

FAITH NOTES



FBC Newsletter • February 2008 • Volume Three, 2nd Edition

LOOKING FOR PROJECT IDEAS!

If you have an idea for a service project our church could be involved with in May, please contact the church office. We have several already, but are looking for more.

Thanks,
Pastor Mike

WHEN YOU SEE JESUS...

Now is the hour when you will be going to Heaven to be with Jesus Christ.

Then that will be a happy day for you when you see Jesus Christ.

Yes, that will be a happy, happy day for you.

– By Anna Brewer

HAVE A HEART...

Valentines of every size and description adorn store windows and other places of business this time of year. The holiday has become a time for love to be enthroned as a virtue, with the heart symbolizing the romance of our lives.

But the heart symbolizes not only love, but life itself! Without a heart, our bodies cannot survive.

Consider God's words to Samuel: "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7, NRSV).

The heart – that inner countenance – shows what we really are. Samuel was to seek one of the sons of Jesse to be the new king. David, even though he was the weakest physical specimen, was the one selected. His heart was great.

Love looks deeper than outward appearances, and we can thank God for that. Don't be swayed by mere valentines – have a heart!

FROM PASTOR MIKE'S DESK...

"Monks and Ministers"

A man is driving down the road and breaks down near a monastery. He goes to the monastery, knocks on the door, and says, "My car broke down. Do you think I could stay the night?"

The monks graciously accept him, feed him dinner and even fix his car. As the man tries to fall asleep, he hears a strange yet wonderful sound. The next morning, he asks the monks what the sound was, but they say, "We can't tell you. You're not a monk."

The man is disappointed but thanks them anyway and goes about his merry way. Some years later, the same man breaks down in front of the same monastery. The monks accept him, feed him and even fix his car. That night, he hears the same strange and wonderful noise that he had heard years earlier.

The next morning, he asks what it is, but the monks reply, "We can't tell you. You're not a monk."

The man says, "All right, all right. I'm dying to know. If the only way I can find out what that sound was is to become a monk, then how do I become a monk?"

The monks reply, "You must travel the earth and tell us how many blades of grass there are and the exact number of sand pebbles. When you find these numbers, you will become a monk."

The man sets about his task. Forty-five years later, he returns and knocks on the door of the monastery. He says, "I have traveled the earth and have found what you have asked for. There are 156,236,284,232 blades of grass and 231,281,219,999,129,382 sand pebbles on the earth."

The monks reply, "Congratulations. You are now a monk. We shall now show you the way to the sound."

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MEET JERRY & SHARYL PARKIN...

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by Jess Wenick

“Monks and Ministers”

By Pastor Mike (*Continued from front page*)...

The monks lead the man to a wooden door, where the head monk says, “The sound is right behind that door.”

The man reaches for the knob, but the door is locked. The monks give him the key and he opens the door. Behind the wooden door is another door made of stone. The man demands the key to the stone door. The monks give him the key, and he opens it, only to find a door made of ruby. He demands another key from the monks, who provide it. Behind that door is another door, this one made of sapphire. So it went until the man had gone through doors of emerald, silver, topaz, amethyst... Finally, the monks say, “This is the last key to the last door.”

The man is relieved to no end. He unlocks the door, turns the knob, and behind that door he is amazed to find the source of that strange sound.

But I can't tell you what it is because you're not a monk.

I share that story with you because I believe it helps illustrate an unfortunate dichotomy that exists in the church today. To say that only pastors, evangelists and missionaries are those truly “called to minister” is to miss the beauty of ministry. If we believe that those not in “full-time Christian vocation” are doing something less spiritual, then we have done the Christian life a great discredit.

Every Christian is in “full-time ministry,” no matter what they are doing, no matter what it says on their business card, no matter if they punch a time clock or are on salary, no matter if they are doing ranch work, technical work or people work, no matter if they are paid or a volunteer, no matter if they work for their boss or for their family as a housekeeper.

Each line of work, no matter what it is, is full-time ministry. Every job we do should have as its goal and purpose to glorify God and change lives. In Second Corinthians, chapters three through five, the apostle Paul stresses the fact that every believer is a minister and an ambassador, 24/7.

And if you are ever sitting in a church service where someone is commissioned by the church to “minister” for the church in some capacity (which is a good thing the church does), just remember that the same could be applied to you on that very occasion. You don't have to possess the title “Monk” or “Minister” to have that commission. As a Christian, you are commissioned to go out.

