

Practical Ministry at the Chapel

Summer Preaching Series
Chapel Elders

Russ Kennedy

Series Introduction

- Purpose
 - The aim of this series will be to explain how we take the Scriptures and turn them into the ministry we do here at the Chapel.
- Objectives
 - To ground the ministry in the Word of God
 - To explain how the ministries we do are derived from the Word
 - To show how we work out doing ministry by wisdom
 - To give each ministry an opportunity to lay out its mission, vision, objectives and goals.



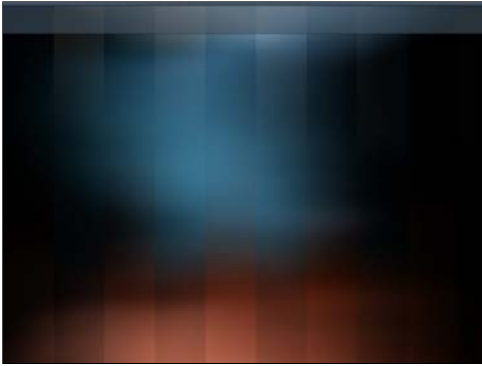
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The Chapel Flocks

Practical Community

Russ Kennedy

Chapel Mission Statement

By God's grace and through His Word,
we will cultivate
in the hearts of God's people
a passion for the supremacy of God
magnified in love for Him
and manifested in love for one another.



Chapel Mission Statement

Here is the Chapel's Mission Statement. All the ministries we do are intended to be shaped by and to serve this mission statement. This statement is how we incarnate the Word of God in our day and place.

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Values Relating to our Life Together

- Increasingly visible, authentic, practical ways of loving one another.
- Eager openness to new people and organized efforts to incorporate them in the life and ministry of the church.
- The importance of small groups (Flocks) for building caring, faith-sustaining relationships and accountability.
- Building lasting friendships as partnerships in cultivating holiness, ministry, and maturity.
- Being vulnerable and transparent in our imperfections so as to encourage candor and openness for change and growth.

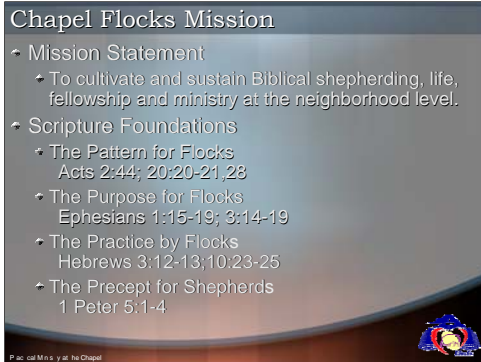


Values Relating to our Life Together

As a church, we have identified the following cluster of values as relating to our life together. These values are the union of beliefs and wants stated as guiding and guarding principles. All of this is what we call ***community***.

As a community of believers, we want to do all we can to grow in serving one another personally and practically as visible expressions of love for God and love for neighbor. These values express the focus of our community life together. Therefore, we value:

- Increasingly visible, authentic, practical ways of loving one another.
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Chapel Flocks Mission

Mission Statement

To cultivate and sustain Biblical shepherding, life, fellowship and ministry at the neighborhood level.

Scripture Foundations

- The Pattern for Flocks Acts 2:44; 20:20-21,28
These are just two of many examples of flock/community life in the New Testament. We see that as soon as believers began to gather, they also began to fellowship and minister to one another. This involved all the believers serving one another and the elders shepherding the flock.
- The Purpose for Flocks Ephesians 1:15-19; 3:14-19
The emphasis in the New Testament is on the church as a community, a body, a functioning organism. The individualism that pervades the church today is steadily weakening the church and exposing her more and more to error. The great doctrinal and doxological truths flow into praying for people to grow to know the Lord and His power *together*. Then, as he prepares to launch into practical living as Christians, Paul also prays that they might experience the Lord and His power *together*. So the main purpose for flocks is to know and share in the Lord's saving and transforming power *together*.
- The Practice by Flocks Hebrews 3:12-13;10:23-25
The writer of Hebrews highlights the importance of our watch care over one another. Due to the grave danger sin poses, we must be together and speak with one another in encouraging exhortations. Growing in grace, being transformed by the Spirit, avoiding sin's insidious creep in our lives are community projects. We do it together.
So, the writer of Hebrews also emphasizes the importance of gathering as a community. Out of our grand privileges of being able to draw near and having a High Priest, we are to draw near to God and hold fast our confession of faith. But this is not commanded as personal, private experience. The last exhortation is that we pay close attention to one another so that we may know *how* to stir up one another to love and good works. We have to be together enough and know each other well enough to know practically how to motivate each other. This requires gathering together. We must not then forsake the community gatherings. In fact, we must do it all the more as the end of days draws near.
- The Precept for Shepherds 1 Peter 5:1-4
If gathering as a community is shaped by the analogy of flocks, then this exhortation to shepherds is important. We must organize ourselves in such a way that shepherds can actually care for the sheep. As a church grows in numbers, this means that some strategy must be designed and implemented to allow elders/shepherds to really shepherd the flock. Our strategy is called, **Flocks**.

