

ASBURY CIRCUIT RIDER

Welcome to the Asbury Community

Becoming the Talk

As we come to the last week of our worship series, *Be the Talk* our focus is on our arrival at a place that we cannot yet clearly see. So we turn to the Book of Revelation for inspiration. Void of specifics we walk toward the future in faith. We know that we are a work in progress. Unfinished and vulnerable.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem... I heard a loud shout saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them... I am making everything new!"

Revelation 21:1-3, 5 (NLT)

The Real Thing

Allow me to let you off the hook so you can concentrate of the rest of this article rather than feel guilty that you fall short: You cannot help everyone. This is a fact. This is true for a lot of reasons, most of which, you have no control over.

So when you read in the letter of James the question

We also know that God is on the move in our church, our neighborhood and in the world around us. This week's text is less about what we say or do and more about who we are. We are a new creation in Christ, loved dearly by God and guided by the Holy Spirit with great promise.

John Wesley, a founder of Methodism, wrote in his journal about a time when he was struggling with his faith. This disturbed Wesley, a preacher, who asked his friend and advisor, Peter Bohler, what he should do. His friend responded "Preach faith till you have it; and then, because you have it, you will preach faith." It is widely believed that this was a turning point

"What good does that do?" the honest answer is something like "none" or "very little." At the same time, do not let this life-giving lesson from James not make a point with you.

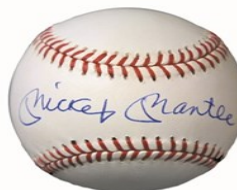
"Authentic" has a number of definitions generally built on the presumption that the facts bear out the claim. For an autographed, Mickey Mantle base

ball for Wesley and advice that is widely applicable. How do we become the talk that we refer to as we mature spiritually? We accept redemption, we change how we talk, we walk the talk and eventually we become that which we talk about. We become faithful disciples of the One who redeemed us.



We can say something similar about ourselves, our own spiritual evolution, and we can say something similar about our city and neighborhood.

ball to be authentic means that it was actually signed by the player. Our words and actions are authentic when they are based on the real thing.



Volume 18 Issue 28

January 28, 2018

Special points of interest:

> **Neighborhood Connection** is delivering bottled water. Call the City of Flint at 810-410-1138 for information. This service is for persons who are disabled and/or unable to receive water in any other way.

>UMW meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from September through June at 1:00PM in the Wesley Room. All ladies interested in UMW and their mission projects are welcome and urged to attend. **Next meeting is Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 1:00PM.**

> The New Beginnings Contemporary Worship Service will start on February 4th at 10:30am.

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The Real Thing

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Our faith is authentic when it is real. The letter of James gets at this subject of real versus pretend faith. But how do we get there? Aren't we all to one degree or another a bit fake in our faith? Don't we all say one thing and do another at least part of the time? We can't help everyone.

In some translations of the Gospel of Matthew we read that Jesus used the expression "You have heard that it was said..." followed by a common understanding of what the life of a righteous person should look like. This expression is used in Jesus opening teaching in Matthew that we commonly refer to as the Sermon on the Mount. In His teaching Jesus draws a comparison between following rules out of duty and living as a Disciple out of faith. It can seem as though Jesus is adding an even more difficult standard for us to follow.

You have heard it said that you should not put the cart before the horse...or something like that. First things first. But sometimes we struggle with this very question. What comes first? Another expression involves chickens and eggs. Which came first?

"Walk the talk" is a similar expression particularly in the light of Jesus' teaching that even before we venture out to follow the rules we need to check our attitude. Are we following the rules because this is what we do? The struggle comes from thinking that we can do this on our own power. It is very much a control issue.

We began our January worship series titled *Be the Talk* with the topic of redemption. Jesus redeemed us. All of us. Jesus died for the sin of the world. We sometimes refer to His sacrifice as a ransom. We are being held hostage by a world that does not live according to Kingdom rules.

Jesus pays our ransom to set us free. When we are redeemed we are free to live differently. This means making different choices. But we can't do it on our own.

The 2nd Sunday in January we looked at "changing the talk" but in this case we narrowed our meaning of "the talk" as words which we speak. Words are powerful and if we are really going to "be the talk" we need to pay attention to the words we say. Our hope is that our words will be words that will be as though Jesus is speaking.

