

Info from CBC February 2016 Newsletter

Love, it is the determining factor of everything that we are as Christians. Jesus says, "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart...and your neighbor as yourself." The next thing He says is so profound, stunning and shocking that we ignore it or use it as a tag on at the end of the verse. He says, "On these two hang all the law and Prophets." Think about that statement; everything hangs on love. EVERYTHING! Everything we know about God from the Word (law and prophets) hangs on love. Just think, if we accrue all the facts we can about the Bible and we can eloquently quote most verses and explain it all but leave out love, it just becomes an exercise in academics. We also demonstrate our lack of understanding of God and why the church exists. Remember, "God so LOVED the world..."

I would submit to you that it is impossible to love your neighbor or anyone else as yourself. We must do first things first, and that is to love God. Agape Him; until we love God with that kind of love and devotion, we will not love the stranger, the hater, the abuser and the user. You would not lay your life down for that person. You would be hard pressed to lay down your life for a good man. The only way is through God's love (Agape). He even said, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay his life down for his friend..."

So, if you want to live the life God has for you, you must submit to the love of God first, and then, you will be able to truly love as He designed. Love is the identifying marker that shows we are Christians. He says, "by this will all men know you are my disciples if you have LOVE for each other." I find it fascinating that He doesn't say be good, use Christian language, go to church all the time, give money to your church, feed the poor, sing in the choir, or evangelize. He says people will Know that we are identified with Christ if we LOVE each other. I submit to you that any failings we have in reaching the world can be traced to this. We abuse, gossip, and hurt each other just like the world, and they see no difference. Whenever we lack love for fellow Christians, we are lacking love for our Lord. Do not forget that we are his body; if you hit one part, the whole hurts. The world is looking for authentic, genuine, Godly love.

This kind of love is not romantic love that ebbs and flows or brotherly love that can be conditional. This is a love that is constant. It is like a mighty river that never stops flowing though obstacles are in its way. Its very nature is to flow no matter what. That is Agape love (God's love). No

matter what you have done or what obstacle you put up, His love flows to you. This is what we must do if we are going to bring the Life of God back to the Church and the world. Let us determine to love each other like that.

Lastly, I would say to you train yourself and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to let your first thought be love. This is truly a discipline. We are predisposed to look or listen to people and judge who they are. Love looks at people and sees what can they become in Christ. I submit again that this can only be done if you are in a deep love (Agape) relationship with God. If you find yourself continually measuring up people, then remember that God did not measure you up. He took you in and loved you in spite of all of your downfalls and sins. Learning to love like that is a process and only accomplished by spending time with your heavenly Father.

So this Valentines day. I wish you love. True love. God's love.

Just a Servant, Pastor Mike

Deacon Update

- You may have noticed new gutters were installed to the walkway a few weeks back. During the completion of this project, a few spots on the flat top roof, covering the walkway, showed some noticeable wear. The Properties Committee is currently getting bids for this project. At next month's deacon meeting, we expect to select someone to complete this work.
- Pastor Jon updated the deacons on plans for the upcoming Youth Mission Trip (3/28-4/1). A meeting with the parents of the youth was held 1/31.
- Discussed beginning a new Sunday School class for College/Career. This new class will be led by John Horton and will begin meeting in February.
- Scheduled a quarterly business meeting to be held in place of the evening worship service on February 21st.

Calendar of Events

- 2** Leadership Planning Meeting ~ 6:30 p.m.
CBC FH
- 7** Youth Super Bowl Party ~ 5:30 p.m.
Ray & Janice Richburg's house
Youth grades 6-12
Please bring chips, dip, or drink
- 8-10** Springmaid Sr. Adult Retreat

- 9 Deacons Meeting ~ 7 p.m.
 14 Valentine's Day
 Baby Dedication during 11:00 Worship
 21 Business Meeting ~ 6:30 p.m.

Looking Forward to March

- (13) Summer camp deposits due/ Easter Egg Hunt
 (15) Elderberry Luncheon (20) Chili cook-off
 (25) Good Friday (27) Easter Sunday

Workers for January

- Audiovisual: 2/7 Will Thomas
 2/14 Rob Hussey
 2/21 Mack Mutchler
 2/28 Colin Gaff

Nursery:

- 2/7 Early: Betsy Jordan, Linda Pierce
 Later: Tami Blascak, Beth Lyles
 2/14 Early: Dawn Harrelson, Effie Russell
 Later: Kathy Lee, Lauren Lee
 2/21 Early: Adriene Jones, Julie Rickenbaker
 Later: Mary Lynn Lee, Vassar Turner
 2/28 Early: Erica Eaddy, Casey Pelfrey
 Later: LaRena & Sabrina Powers

- Toddler 2/7 Kim Gardner
 Church: 2/14 Crystal Thompson
 2/21 Harriet Locklair
 2/28 Adrienne McCabe

Building Attendant: John Horton

Flowers: All Sundays are open.