Your partner in ministering,
Mike

“Many things I have tried to grasp and have lost. That which I have placed in God's hands, I still have.” – Martin Luther

“Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not.” – C. S. Lewis

“God carries your picture in His wallet.” – Tony Campolo

“A joy that is shared is a joy made double.” – John Ray

UPCOMING EVENTS...

February 3 Communion
High School & Jr. High Super Bowl Outreach
3pm at Youth Center

February 5 Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses, 6:30pm

February 8-10 Couples Retreat, Sunriver

February 10 Quilters

February 15 Valentines Banquet, 6pm

February 17 Service at The Aspens, 1:45pm

February 24 Quilters

See Youth Events, page 3

Prayer Service on Sunday nights at 6pm

Mondays at noon – opportunity to gather together in the fellowship hall and pray for our youth.

Every Tuesday morning at 8:30am, the Pastors meet for prayer in the church offices. Everyone is welcome!

COUPLE'S RETREAT

February 8-10

Sunriver, Oregon

Cost: \$200 per couple

(Includes accommodations, cost of speaker and meals
– snack on Friday night, breakfast on Saturday morning,
dinner on Saturday night and breakfast on Sunday morning
– lunch on Saturday will be on your own).

Contact Sharon Davis 573-3615 to register.

VALENTINES BANQUET

Friday, February 15, 6pm

FBC Fellowship Hall

Watch details for sign-up.

Dinner, Entertainment, Fellowship

For couples and singles!

Angels explained by children...

“I only know the names of two angels. Hark and Herold.”
– Gregory, 5

“Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it.”
– Olive, 9

“In the world, not of the world”

By Pastor David

Every year, when January and February roll around, my schedule seems to go absolutely crazy. Some of you may think that this is because of the mission trip to Mexico that is coming up in March or you may think I just am not organized enough to manage my schedule. While there is some truth to both of those statements, the craziness comes primarily from the fact that I am coaching girls basketball at the middle school right now. I started coaching at the middle school two years ago and I also coached a 7th grade boys team in Salem before we moved to Harney County. Now, I really enjoy playing basketball, but that isn't the real reason why I am coaching. The exercise that I get out of it is nice, but that isn't the real reason either (it was volunteer in Salem). Coaching basketball is an opportunity for me to interact with and build relationships with students that I wouldn't otherwise meet. It gets me into the schools and allows me to rub shoulders with all kinds of students.

As believers, we are instructed to be in the world, but to not be of the world. In fact, in John 17:15-18, Jesus prayed not that we would be taken out of the world, but rather that we would experience God's protection in the world while we serve Him. Jesus also declared that He has sent us out into the world in the same fashion that the Father sent the Son. This tells us that even though we are not of this world, we are to minister and serve the world around us in much the same fashion as Jesus did. I know for me it is very easy to sit in my office (as I am right now) and ignore the physical and spiritual needs of the world around me. And I know that some of you share in that same temptation, the temptation to ignore the primary mission that we have in life.

Now, this may be a different approach to interacting with the world than you were taught before. For too long, the church has emphasized that we are to separate ourselves from the world. Oftentimes this comes from a misunderstanding of the Greek word for church, *ekklesia*. Many have attempted to understand this word as meaning called out, because of the meaning of the two roots that form the word. But simply put, *ekklesia* means a gathering of people. It was used in secular Greek as well as in the New Testament. The authors of the New Testament did not use this word to imply that the church was to separate out from the world and disengage from ministering to the people around us.

So this is why I coach. This is why I accept the fact that my schedule gets absolutely crazy, because I know that I must get out and interact with the world around me. I have to remember that Jesus has sent me into the world for a purpose. What are you doing in the world? Or should I ask what in the world are you doing here?

Till next time,
Pastor David

Pastor Don Sprague tells about making a pastoral call at a home in rural Knox County, Ohio. When he knocked on the door, a child opened it and, recognizing the pastor, called out “Mommy! Mommy! It's the Creature.”

– The Newsletter *Newsletter* © with permission of Rev. Sprague

YOUTH EVENTS...

High School:

February 1	5th Quarter following game
February 4, 11, 25	High School Youth Group
February 16	Can Drive Fundraiser
February 18	No Youth Group due to Presidents Day

Junior High:

February 3	No Trek 24/7 – Super Bowl Event
February 10, 17, 24	Trek 24/7 (7th & 8th Grades)

AWANA:

February 4	AWANA Store Night
February 9	AWANA Section Party
February 11	AWANA Wear Hearts Night
February 18	No AWANA due to Presidents Day
February 25	AWANA

MEXICO 2008 Team

February 17	Meeting, 2pm
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PRAYER OPPORTUNITY

Mondays, Noon - 1pm
Fellowship Hall

Everyone is invited to pray for our youth.