Next we consider what it means to "walk the talk." Our use of the word "talk" is again in the broader context of God's Word and whether we are following Jesus authentically. When we say that someone "walks the talk" we credit that person with doing what they say. If what they say is that Jesus Christ is Lord then they are saying a lot and acting as though they really believe what they say to be true.

So to "be the talk" is to become that which we claim to be - disciples of Jesus Christ. This involves both what we believe and what we do or don't do. But as we walk the talk we stumble. We trip over obstacles that the enemy has put in our way. We say things we shouldn't say and fail to speak up when we know that we need to do so. We reject someone who comes to us for help even when we had the means to help.

We fail to walk the talk so does this mean we are not disciples? The Bible is full of stories about people just like us. They followed in faith and stumbled.

And through it all God is love and God is grace.

Pastor Tommy

Becoming the Talk ... continue from page 1

We are at the same time the person God knitted in our mother's womb and yet a new creation. Flint and our neighborhood is at the same time the once great, automotive capital which is now less than half its former size, and we are a new city and a new neighborhood with great promise and capacity.

Be the Talk calls us to not just be who we were in the past but also to be who we are right now and to walk into the future with great hope.

Life is full of struggle. Perhaps this is how we know that we are alive.

Like the wind blowing in our face tells us that the air is stirring the resistance that we encounter with each step tells us the world around us is also alive. Like Wesley and all who have gone before us and will come after us we are not alone in our struggle to keep doubt from eroding our faith. Yet we also can be certain that we did not create the world and we are incapable of being the best version of ourselves on our own power and intellect.

Faith is about allowing God to be God and resting in the assurance that God revealed Himself in Jesus Christ

out of love. And that this love that knows no limits continues to surround us as God's Holy Spirit fills us and goes with us. We are never alone.

We can take comfort in this truth while also realizing that there is nothing about us that God does not know and nothing that goes unseen. Yet God loves us through it all.

Pastor Tommy

Volunteers and Donations are needed ...

South Flint Soup Kitchen
3410 Fenton Rd., Flint MI 48507

South Flint Soup Kitchen Needs List:

Monetary Donations:

To Support the Soup Kitchen make all checks payable to:

General Donation to benefit Soup Kitchen
Crossroads District Board of Missions

(Write on the memo line: "South Flint Soup Kitchen")

1309 N. Ballenger Hwy., Suite 2, Flint MI 48504

Or Specific Purpose: Security at the Soup Kitchen:

Costs: \$50 a day, \$300 a week, \$1200 a month, \$15,600 a year

To support the Security Cost, make all checks payable to:

Crossroads District Board of Missions

(Write on the memo line: "Security for South Flint Soup Kitchen")

1309 N. Ballenger Hwy., Suite 2, Flint MI 48504

Volunteers: Monday – Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

To serve the food/Plumbing, Electrical, and Carpentry,

Grant Writers/Webmaster

Items:

Paper Plates/Paper Bowls/ Napkins/ Styrofoam cups for coffee

Liquid hand soap/Foam Antibacterial Hand Soap

Paper Towel for Dispenser in bathroom/

Food handler gloves all sizes

Toilet tissue/ Bleach/Coffee/package sugar and package cream

Plastic fork/knives/spoons/Latex Gloves all sizes for washing dishes

Ajax/Fabuloso/OdoBan

For more information you can contact:

Rev. Maurice Horne, Flint Mission Zone Minister of Outreach

Phone: 810-239-3427

Fax: 810-239-6335

Email: southflintsoupkitchen@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/southflintsoupkitchen or type

South Flint Soup Kitchen in the Search bar on your Facebook page

Website: www.southflintsoupkitchen.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Crossroads District UMC—Board of Laity presents: **TOOLS FOR MINISTRY**

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at Swartz Creek United Methodist Church, 7400 Miller Rd, Swartz Creek.

Information is on the bulletin board in the Asbury Parlor. If you need additional forms, please leave me a message in my mailbox, and if you have any questions, please see or call Michele Weston at (810) 694-6266 or email her at mweston38@att.net.

In Our Prayers

Curtis Young	Shirley Craig
Rachel Bastine	Christopher Lewis
Norma Buzzard	Sarah Tanner
Pam Brotemarkle	Elizabeth Wright
Barbara McIvor	Judy Tanner
Jonathon Misner	Mary Lyons
Nancy Auger	Brenda
Austin & Mary Suffle	

FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES WHO ARE HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING CARE

Sharon George	Mary Nations
Elaine Lamoreaux	Carmen Misner
Mary Russell	



Prayer is at the heart of our beliefs

Be the Talk

We kickoff the new year by embracing the present. The new year is a time when we make resolutions that we, all too often, give up on before February. God has already made us a new creation through Christ, so all we have to do is embrace that which God has already done. This frees us to let God show us His future for us and His Church.

