

# MARCH 2017

A Monthly Publication

Community Church of Appleton, WI

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## From the Pastor's Desk

### How to Remove Spots & Other Such Things

(read in humble, monotone voice)  
 "Hello everyone, my name is Wade and I am addicted to cleaning my eyeglasses".

I'm not making fun of the AA program, just making a confession. I have a spray and little microfiber towel. I have the little pre-moistened packets. In a pinch, I will use Windex and my t-shirt. I hate dirty glasses!

I frequently check my glasses and notice as soon as a smudge or spot or fleck of something contaminates my lenses. Then, like the fire department, I sound the alarm, drop what I am doing and spring into action!

I was recently reading Ephesians 4 and verse 26 hit me. "That he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word".

Jesus uses the bible, His holy word to wash us, His Church. He works in and through the bible to prepare us to be "without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish".

Just how I like my glasses! Sadly, my sensitivity for spiritual spots and blemishes is not as acute as it is for those things on my eyeglasses. I was immediately convicted about not fully utilizing the powerful weapon that God has given us to make some important changes in my life. If we are going to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind & strength – we need to love His Word! AND, we need to let His word go to work in our daily lives.

I want to encourage you to keep the bible handy. Use it in any form you can get – the big one you study out of. The little pocket version. The one on your phone. You are never very far away from the Word, be sure

to put it to work in your life! Let Jesus remove some of the spots, wrinkles & blemishes.

To God's Glory,  
 Pastor Wade

...And keep some lens cleaning packets in your pocket. Remember what John Wesley said, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness". To the glory of God,

**HELP for the HOMELESS™**  
**Hygiene Drive**  
**Feb. 19 – March 12**

Donate Personal Care Items to Local Fox Cities Shelters & Programs for Those 'At Risk'!

*Help ease the financial strain on local crisis agencies, and those they serve!*

Most Needed Items:		
• Cleaning Supplies	• Hair Care	• Laundry Soap
• Feminine Needs	• Deodorant	• Kitchen Trash Bags
• Bathroom Tissue	• Dental Care	• Paper Towels
• Diapers/Baby Care	• Body Lotion	• Face/Bath Soap

Donations Stay in the Communities Where They are Collected!

Thanks to our sponsors!

More information at [thefamily.net](http://thefamily.net) or 800.236.9364



## Financial Information

January 2017

### Total Giving:

**\$16,000** (total General offerings) vs.  
**\$11,000** (total Budget is 11,000/month)

### Pledge Giving:

\$12,600 (total given by those making pledges)  
vs. **\$8,200** (total pledged YTD, \$8,200 per month)

### Budget vs. Actual Expenses:

January 1st cash balance **\$12,300**  
YTD general offerings **\$16,000**  
YTD total expenses **\$12,500**  
January 31 cash balance **\$15,800**

Account	Budget	Actual
Payroll	\$7,535.25	\$9,100.00
Missions	\$1,029.42	\$1,125.00
Plant & maintenance	\$1,045.00	\$1,261.00
office	\$504.17	\$230.00
discipleship	\$251.25	\$0.00
Property Ins	\$216.67	\$650.00
Miscellaneous	\$41.67	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$166.67	\$0.00
Outreach	\$50.00	\$0.00
Worship	\$95.83	\$35.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,935.92</b>	<b>\$12,401.00</b>

### Current Maintenance account:

\$6,800.00

### Current Emergency Fund:

\$7,200.00

### Current Building account:

\$25,200.00

This is a summary to keep you informed. If you would like to discuss this in more detail, contact Corey Olson or Wade Hetrick



Parents, if you wish to prepare ahead of time or review afterwards or cover something your child

missed, here is the schedule for February lessons:

- March 5 - Jesus gives the Beatitudes
- March 12 - Jesus Teaches that we are to be Salt & Light
- March 19 - Jesus Walks on Water
- March 26 - Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree to see Jesus

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## Women:



**LIFT:** (Ladies in Faith Together) Next meeting: LIFT will meet on Monday, March 13th: 5:30pm at Community Church. Any woman from Community Church is invited to attend. We will be celebrating with Communion, Have a time 'catching up', prayer and a devotional. We will try to have the meeting over by 7:30 pm.

