



Region Three Newsletter

March/April 2025

“This is how one should regard us servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God”

1 Corinthians 4:1 ESV

“This is how one should regard us...” Paul is contrasting what he writes here with how the saints in Corinth were dividing themselves into factions, “I follow Apollos” or “I follow Paul” etc. They were seeing themselves as followers of a person instead of those persons helping them to follow Christ. Instead of seeing himself as one to be followed, he said, “This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.”

Sometimes, in churches, you might have a very energetic and popular leader who attracts a large following, and things may go well as long as that individual continues in that place. In the best of cases, that leader points those in his care to Christ, and His Word, and doesn’t build the ministry around his own popularity. In the worst of cases, when that leader leaves, for whatever reason that might be, the ministry suffers and many leave and go elsewhere because “that guy” isn’t there any longer. Paul didn’t want that happening in Corinth, or anywhere else that he ministered for that matter, because he wanted the focus to be on Christ.

There are those, who, over the course of time, have helped us greatly in our walk with God, but who really personified that “servant of Christ” attitude, and the ministry didn’t diminish significantly when they moved on. That is, I think, what Paul is trying to convey here. All those who ministered to the church in Corinth, whether Paul, or Apollos, Cephas (likely Peter) or whoever, they were all just servant shepherds who did their best to feed the flock under their care and point people to Christ.

The second part of that verse states that they should also be regarded as “stewards of the mysteries of God.” This part was what raised my eyebrows when I read it. To be a steward of something, you are exercising care about its use; there’s a sense of responsibility there, and perhaps some conservation of whatever the resource is. Then to be a steward of the mysteries of God, would mean to have great concern and care about how that is used, a carefulness in how it is expressed and how it is utilized by those with whom you share those mysteries.

And what are the mysteries of God? Paul writes in other letters, such as the letter to the church in Ephesus about how what had long been a mystery had now been made known through Jesus Christ. He writes about this in Eph. 3:1-13, and verses 4-6 particularly, “When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”

Paul had been entrusted with the gospel message—of salvation to be found in Christ, and in Him alone, and he had spent the remainder of his life carefully proclaiming that message to all who would listen to him. He endured great hardships so that the gospel might continue to be spread abroad through the world.

Instead of focusing on whose teaching they were following, whether Paul or Apollos, or someone else, he wanted them to focus on the message of the gospel, and upon the main subject of the gospel, Jesus Christ Himself. “Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

By His Grace Alone,

Pastor Bruce Jacobsen

Region Three Executive Board Chair

Upcoming Events:

***Region Three Youth Retreat**-March 29th from 10-4 @
Center Hill CBC, 2039 Freeport Road, Kittanning, PA
**Please direct questions for the Youth Retreat to
Leslie Crissman at:
l_crissman@yahoo.com or (814) 221-0184. ASAP**

***Pastor/Spouse Retreat**-April 25 & 26th @
Whitehall Convention & Conference Center, Emlenton, PA
Please see the attached flier for more information

***CBC Annual Meeting**-July 17, 18 & 19th in Greensboro, NC
at the Koury Convention Center. Please go to:
CovenantBrethren.org for more details

***Region Three Annual Meeting**-October 4th @
Moxham CBC, 536 Grove Avenue, Johnstown, PA
Guest speaker: Pastor Roy McVey.
Special music by: The Glory Guys
More details coming soon.

Reminder:

Region Three Prayer Team

The prayer team meets weekly to lift those up in need. Please reach out if you or anyone in your congregation has prayer needs.

Pastors:

Joe Brown

pastorjebediah@yahoo.com

Dan Rhodes

pastormcbc@myyahoo.com

Jim Braunns

jbraunns@verizon.net

Thank You:

Region Three would like to thank Cheryl Gehr for her dedication to the Treasurer position. She continued to stay on as our Treasurer and attend monthly Zoom meetings, pay bills and provide training to our new Treasurer. Thank you for all that you've done for Region Three. May God richly bless you always.

