



# Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping  
People In Need

Volume 3, Issue 3

March 2020

**Our Mission:** Serve this community † Revitalize the Church † Celebrate Christian Unity

## **Church and Society - Part 2**

Last month, I start a series of articles entitled “Church and Society.” I stated that in the wake of numerous challenges that face our churches, it is imperative that we take a critical look at what we as the church are doing in our communities and how our actions are impacting us individually and collectively.

There are five tough questions that need to be asked and answered. In the February newsletter, I started with Tough Question One: How do we move from Churchianity to Christianity? Our response is that the church must reboot its mission of radical obedience to an ancient command...a loss of self rather than self-preoccupation...concern about service and sacrifice rather than concern about style.

### **Tough Question Two: How Do We Transform Our Community? (How Do We Hit The Streets With The Gospel?)**

If they aren't going to come to us, then we have got to go to them. This is the crux of the issue. Churches that understand the realities of the present culture are shifting the target of ministry efforts from church activity to community transformation - the church inside out.

Jesus faced a similar dilemma in his day. The John 4 account of His encounter with the woman at the well in Samaria has a fascinating subplot that shows how challenging it will be to reorient North American Christians.

Religious people don't see people; they see causes, behaviors, stereotypes, and people “other” than them.

Jesus' evangelistic strategy directly challenged the Pharisees' approach. Instead of “Come and get it!”, it was “Go get them!” Instead of withdrawing from people for fear of contamination, He ate with them.

This is why the Pharisees considered Jesus such a threat. They believed that the kingdom of God would only come on earth when enough people behaved properly (observed the law). Jesus went around telling people that the kingdom had already arrived (Luke 10:9) and that it was in them (Luke 17:21). In effect, He declared that the Pharisees' ladder for success was leaned up against the wrong wall. Religious people have always been a problem for God. Religious people insist that people conform to a cultural standard in order to gain admittance to the religious club.

Pharisees are alive and well and attending your church (And they may be you!) The assumption is that only people interested in church (the way we do it) are genuinely interested in God. This attitude is so pervasive and insidious among club members that it is rarely recognized for what it is – Phariseeism.

The church that wants to partner with God on His redemptive mission in the world has a very different target: the community.

Hitting the streets with the gospel means adopting a new way of thinking on several levels. Kingdom thinking challenges church thinking.

Taking the gospel to the streets means we need church where people are already hanging out. We need a church in every mall, every Wal-Mart supercenter, every Barnes and Noble. McDonalds is putting the majority of its new stores in places where people already are – hospitals, schools, food courts, and gasoline stations.

Why are we so afraid of “out there”? The Pharisees were afraid of being contaminated or unclean and losing their righteousness. I believe we have some different fears.

Jesus had a right to confront people straight out about their wicked ways. He certainly didn't shy away from confronting people with the truth about their lives, but even He earns the privilege in conversation and service. Remember the encounter with the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11).

Club members prefer to bullhorn people rather than engage them personally and up close. This approach fails to earn the privilege to challenge people with the truth because we have not proven we are their champions.

It is not our job to convict people of sin. That's the Holy Spirit's job, according to Jesus (John 16:8). It's our responsibility to tell good news – that God so loved the world that He sent Jesus.

Next Month: Tough Question 3: How Do We Turn Members Into Missionaries?

**Blessings,  
Mel**

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### **Churches United Staff**

- **Executive Director**  
Rev. Dr. Melvin Grimes  
[mgrimes@cuqca.org](mailto:mgrimes@cuqca.org)
- **Associate Director &  
Shop Manager**  
Betsy Vanausdeln  
[bvanausdeln@cuqca.org](mailto:bvanausdeln@cuqca.org)
- **Administrative  
Assistant**  
Kimberly Reese  
[kreese@cuqca.org](mailto:kreese@cuqca.org)



### Inside the Shelter: Insight from Winnie's Place Staff and Volunteers

*This is part two of a series of interviews with staff and volunteers from Winnie's Place. This month, we interviewed Debbie Jackson. Here are excerpts from the interview.*



Debbie Jackson

#### How do you benefit from shelter?

*"You have an opportunity to I believe have peace. You're able to really find yourself. And being here I've learned more things even about myself. I'm able to save money. You know food wise and material wise. It's just even having your own space. It helps a lot even though you might have to share. It gives us a chance to get to know other ladies that come here. Ladies and their children."*

#### What do you want people to know about shelter?

*"That I believe it's a steppingstone. It's where you can come and think. Have peace. You know you can get on your feet. It's that choice that's up to that person how they work the program. How they can benefit from it. Ways that they need it because there are a lot of resources here at Winnie's Place. I'm so thankful for this place because it helped me out in so many ways. I thank God for Churches United, Pastor Grimes and Betsy and Corretta and all of them have been such great people in my life and Denise. They all fall in that category. I don't know what I'd do without them."*