On January 7 we begin our January worship series titled *Be the Talk*. As God continues to shape our future we continue to see visible signs of God’s presence. God is with us but God is also on the move. God is leading us into a future of abundance. Be sure to join us each Sunday to learn more about how you can get connected.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem... I heard a loud shout saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them...I am making everything new!"

Revelation 21:1-3, 5 (NLT)

Book Club News

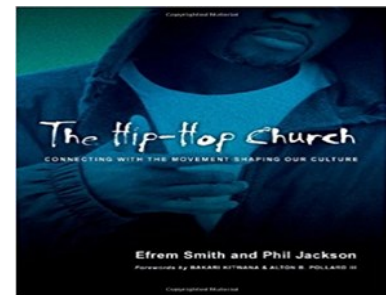
Hip-hop is here and pervasive. Hip-hop beats ring out in our cities. Hip-hop culture is all around us: in the clothes youth wear, in the music they listen to, in the ways they express themselves. It is the language they speak, the rhythm they move to. Hip-hop is a culture familiar with the hard realities of our broken world; the generation raised with rap knows about the pain. They need to know about the hope. One way this happens is known as the "hip-hop church."

Like the culture it rises from, the hip-hop church is relevant and certainly bold. And it speaks to the heart. In this book, pastors Efrem Smith and Phil Jackson show the urgency of connecting hip-hop culture and church to reach a generation with the gospel of Jesus Christ. They give practical ideas from their urban churches and other hip-hop churches about how to engage and incorporate rap, break dancing, poetry and deejays to worship Jesus and preach his Word.

So hold onto your hoodie and slip on your Air Force One’s. Our current topic for Tuesday’s study group is the mysterious world of hip-hop as we read, study and discuss *The Hip-Hop Church*.^{*} Read the Introduction and Chapter One in preparation for January 9.

The authors argue that Hip-hop culture is shaping the next generation. Ignoring it will not reduce its influence; it will only separate us from the youth moving to its rhythm. How will they hear Christ's message of truth and hope if we don't speak their language? And how can we speak their language if we don't understand and embrace their culture? Hear the beat. Join the beat. Become the beat that brings truth and hope to a hungry, hurting generation.

The authors of our next book are Efrem Smith and Phil Jackson. As President and CEO of World Impact and advocate for urban ministry, Efrem Smith is committed



to church-planting in the city. Phil Jackson is the founder and lead pastor of the House Covenant Church (The House) known for offering Chicago’s first Christ-centered, hip-hop worship service. For more than two decades, Phil has served God full-time on the front lines of urban youth ministry.

You do not have to read the book to attend, but it does help with the discussion and what you receive back from it. Used copies of this book are available from the office for \$6.

Our goal is to continue to widen our circle and so we hope that you will join in on our discussion. We meet each Tuesday at Noon. Come join us for a light lunch, fellowship and discussion. Our food selections have been fantastic and we always have plenty to share. We are always on the lookout for our next book, video lesson or topic. Your participation and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

^{*} Efrem Smith and Phil Jackson. *The Hip-Hop Church - Connecting with the Movement Shaping our Culture*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity

Leadership in Worship & Service

Welcome Team Tony, Mirium, Christine
 Children’s Time Rev Tommy
 Candle Lighting Karen
 Ushers Anthnoy, Jim
 Production Team Jim
 Nursery Norma
 Worship Leaders Cyndi
 Coffee Hour

Jim Craig Leadership Chair
 Connie Portillo Office Secretary
 Kathy Howe Choir Director
 Rebekah Britton Piano & Organ
 Kevin Croom Farm to Table
 Israel Unger Business Development

Asbury Café

Plan to meet outside the sanctuary each Sunday after the first service for coffee, tea, snacks, conversation and so on. The music will start when it is time to wrap up and head in for 2nd service.