**Woman-to-Woman Mentoring is the theme for this year's Annual Women's Retreat!**

**Guest Speaker: Colleen Maxey April 28 - 29 at the Shalom House in New London.**

**Friday evening and all day Saturday.**

**For more information, contact Chris Moran at 733-2599.**



## Monthly Men's "Breakfast with a Purpose"!

Join the men of Community Church on Saturday, March 25th at 8am at the church. We will enjoy a great breakfast and fellowship.

If you plan to join us, please sign up on the bulletin board at church. Contact Greg Maxey ([gmaxey52@gmail.com](mailto:gmaxey52@gmail.com); 205-3495) for more info.

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### Cramming Religion by Bob Gardinier

In last month's newsletter, Pastor Wade made a great point concerning the divisiveness among people today; a characteristic that's only amplified by those who say things through their fingers and communication devices that they'd probably never say in public or when face-to-face with someone.

My concern about this divisiveness has to do with any impact it might be having on the desire of Christians to communicate God's Word. Long before the Internet, Facebook and Twitter were in existence, God told us that the penetrating nature of his Word would judge the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Heb. 4:12). This puts it squarely at odds with man's sin nature (1 Kings 8:46; Rom. 3:10). The result is that throughout history, Christians who have been bold enough to warn people about their need for Christ have experienced everything from clever excuses to outright persecution and even death.

From my perspective, one of the most common responses to anything Gospel related (especially on the Internet) revolves around the idea that Christians need to stop cramming their religion down people's throats. Shortly after the holidays, a close family member communicated to Linda that they had no interest in attending church because they felt that this happened to them in the past. If you've ever heard that line of reasoning before and weren't sure how to respond, stay with me. I'll share 3 tips that you can use to help turn the situation around and make you a more effective witness for Christ.

1—Everyone has a religion. Years ago I learned from historian William Federer that if you look up the word "religion" in the dictionary, it's simply a worldview. Everyone has thoughts and opinions that drive their actions. Those thoughts and opinions make up your worldview which is your religion. This means that even atheism, in spite of its lack of a recognized spiritual component, is a religion.

2—After presenting the "cramming" excuse they say, "I already believe in God." At that point you should ask them which "god" they're referring to. After all, the devil and his demons believe in the true God yet they're not in heaven. The devil knows a lot about Jesus but all that proves is that religious head knowledge won't amount to much if it never moves from the head to the heart.

3—Skeptics need to respectfully hear that it wasn't a religion that was brutally beaten, hung on a cross to die and rose again for the sins of mankind. It was a person. However, it wasn't just any person. In this case it was Jesus, the second Adam, the only Son of God who was both fully God and fully man (Rom. 5:14; 1 Cor. 15:45; John 1:1,14; 10:33). By His sacrifice, he met God's standard for us when we could not. As born-again believers this means that our lives don't have to live up to the religious standards of any other person or organization. Christ still uses other people or even organizations (like a church) to speak to hearts, but in the end, it's about relationship with Him through prayer and His Word so that we are continually reminded that He alone is totally responsible for our salvation. We do have a part to play, though. We need to seek His forgiveness for our sins and live our lives out of gratitude (as a "thank you") for His great sacrifice.

I recently heard a commentator describe how the Great Commission can become the great imposition. Unfortunately, that's exactly what happens when some individuals who claim the name of Christ insist upon forcing their world and life view on people. Our job is to lovingly and relationally awaken people to the fact that everyone born into this world has a terminal case of spiritual cancer called sin. If we choose to be committed to exposing that problem; in combination with discipleship, the Holy Spirit is more than capable of bringing conviction to bear on people's lives in any areas where it's needed.