New Treasurer:

Please join us in welcoming our new Treasurer to the Region Three family. Danelle "Dani" Rhodes can be reached at phone # (814) 243-3950 or at e-mail danirhodes7@gmail.com.

Region Three Giving:

Thank you for contributing your financial support for our 2025 Region Three Giving to help support the Southern Region Flood relief efforts, your support is greatly appreciated

Job Opening:

The Moxham CBC is searching for a part-time church secretary. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 9-3. If interested please contact the church at 814-539-7807 or e-mail at pastormcbc@yahoo.com

Easter Newsletter Edition:

I would like to create a post Easter edition of the newsletter similar to the one we did at Christmas. I would like to include some photos and captions about each of our Region Three churches Easter traditions, for example: Easter alter flowers, Sunrise breakfast, balloon releases, etc....let me know what your church does to celebrate our Risen Lord. Pictures can be sent to my cell at 814-254-8308. Thank you all for you help & support.

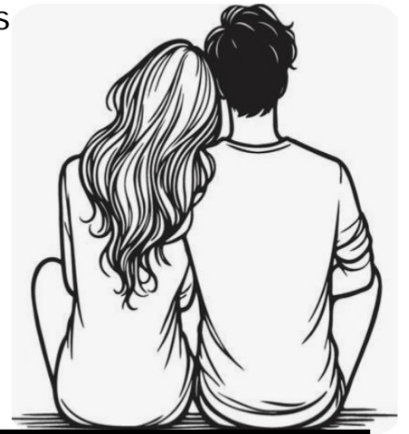


*Happy
St. Patrick's
Day*



Join us for worship, special music & guest speakers
at the

2025 Region Three
Pastor & Spouse Retreat
April 25th & 26th



Location: Whitehall Camp & Conference Center
Hillside Lodge
580 Whitehall Road
Emlenton, PA 16373

Cost: \$60.00/person

Friday arrival 5 PM

Saturday Departure 3 PM

**** Breakfast & Lunch
provided on Saturday**

Registration:

Names: _____

Church: _____

Phone: _____

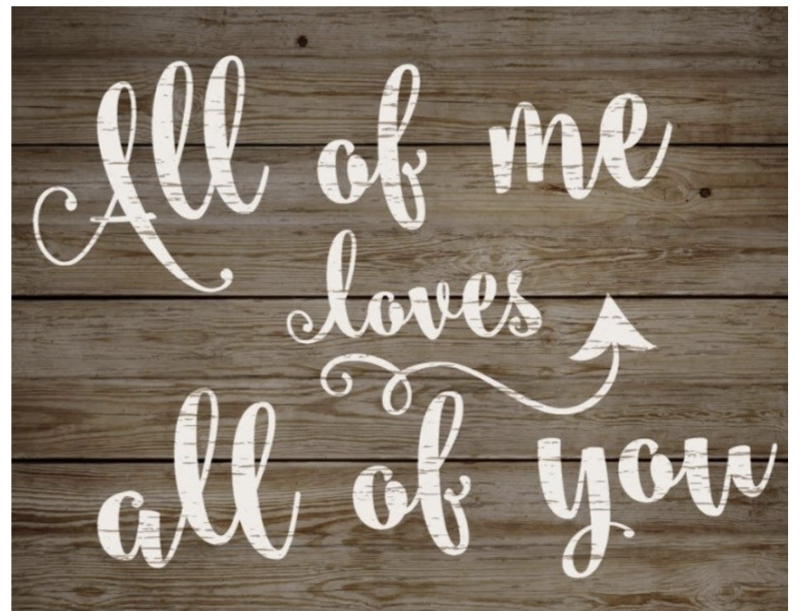
Lodging:

Private room with double
bed, sink, shower/bath &
toilet.

Please bring own linens,
towels & toiletries.

Please send completed registration
form & payment made out to Region
Three to Moxham CBC, 536 Grove
Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15902 by
April 18, 2025.

****Please contact Pastor Dan Rhodes
at (814) 410-7693 or e-mail at
pastormcbc@myyahoo.com with any
questions/concerns.**



Happy Easter

*A lot can
happen in
+ three days*

JOHN 20:1-18