Asbury Staff

Rev. Dr. Tommy McDoniel Pastor
 Mark Vorenkamp Children & Youth

Be the Talk ... *continued from page 4*

Jan 7 - Redeemed

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:17

There is so much anxiety wrapped up in turning ourselves into “better people” when that work has already been done by God. We simply need to embrace Jesus and the change that was made through Him. Sounds easy so what’s the problem. The problem is that in our

anxiety we want to shape the future according to our plans only to discover that we seem to be missing something important.

Jan 14 - Change the Talk

...the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. 6 And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your

whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

James 3:5-6

We have all heard some version of the statement “Would you talk like that if Jesus was in the room?” Language is powerful. Language has the power to draw us closer together and the power to start wars that tear us apart. In Proverbs we read that “Kind words are like honey— sweet to the soul and healthy for the body” (Proverbs 16:24). And in Genesis we read that

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Coming up this week

Neighborhood Deliveries/Water/Food

Jan 29 Mon

Jan 30 Tues 12Noon Pastor Book Club

Jan 31 Wed 6:00pm Beginners Bible Study

Feb 1 Thurs

Feb 4 Sun 9:00am Traditional Worship
10:00am Connect Break
10:30am New Beginnings Contemporary Worship
12:00 N Café Closes

Last Week for Worship

Attendance 45 Offering \$ 713

Look for announcements scrolling on the our screen prior to the start of worship.

Email announcements by the Friday before to:
FlintAsburyUMC@gmail.com

****Beginning on Sunday, February 4, 2018 Asbury will no longer offer a traditional worship service. The Café will open at 9:30am where Pastor Tommy will host a Bible discussion on each week’s scripture. The New Beginnings Contemporary Worship Service will begin at 10:30am.**

Ways to Connect

Donate –You can give online at FlintAsbury.org/donate

Music Ministry –We are looking for vocalists and musicians.

Community Gardening – The Asbury Farm needs volunteers.

Pantry - We need food items, including meats, paper products; personal items diapers, and financial support.

Social Media allows us to tell others about the work that God is doing. All of us can

help enhance our presence in the social media by posting on our Facebook and utilizing our website for blogging.

Housing - the Asbury House offers local college students a way to use their gifts and passions together with their faith in building a better neighborhood.

Women’s Circles - The women of Asbury meet regularly in small groups.

Pastor’s Book Club meets each Tuesday at 12Noon for fellowship, food and learning.



Prayer is at the heart of our beliefs

Welcome to the Asbury Community

1653 Davison Road
Flint, MI 48506



Phone: 810-235-0016
Fax: 810-235-0016 (call first when faxing)
E-mail: FlintAsbury@gmail.com

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Neighborhood Connection



We envision a community in love with God, each other, and our neighbors evidenced by the transformation of ourselves and our neighborhood. We are a center for worship & spiritual growth, a center for connections and a center for health & wellness.

Our goal is a revitalized community where every resident can use their talents and passions

for the common good, where children grow into citizens who contribute to building and maintaining a vibrant neighborhood, and all residents are able to enjoy safety, good health, a culture that fosters life long learning and satisfying lives.

We believe that such an ambitious goal can never be attained without God's grace and abundance and Christ calls each of us to be disciples willing to share our witness through words and acts.

Be the Talka new worship series *cont. from page 5*

“At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words” (Genesis 11:1).

Jan 21 - Walk the Talk

What good is it...if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions?...Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?... Unless faith produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

James 2:14-16

The writer of James offers advice on what it means to “walk the talk.” God has redeemed us through Jesus Christ and when we truly believe this to be true we talk differently. Our words are a manifestation

of the love that God has shown us. And our faith is shown in how we spend our time and use our resources. Our response to God's grace tells the world what we truly believe.

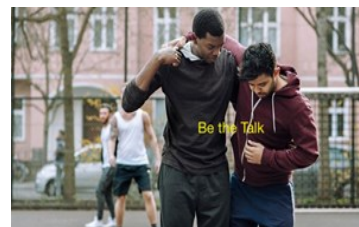
Jan 28 - Be the Talk

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ling with his faith. This disturbed Wesley, a preacher, who asked his friend and advisor, Peter Bohler, what he should do. His friend responded “Preach faith till you have it; and then, because you have it, you will preach faith.” It is widely believed that this was a turning point for Wesley and advice that is widely applicable. How do we become the talk that we refer to as we mature spiritually? We accept redemption, we change how we talk, we walk the talk and eventually we become that which we talk about. We become faithful disciples of the One who redeemed us.



Pastor Tommy