

2019 April Schedule

Date	Cleaning & Breakfast`	Dialog Facilitator	Theme	Presider	Speaker
April 7/19	Jack & Shirlery Richardson	Don Black	A Priceless Offering	Bonnie Black	Shiela McLean
April 14	Ron & Bessie Green	Wayne Mclean	Joyfully Praise God		
April 21	Don & Bonnie Black	Bev Ford-Arnold	I Have Seen the Lord (Easter Sunday)	Ron Dow	Shirley Richardson
April 28	Les & Isabell Franks	Shirley Richardson	Believe the Good News		

FROM SETTLED CAMP TO SHALOM ON THE MOVE

What if you and ten of your closest friends were told by Jesus that it was up to you to be witnesses to the love of God in your community, your region, your country, to the ends of the world? How would you go about doing that if you had to start from scratch? No defined program. No curriculum. No paradigm. No home office. Certainly no direct deposit and no W2s. This was the predicament the Apostles faced as they waited upon the Spirit in Jerusalem after Jesus' ascension into heaven. They had no idea how they were going to do this nor had they much confidence that they could pull it off. They did their best by having a committee meeting and drawing straws to fill out their vacated apostle position. In fear they hunkered down until the Spirit of God blew open the shutters and their hearts at Pentecost, attuning them to Christ-consciousness in real time. After that, everything they did was done through deep listening to where the Spirit was guiding them and trusting in that guidance even when she stretched them beyond their comfort zones—which was nearly every day. It was through the diaspora of Christian refugees after the stoning of Stephen that the witness spread from Jerusalem to Judea. It was after Peter had three visions telling him to eat “unclean” food that the witness spread through Samaria via an “unclean” Gentile family that Peter visited and baptized. It was through hitchhiking a chariot ride on a dangerous and deserted road that Phillip met and baptized an Ethiopian eunuch and the witness spread to the ends of the world, which for the earliest Christians was Africa. It was through Ananias that Paul, a known persecutor of Jesus followers, was healed of his blindness only to become the greatest Christian missionary of the first century, taking the stories of Jesus all over the Mediterranean region. There was no strategic plan or program curriculum for any of this. These Christian pioneers were simply watching and listening for where Christ was showing up and then courageously journeying into the unknown to meet and obey the Spirit's call. The Book of Acts is filled with these weird stories, collected from the early church during a season when it was still a “hold-on-to-the-seat-of-your-pants” movement. At that time there were no specific gathering places for Christians. Certainly there was no “Sunday at 11.” They gathered in homes or in synagogues, sometimes in secret. The word for “church” in Greek, ekklesia, and Latin, ecclesia, means “a called out people of God.” The early church was a community of believers “called out of the mainstream” to a weird enterprise. They risked everything for the sake of sacrificial love in a world dominated by a red worldview, where they looked like the crazy ones. Beth Ann Estock, and Paul Nixon *Weird Church: Welcome to the Twenty-First Century*