

August Epistle

2011



Christianity on the Move™

Here come old flattop he come grooving up slowly
He got joo-joo eyeball he one holy roller
He got hair down to his knee
Got to be a joker he just do what he please

He wear no shoeshine he got toe-jam football
He got monkey finger he shoot coca-cola
He say "I know you, you know me"
One thing I can tell you is you got to be free
Come together right now over me

~Paul Tillich

~The Beatles

Upcoming Events:

*Aug. 13th Ohio river swim 9am *Aug 14th: 5pm village worship
*Third Tues. Church: 7:29pm Aug.16th James lees on Frankfort ave. *Aug. 28th: Ironman
Louisville (volunteer!) *Sept. 18th NECC 5k *Sept. 24th- Mid-KY Bike Tour
~Event info on Web: www.sweatysheep.com and Facebook

The many ways of ..."Church."

This is going to be interesting... Sweaty Sheep was founded on the idea that we Christians are beyond a building, bigger than a chapel, that we are too active to be contained by a "pew." Well, we are getting a building...

So I must ask before going any further, what is "Church?" There is no mention of the modern notion that is "Church" throughout the Hebrew Old Testament. Of the 108 references in the New Testament, there is no limiting definition given to the endless possibilities of "church." This means that there is no biblically correct denomination (ie: Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic, etc.), there is no correct building (or the lack thereof), there is no divine liturgical or order, and there is no set time that is more religious than another. The word church in Greek, Ekklesia, is defined as a calling out or popular meeting. Our verse of study defines church as a time when two or more are gathered together in fellowship of faith.

What I love about the Matthew passage is the feeling that I get from Jesus as he spoke to the disciples. Imagine Christ speaking to the 12,

thinking to himself, I want to play too! God wants to be welcomed into the fun experiences of our life! Like many of us, God gets energy from things other than a wooden pew and stained glass window, God is energy and laughter, God is fun and excitement, and God, like us, is bigger than a building and wants to join us everywhere.

Our new monthly church service is an opportunity to meet new friends. It is a chance to learn new things, broaden our thoughts, and grow alongside of others. It is one of many "church" opportunities that Sweaty Sheep promotes and we hope that you will join our kickoff on August 16th as it will be a good time!

Sweaty Sheep is a group that sees the beautiful fellowship that occurs during a variety of inclusive activities and events ranging from a bike ride to a kickball game. From a day of raking leaves as a service mission to an evening of laughter at the local pub. We are broad as is church. What is important in our society and our faith practice is fellowship. Notice Christ sets a minimum number to his definition. This does not mean that God is not present when we are

alone, we have beautiful insights and spiritual experiences alone. These are times of solitude as Paul Tillich states, times of personal devotion serving as building stones for our personal relationship with the divine. However, balance these times with fellowship, as we grow from interaction and communion with others. No we do not have to agree with others all the time, disagreement is what broadens our faith. As much as solitude is a beautiful and cherished part of our life and faith, loneliness is a danger and scary part of our life. We all have lonely times, but what would it look like to welcome others in to those dark moments? To go to church on a Tuesday evening even though you are not a "churchy" person. To go for a group bike ride on a Saturday even though you are not a biker. What would it look like to welcome God into a Friday night of laughter with diverse friends? God is all around us, always in our midst, don't allow yourself to limit all that is "church," but instead, see how broad a definition we can make of it. Finally, don't do it alone... cherish solitude, but remember you do not have to be lonely!

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Contact at runningmango@msn.com; Check out the website www.sweatysheep.com; or friend "Sweaty sheep" on facebook!