizes it. It is the daily living examples that help cement the foundations of faith in their hearts.

God helped train His people in this. When they entered the new land He had promised, He commanded them to teach their children about His ways so that they might enjoy a long life by fearing the Lord and keeping His decrees. "Impress them on your children," He told them in Deut. 6:7 "Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

A good way to teach your children the concepts of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ is in making the following recipe for "Easter Story Cookies." To be done the evening before Easter and tasted on Easter morning, the recipe and devotions, from *DLTK Growing Together*, may help your children be even more prepared to worship the risen Savior.



## Easter Story Cookies

To be made the evening before Easter

1 cup whole pecans	1 tsp. vinegar
3 egg whites	pinch salt
1 tsp. vanilla	1 cup sugar
zipper baggie	wax paper
wooden spoon	tape
Bible	

Preheat oven to 300 degrees (this is important, don't wait until half done with the recipe!)

Place pecans in zipper baggie and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink. Read John

19:28-30.

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.

So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar and 1 tsp. vanilla.

Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16.

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper-covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27:57-60.

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66.

GO TO BED! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9.

## April Calendar

April 5	Men's Breakfast (8:00 AM)
April 8	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
April 12	Church Work Day (8:00 AM)
April 20	Easter Sunday Breakfast (8:30 AM)
April 26	Women's Ministries Garden Outing (11:00 AM)
April 30	Quarterly Business Meeting (7:30 PM)

## Money Matters

March Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,497
Weekly Need	\$5,131
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$57,146
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$66,703

## Fellowship Baptist Church

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