Vision

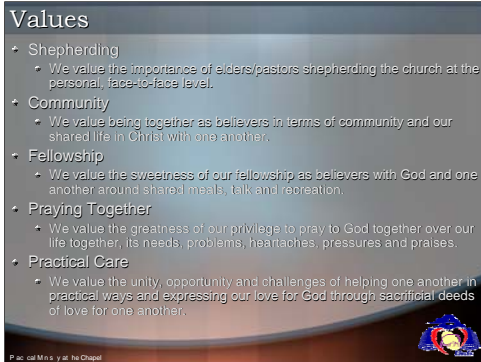
- To establish, as the primary Chapel family ministry unit, community based and geographically defined flocks.
- To place over each Flock an elder who shall shepherd that Flock according to the Word of God.
- To meet together regularly for study, prayer, fellowship, one-anothering ministry and outreach.
- To cultivate loving and caring relationships for discipleship, training and mutual care.
- To establish evangelistic beachheads in each community in which the Chapel families live.



Chapel Flocks Vision

The following vision statements say what we want Flocks to become. We launched the ministry several years ago. Over the course of the last 2-3 years, we have sharpened our thinking and re-shaped how we do this ministry. There is still work to do. Through Flocks, we aim:

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Chapel Flocks Values

As we have prayed and reflected on the Scriptures , we have identified these values as shaping this ministry.

Shepherding

- We value the importance of elders/pastors shepherding the church at the personal, face-to-face level.

Flocks are designed then to make the shepherding by the elders more personal and practical. Each Flock has its own elders who will shepherd that flock in concert with the corporate body.

Community

- We value being together as believers in terms of community and our shared life in Christ with one another.

Flocks are intentional opportunities for getting to know those who live nearby. In them, we will be better able to share our joys and burdens together as well as to better carry out the one-anothering commands of the Bible.

Fellowship

- We value the sweetness of our fellowship as believers with God and one another around shared meals, talk and recreation.

Flocks are structured so as to encourage friendships and fellowship. This is a central focus in the Flock meetings – we intend to work harder and think more clearly about cultivating this aspect of Flocks even more.

Praying Together

- We value the greatness of our privilege to pray to God together over our life together, its needs, problems, heartaches, pressures and praises.

Flocks are an opportunity to tell one another stories of God’s goodness, to share one another’s burdens, to be transparent about one another’s struggles and then to pray for one another.

Practical Care

- We value the unity, opportunity and challenges of helping one another in practical ways and expressing our love for God through sacrificial deeds of love for one another.

Flocks are primarily how we will take care of one another practically. We have a Benevolent Fund for large needs or shared opportunities across Flocks. We encourage everyone know one another so well that we are motivated to move towards one another in very practical expressions of love.

Purposes

- Shepherding
 - Elders shall use the Flock setting to teach, challenge and confront believers in regards to their life and ministry together. Regular Christian disciplines and duty should be explained, exhorted and examined.
- Discipleship
 - Personal and small group discipleship should be modeled and encouraged among the Flock. This is the place where relationships may be cultivated for Titus 2 ministry between our more mature and our younger believers.

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Guidelines for Implementation

Neighborhood Oriented (Parish Ministry)

- Organized by Geography

Five Flocks have been established by geography within our ministry area. We will look at those boundaries in just a moment.
- Membership by Location

Membership in a Flock is by residence and locale. You are in the Flock where you live. We do not allow people to move from Flock to Flock unless they have physically moved. Remember the purpose of Flock is to encourage the meeting together in a neighborhood fashion.

Elder/Shepherd Oversight

- Primary Focus for Shepherding

Your pastor(s) are the Elders/Shepherds of your Flock. They are the ones charged with the care of your soul. They will watch over your lives and shepherd you personally and practically.
- Primary Resource for Counsel

You are to go to your Flock pastor for counsel, direction and help. While we all engage one another, even as shepherds over other flocks, we expect that you will be engaged with your Flock elders. Certainly, we help one another when crises discipleship is needed. But even that should come through your Flock Shepherd.

Practical Care and Ministry Opportunities

Flocks are how we take care of one another in practical deeds of sacrificial love.

- Care for the Senior Saints

Each Flock should identify and interact regularly with its senior saints, particularly those who are physically weak and shut-in.
- Care for the Widows and Orphans

Each Flock, assisted by the corporate body, is charged with the responsibility to care for and provide for the widows and orphans in that Flock.
- Care for the Financially Needy

When financial or practical needs arise, the Flock will be the first responders. As Flocks, we have taken care of houses, cars, bills, etc.
- Care for the Sick

Hospital visitation and care for those who are sick through meals, baby sitting and other ways is to be done first by the Flock. For long-term and large needs, Flocks may join together. Certainly, people in one Flock are encouraged to visit one another in hospital and in homes.



What Flocks are NOT!

