



Lent Week Five

Barry Steiner Ball interviews

Rev. Chip Bennett

This week's interview is with Rev. Chip Bennett, a pastor from Point Pleasant. Chip shares the story of The Meeting House, an ecumenical ministry that provides safe places for people who are in recovery in the Point Pleasant area.

As you listen to the story of The Meeting House, please ask yourself these questions:

1. Rev. Bennett talks about people who are involved with Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous having a sponsor or a mentor to help each person in recovery succeed in their path to sobriety. Why are mentors so important in our lives? Who was or is a mentor to you? How did they help you? Do the folks in your church see themselves as possible mentors to people in recovery? Why or why not? Read the story of Ananias in Acts 9. Was he comfortable being a mentor to Saul at first? What if we all heard God's call and headed over to the street called Straight? What could we offer to a person in recovery?
2. Why is it so important to "meet people where they are" instead of expecting them to meet us "where we are?" What church building did Jesus and the disciples hang out in waiting for the least and lost to show up?
3. Have you ever attended an Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous or Celebrate Recovery meeting? Many are "open" which means anyone can attend. What would keep you from attending a meeting? Fear of unknown? Fear that someone at the meeting may recognize you? Fear that someone might see you going into the meeting? We still place a lot of negative stigma on addictions, what would it take to change that? When you do go to a meeting, you will be amazed at the strength and spirituality people in recovery possess to survive each day. Do folks in recovery have anything to offer us?
4. It is important to admit that the ministry at The Meeting House has not been easy and problem free. Ministries are not perfect and there is always a need to learn and do things in new ways. Jesus' way of doing ministry was far from easy he dodged rocks, was misunderstood, fought rumors, faced disappointments and then was killed for his ministry. When God calls us to a new ministry, that is when we really have to start fasting, praying, listening and responding! How is God calling you to respond? Who will be your biggest supporter in this ministry? Who will throw rocks at you? Are you willing to really trust God?