#### Why should people give to Churches United?

*"They are very well known in the community for their resources and their help and their assistance. I had called Churches United when I was staying in the hotel and I explained my situation and I needed help. I believe it was for the last week there. They were so willing to help me. They even reached out to other resources. I am just thankful for them and I am thankful for Winnie's Place."*

*"Here, there's food provided for the ladies. There's clothing provided. There's a lot donated here that we don't have to go out and buy. It's an opportunity to save your money. You know to look for transportation if possible. This place is a winner...I would say a #1 winner. It's really a true blessing." Debbie continued, "You know before I became an employee, I used to tell the ladies in passing that I am so thankful for this place because I don't know where I would be without being here at Winnie's. I've gathered so many things as far as clothes. They do a lot here. The place is clean. It's nice."*

When Debbie took in her four grandchildren, she lost her one-bedroom apartment. After staying in a hotel briefly, she came to Winnie's Place as a client. Debbie now works as a shelter coordinator. As a shelter coordinator, Debbie makes sure that the shelter stays clean and organized, performs office duties, and she runs a domestic violence support group.

#### Shelter Coordinators

Juanita Bea  
Denise Grimes  
Debbie Jackson  
MariAnn McWhitley Corretta  
Nunn  
Kimberly Reese

Shelter Phone # - 309-757-0757

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## Save the Dates!

**Thursday, March 26th - Delegate Assembly** at Bethel Wesley United Methodist Church, 1201 13th St, Moline, IL. Executive board orientation for new and current board members will take place from 5pm - 6:30pm. Our large group meeting will take place from 7pm - 9pm. We will reflect on 2019, examine where we are as an organization, and look ahead to where we are going. This is also our opportunity to recognize those who have made significant contributions to our organization this year. This event is free. Reservations are required. Make your reservation by calling our office.

**Thursday, April 16th at 6pm - Quarterly Meeting** at Tabernacle Baptist Church, 2601 15th St, Moline.

**Thursday, August 20th at 6pm - Quarterly Meeting.** Iowa location TBD.

**Tuesday, August 25th at 11am - Women in Clergy Luncheon** at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Culemans Hall (1400 16th Ave, Moline.)

**Saturday, September 19th - 2nd Annual Church Casserole Cook-Off** at Bethel Wesley UMC. Details coming soon.

**Thursday, November 19th at 6pm - Quarterly Meeting.** Illinois location TBD.

For more information about upcoming events, contact Betsy Vanausdeln at [bvanausdeln@cuqca.org](mailto:bvanausdeln@cuqca.org) or by phone at (563) 332-5002.

### Have you made your reservation(s) for Delegate Assembly?

Our goal is to have representatives from every Churches United of the Quad City Area member church attend. This is your opportunity to network with fellow church leaders, exchange ideas, and learn more about what Churches United can do for you. We'll reflect on 2019, recognize those who have contributed in a special way, and look at what's happening in 2020.

We're still looking for members for our board of directors. If you are feeling called to join, please call us as soon as possible.

**Delegate Assembly**  
5-6:30pm - Executive Board Orientation  
7-9pm - General Assembly Meeting



### We need new members to join our board of directors.

#### Expectations:

- **Must be a member of one of our 148 member churches.**
- **Attend monthly meetings. (Meetings are in the evening on the 4th Thursday of each month).**
- **Participate in at least one event.**
- **Give personal financial support to Churches United.**
- **Be a part of an ad hoc committee.**

### Churches United needs you to serve.

If you would like to join our board, contact Betsy Vanausdeln at [bvanausdeln@cuqca.org](mailto:bvanausdeln@cuqca.org) or call our office at 563-332-5002.



## Churches United of the Quad City Area

2535 Tech Drive Suite 205  
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Phone: 563-332-5002  
Fax: 563-332-5035  
E-mail: info@cuqca.org

### United in Faith Helping People in Need



## Give TODAY to Churches United

Online at [www.cuqca.org](http://www.cuqca.org) † Call us at (563) 332-5002

Mail or drop off your gift  
Churches United of the Quad City Area  
2535 Tech Drive Suite 205  
Bettendorf, IA 52722

THANK YOU!

Keep up-to-date and check out daily reflections by following us on



Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchesUnitedoftheQuadCityArea/>

and find out about the latest deals at Winnie's Wishes Resale Shop

at

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**Thank you, WHBF-TV and Living Local for featuring the ministries of Churches United on an episode that aired on Friday, February 28th.**

Check out the wonderful interview with our Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes and our Associate Director, Betsy Vanausdeln.

Find the interview on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LivingLocalQC/videos/228301608344092/> and shared on the Churches United Facebook page and Winnie's Wishes Resale Shop page.

Here is a YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yf05Rjz2zlw>

All Living Local segments are also at [www.ourquadcities.com/living-local/](http://www.ourquadcities.com/living-local/)

