

March 2011 Newsletter



"Restore us again, O God of our salvation... Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?"
—Psalm 85:4a, 6

Our Worship Committee and other leaders of our congregation are presently involved in planning a revival service for a Sunday morning in May. When we think about revival we may bring to mind images of the camp meetings that were part of Methodism's earlier history in our nation. We may imagine a large tent where large numbers of people gathered to hear the Word of God passionately proclaimed and where hymns of faith were enthusiastically sung.

In a recent religious periodical I was reading I found (not by accident because God has a plan here) an article called "Reflections on Revival." The article stated that "All true revival is characterized by three things: 1. earnest, heartfelt prayer; 2. a deep searching of the Bible; 3. and a passionate commitment to win lost people."

The article went on to say that prayer needs to surround a planned-for revival event, with prayers being lifted for the Holy Spirit's empowerment before, during, and after the event.

We as a congregation also need to engage the Word of God more deeply in this time, because the truths of the Bible are the basis through which all revival and reformation occurs. Through our study of the Scripture, the Holy Spirit will inspire us and strengthen us to live by God's Word every day.

And thirdly, our prayers and the time we spend in the Word will give us the confidence to more easily share the Good News of God's love in our everyday conversations and create in us a strong desire to do that.

Ultimately, the purpose of all revival is not so that we can feel more holy, or even superior to others. Instead, it is meant to show us again our loving Savior, Jesus, to whom we are indebted for all that we have and especially for the gift of salvation we have received. A revival event is also a way in which our congregation can carry out its mission of bringing the Gospel into the world. As the article states: "...the purpose of all revival is to know Him better so we can share Him more... Revival provides the motivation and power for mission." A revival will revive us and the people we are seeking to reach.

It is my prayer that you would begin today to be in prayer for this revival that will take place in May, that you would make a commitment to begin spending more time in the God's Word today, and that you would ask God today for a heart that will grow more passionate for reaching those who are disconnected from, or never were connected to our Lord Jesus.

May the peace of the Lord be with you always,

Pastor Ruth