



Good morning, church family. I am so very thankful for you and the heart that you have for ministry. In case I haven't said this enough lately, you are the best church, and I love you all. I am always amazed and grateful for the way you give yourselves to do the work of ministry. I have never had a moment when I have needed help in doing something that you didn't show up. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who came out Thursday and Saturday to help us have a presence at our Fall Festival. It was fantastic, and we couldn't have done it without you.

I am also excited about what God is doing in our church spiritually. I can't tell you how many people have shared with me that God has changed their prayer lives because of our 40 Days

of Prayer and Fasting. I know that He has changed mine, and I believe that He is doing a great work in our midst. I want to encourage you to stand fast – keep praying – and as God leads, try to fast in some way as a demonstration to Him of your surrender to His will. Keep praying for our church and our community. And please, make this prayer request a priority: should we go back to one worship service on Sunday morning. Hear my heart on this. I don't want my will to be done or your will to be done. I want God's will to be done. I want us to do exactly what He wants us to do, so please, pray!

Most of you received the information about our Wednesday night supper. Due to the cost of food and people who are on the permanent supper list who don't come or pay, we need to increase the cost of our meals. Remember, the rule is that if you can't come, we need you to cancel by Tuesday at noon or pay for your meal. The new costs will be: Adults - \$6; children under 12 - \$4; family of 4+ - \$20; children under 2 eat free.

Please help us to be good stewards while we enjoy great food and fellowship.

We have two major events coming up, and we need your help with both. On October 17, we will have our annual association meeting at Stone Ridge Baptist Church. All are welcome to attend. The youth from our association will be meeting separately with a fantastic time of worship and outreach. They are asking that we help them out by donating cases of water. Please help us meet that need by bringing cases of water to the church. Also, our Trunk or Treat will be on October 31. We see this as a great outreach to our community, and we want to make this a big deal. We need people to decorate trunks with our movie theme – all family friendly. We need to donate lots of candy as well. Again, help us to make this great.

On October 10, I will be starting a new mini-series of sermons as we continue to work our way through Matthew's Gospel. The theme will be

“Who’s Your One?” Most of you remember that we did this a couple of years ago. This is a way that each of us can focus on one person that we know who needs Jesus. I will be sharing why we need to do this, how we can do this, and ways that you can reach out to your “One.” I am asking that you begin praying for me as well as for your own involvement.

One more thing: I am excited about small groups. I truly believe that this is the best way to grow our church spiritually and physically. Small groups provide a place for close fellowship and the building of relationships, but they also help us grow deeper in our walk with the Father. I continue to encourage you to join a small group and see what God will do in your life. I would love to start several new groups between now and the first of the year. Understand, a small group can be part of our Sunday night ministry, part of our Sunday School as a new class, or a Bible Study during the week. If God is laying on your heart to step out and become a leader, let me know. I can

help you with planning and resources.

God is so good. I'm praying for you today.

Bro. Ben