

F Street News

NEWSLETTER FROM THE HEERSPINKS

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F Street Neighborhood Church

As I sit here in my office looking out at the budding trees and listening to the lawn mowers I am filled with excitement for spring and all that is ahead. As many of you know we merged with another church in the midst of Covid so this year when we celebrate our 7-year anniversary we will also celebrate our 1-year merge. When asked the other day how the merge has been for F Street, my immediate reply was "Great." It really has been a joy to merge with a church that has so many great people who are now serving at Team Leaders and care givers. As we come into spring and the warmer weather we have more people in attendance on a weekly basis than ever before.

Currently we have nine students attending the Lincoln School of Ministry, including a gentleman from the mission and one who pastors a Neighborhood Church. Bill Thornton, who has become my co-pastor through the merge and the closing of Nebraska Christians College (NCC, where he taught), has been a joy to work with as we are gifted in different ways and make a great team. Recently we also started a new residency with a young lady named Hollie, who was one of Bill's students at NCC and now is doing correspondence courses and serving at F Street.

I also rejoice at the thrill of block parties starting back up and getting a chance to serve and share a meal with our neighbors. In June we will also welcome our Immerse interns followed by having the return of Immerse with seven different groups over six weeks in June and July. We also are working with a plan to renovate the old chapel behind the church into a space that could be used by Atlas or others who are working with those with addictions.

Another Allen

In the last newsletter I wrote to you about Allen, who has been such a blessing to our church community. Today I am going to share with you about a different Allen.

On Sunday April 11, I came home from church and noticed the Police rolling around the corner by our house. This is not that uncommon with the apartments around us. I noted that there was another one up the street and that they went into one of the apartments behind us. They were there for close to an hour before leaving.

Later that night Beth and I returned from some time away only to be greeted as we got out of the Suburban by a small group of people: Schyler, a young man that has one year of sobriety and is growing rapidly in Christ; Johnny, another young man with several months of sobriety and Jennifer, a lady who works for a treatment center and years ago was a struggling addict herself, along with Allen.

Allen had reached out to Schyler as they had gone through treatment together after calling the cops earlier that day (the cops that I saw) to get a drug dealer out of his apartment. Schyler and Johnny came over and spent time with him and then brought him over to Jennifer's (She lives on our same block). She spoke with him about recovery and Jesus. They desisted to walk to our house and we talked for about 20 minutes.

The next week Johnny and Schyler picked up Allen to take him to meetings, hangout and have a BBQ. They introduced him to others from F Street and then took him to another church on Saturday Night. That night Allen gave his life to Jesus. So on Sunday (April 18) Allen was one of the first people to stand up to share a testimony of the power of God being at work in our neighborhood, by being at work in his life.

This week I will meet twice with Allen in preparation to getting him baptized in the weeks ahead. God is at work.

Acceptance & Direction: Our Vision

In a conversation with a pastor friend of mine from Nebraska City, he mentioned that he had recently talked to a family friend who worked at a treatment center in Lincoln. When he questioned if she had heard of F Street Neighborhood Church, he stated that she, "shut down." Of course as he is telling me this, I am nervous. Did she have a bad experience with our church?

He then went on to read the following text to me.

Good Morning Steve!

"Did you say it was your buddy who that runs F Street Church?"

I have never actually been there myself, but I am very thankful for the people that serve there.

I am not sure how much you know about the work I do; but I work with a population that most of society does not welcome or accept. However, I have never spoken to someone that felt they were not accepted at the F Street Church. The number of individuals that I have worked with that have found physical or emotional shelter at the church, is significant and probably more than I realize. But the ones that I am aware of—I am thankful for. Because that church has been a light in some very dark times of people lives.

I'm not sure why I thought of that this morning, and not last night—but thought I'd pass along the message so next time you chat with them you could possibly let them know that their impact is significant and I am thankful for what they do!"

I was not only pleasantly surprised, I cried.

I want to express that I am so grateful for each of you and the support that each of you give in prayer and financial support. God is at work in our midst.

Wish List...

My 1998 Ford F-150 appears to be on it's last "legs" as it currently sits with two flat tires and an engine that is idling rough. It has been our loaner truck to those in our neighborhood who are moving or in need of transportation. Now that our oldest Abigail is driving it has become my main mode of transportation, so I am looking for something that I can trust to drive outside of Lincoln. If you know of someone selling an older but reliable truck for under \$6,000, would you let us know? Thanks!

Praise...

- Praise God for his continued provisions for F Street.
- Praise God for the answered prayers as F Street's merge has gone so well.
- Praise God for the continued growth in our congregation and the opportunity to be a place of acceptance and direction in the neighborhood.
- Praise God for the reality that all of our Nonprofits (Atlas, Transformations Thrift Store and Immerse) survived the pandemic and are going strong again.

Pray...

- Pray for the team as we prepare to begin Celebrate Recovery this September.
- Pray for continued unity in our church body as our people still get to know one another.
- Pray for Immerse to have a great year serving our neighbors and discipling the students who attend.
- Pray for Beth and I as we finish up the work on the house that we started last fall with a renter moving in on May 1
- Pray for our kids, as summer approaches and we have a lot going on with Immerse and also the boys have started a mowing business in the neighborhood and Abigail will be detassling again this summer. Pray for balance and health for us as a family.

Giving... We are continually grateful to God for the support of each of you and the love that you share with us and able to share the hope of Jesus with those in our neighborhood. All of our ministerial staff at F Street raises 50% of their own support to be able to serve here. Beth and I have been blessed to be able to meet our goal each year. If you would like to help us meet our goal this year or would like to contribute to the ministry for a specific cause you can do that online at fstreetchurch.org under the donate button or you can send your check to F Street Neighborhood Church, 1302 F Street, Lincoln NE 68508.