What the Church Has

- Clearcreek Chapel does not *have* Flocks.
We are not a church that does small groups..
- Clearcreek Chapel *are* Flocks.
Clearcreek Chapel are the people who make up all the Flocks. We are the gathered membership.
- Clearcreek Chapel is *made up of* Flocks.
Clearcreek Chapel is a corporate body made up of Flocks. The Flocks are the essential essence of the church. The Flocks gather together for corporate efforts in worship and ministry.

Home Bible Studies

- Chapel Flocks are primarily intended to be where Christian community is lived out in all aspects with highlights on fellowship and ministry care.
Flocks are not home bible studies.

Cell Groups

- Chapel Flocks are intended to be the neighborhood gathered church of Clearcreek Chapel.
Flocks are not cell groups – however, some churches implementation of cell groups is very close to our thinking about Flocks.

Optional Membership

- All members and regular attenders are a member of a Flock.
Membership is not optional nor is your choice of which Flock. When you become a part of the ministry here, you are a part of Flock. When you become a member, you become a formal member of your Flock. Flocks are not something you “join”.



Chapel Flocks – Boundaries

From the church located in Springboro/Miamisburg

- South East Flock
All those living east of 741 and south of the Montgomery/Warren county line
- South West Flock
All those living west of 741 and south of the Montgomery/Warren county line extended (US 127)
- North West Flock
All those living west of 741 and north of the Montgomery/Warren county line extended (US 127)
- Central Flock
All those living between 741 and US 48 who are north of the Montgomery/Warren county line
- North East Flock
All those living east of US 48 and north of the Montgomery/Warren county line

			Location
Central	Between 741 and 48 North of the county line	Russ Kennedy	Russ Kennedy 211 Marsha Jeanne Way Centerville (937) 886-9126
South East	East of 741 South of the county line	Dan Turner	Linus Berger 1131 Camp Creek Rd Waynesville, OH
South West	West of 741 South of the county line	Devon Berry	Tadd Dieringer 240 Clearbrook Drive Franklin
North West	West of 741 North of the county line	Greg Cook	Tom Watkins 120 W. Main Street West Carrollton
North East	East of 48 North of the county line	Dale Evans Chad Bresson	Dale Evans 1931 River Ridge Drive Spring Valley, OH

Chapel Flocks Grid

Name	Neighborhood	Shepherds	Host Location
Central	Between 741 and 48 North of the county line	Russ Kennedy	Russ Kennedy 211 Marsha Jeanne Way Centerville (937) 886-9126
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Flocks Meetings

- Locations
 - Meet in Host Homes
 - See the Flocks Brochure for host.
- Aims and Format
 - To Eat and Fellowship together
 - To Share Burdens and Pray together
 - To Meditate on the Sunday Messages together
- Joint-Flocks
 - Summer Monthly
 - Fun and Fellowship

Flocks Meetings

Locations

- Meet in Host Homes

As much as is physically possible, we want the Flock Meetings to be in homes. This presents its own challenges and opportunities for ministry and practical care in *close* fellowship.

- See the Flocks Brochure for host.

Aims and Format

- To Eat and Fellowship together

The first part of a Flock meeting is designed to foster fellowship. You should strive to be there for the meal/dessert/fellowship time.

- To Share Burdens and Pray together

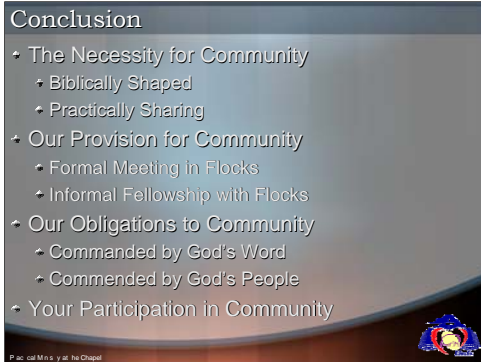
The second part of a Flock meeting is designed to bear one another's burdens in prayer and to share one another's joys in praise.

- To Meditate on the Sunday Messages together

The last part of a Flock meeting is designed to help engraft the Sunday messages into life. This is not a Bible study teaching time as much as a time to meditate on the Scripture together through questions and answers.

Joint-Flocks

- Summer Monthly
- Fun and Fellowship



Conclusion

The Necessity for Community

- Biblically Shaped

Flocks as a strategy for community is shaped by the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. God's people have always been together as a community. In October, we are planning a Sunday Evening series on the church as community.

- Practically Sharing

Flocks (or something like them) are a practical necessity for a growing church. Corporate worship times are not designed and do not facilitate fellowship. This is what Flocks are for.

Our Provision for Community

Flocks are our provision for the expression and experience of our community together.

- Formal Meeting in Flocks
- Informal Fellowship with Flocks

Our Obligations to Community

You are living in community – you have joined by covenantal commitment. With Flocks as our strategy for community, your obligations to one another are:

- Commanded by God's Word
- Commended by God's People

Your Participation in Community

So, are you participating?

- Do you believe what the Bible teaches?
- Do you want what the Bible requires?
- Is your life organized by believing what the Bible teaches?
- Is your life oriented towards one-anothering as the Bible teaches?
- Do you live out this belief and want through Flocks?