Ushers: Lenn Gardner, Tommy Geddings,
 Chuck Goff, Russ Harrelson, Jamie Hodge,
 Jim Hunter, Rob Hussey, Ben Jordan

Prayer Ministry

- Mattie Boyce Shaun Richburg
 Patricia Flowers Gabriel Tufares
 Juanita Hunter Grace Tufares
 Mary Frances Lee David &
 Rodney Richburg Melva Young

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Gwen Lee | 16 Bryce Jordan |
| John Horton | 18 Heather Olsen |
| 5 Grady McWhite | 23 Mark Evans |
| Harold Thompson | Marilyn Lowe |
| 9 Cooper Jones | 24 Holly Layton |
| 10 Jack Hubbard | 25 Mackenzie Chappell |
| Amy Morris | Ethan Thompson |
| 12 Dawn Harrelson | 26 Terry Lyles |
| 14 Rob Hussey | 27 Sean Briley |
| Reid Jordan | 28 Alyssa Gaff |
| 15 Toni Baker | Avery Gaff |
| Darren Morris | |

If we have missed your birthday, please call the church office so that we can add your name to our birthday list.

January Monthly Records

Avg. Sunday School Attendance: 158
 Avg. Worship Attendance:
 8:45 – 82 11:00 - 123
 Monthly Offering Total (Jan. 1-24): \$27,859.05
 Building Fund: \$13,784.09

Encouragement Opportunities

Faith Promise Missionary Family:

Mark & Kim Palmani
 (Anastasia, A.J. Rachel)

Home Address:

415 Norway St.
 Kalkaska, MI 49646
 (231) 258-1135

Philippines Address:

85 Lower Malvar St. (Unit 4)
 Trancoville, Baguio City 2600
 Philippines

Student of the Month:

Katenell Locklair
 10860 Plowden Mill Road
 Alcolu, SC 29001
 (803) 473-2359

Shut-in of the Month:

Valorie Evans
29213 Alcolu St.
Alcolu, SC 29001
(803) 473-2993

Remember, a shoebox is just the beginning of a child's journey. Filling a box for one child does not just reach one child, it reaches a village or community... and it shows them the **LOVE** of **JESUS!**

Love in Christ!

Mary Jo Jones

Ongoing Missions Opportunities

Harvest Seed

Collecting Sunday School literature and other Christian teaching materials to send to pastors and missionaries worldwide.

Contact Person: Karen DeCosta

Donations for Ukraine

We are planning to send another shipment to the Ukraine during the month of February.

Our missionaries, Dr. Jeff & Donna Crane, report they received our last shipment of 8 boxes in December and quickly sent 2 ½ boxes out the door to the Eastern Ukraine where clothing, bandages, etc. are badly needed.

Warm clothes are needed for these children along with small adult sizes. If you have clothes or bandages you can donate, please bring them to the Fellowship Hall and place them in the Seekers' classroom.

God Bless!

Donald Morris

Operation Christmas Child

It's time again to start work on collecting for our Shoebox Ministry. We packed 301 boxes this past year!

February is the Month of Love, so when you see items on sale, buy an extra stuffed animal or Valentine items (candy hearts, suckers, etc.). **No chocolate please!**

It may not seem like much, but thank you to all of you mom's who bring unopened Happy Meal toys for these children!!!

If you are not a shopper, we will order/buy for you. If you write a check to CBC, please put OCC on the memo line so that the money can go into the OCC account. If you give cash, write your name, the amount, and OCC on the envelope. Also, if you want boxes packed, we will pack one in your name for you. We estimate \$10 a box, so let me know.

Wednesday Night Menus & Kitchen Teams

- 2/3 Menu:** Hamburgers, Potato salad, Chips, Ice cream
KT: Jonathan & Denis Jones, Justin & Nicki Woodard
- 2/10 Menu:** Hot dogs w/fixings, Chips, Cupcakes
KT: David & Frankie McCabe, Dan McInnis
- 2/17 Menu:** "Souper Bowl Night", Cornbread, Crackers, Dessert
KT: Jim & Juanita Hunter, Linda Pierce
- 2/24 Menu:** Spaghetti, Salad, Veggie, Garlic bread, Pound cake
KT: Mat & Erica Eaddy, Darrell & Vassar Turner