Opportunities are always available to volunteer in our youth programs. If interested, contact Pastor David 573-7777.

SUPER BOWL PARTY

High School and Junior High Outreach Event
Sunday, February 3
3:00pm at the FBC Youth Center
FOOD, GAMES, DOOR PRIZES
SPECIAL MESSAGE AT HALF-TIME
By LaDainian Tomlinson

YooDoo HooDoo

Camp Tadmore and HooDoo Mountain
March 1-2

\$77 if registered by Thursday, February 1
\$92 if registered by Thursday, February 15
No registration accepted after February 15
Registration forms on FBC website –
www.faithbchc.com, Youth Ministries
(Price includes lift ticket, 5 hours night skiing,
rental, lessons, lodging Saturday night,
3 meals & transportation)

Give a heart



One way to show love is to do something nice for someone else. Luke 10:27 tells us to love our neighbors, but who are our neighbors? Everyone is!


Make these fun heart treats to share with some of your neighbors.


What you need:

- Saucepan
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 2 or 3 bags of miniature marshmallows
- 4 cups of crisp-rice cereal (regular or chocolate)
- 9 x 13 pan
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bag of chocolate chips (milk or white chocolate)
- Bowl
- Zipper sandwich baggie
- Scissors

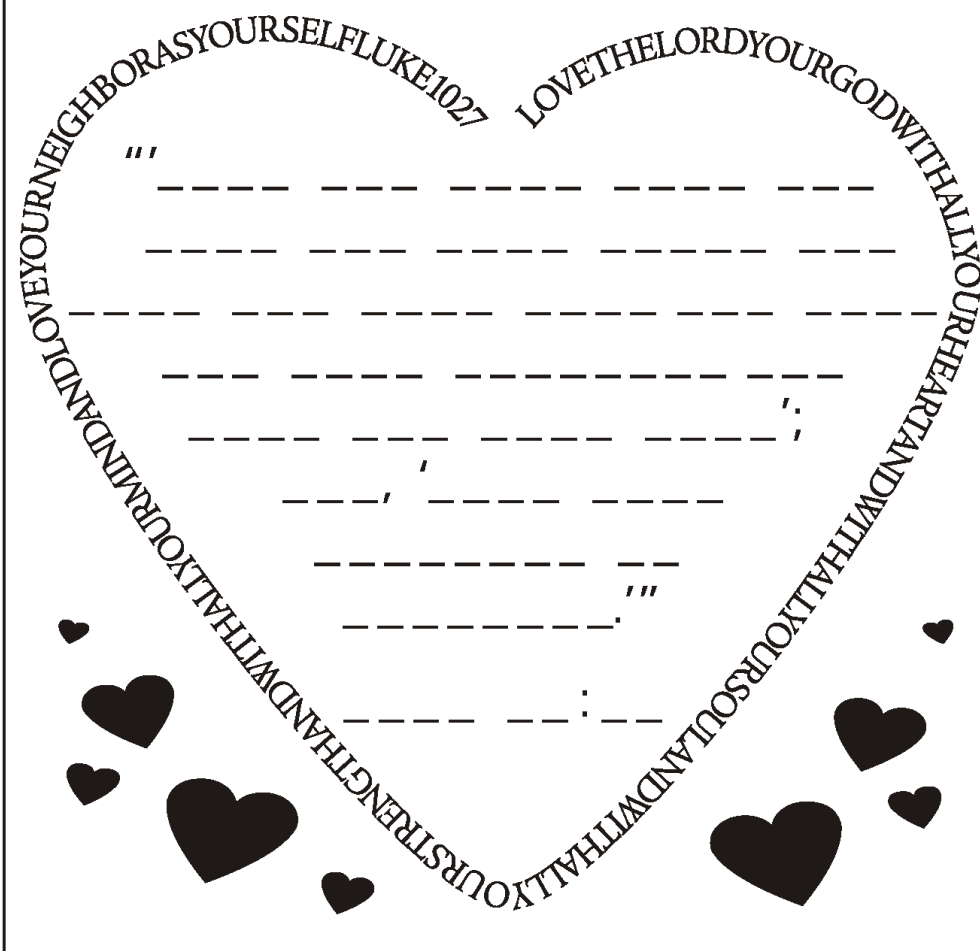
What you do (with adult help):

1. Melt butter in saucepan and add marshmallows.
2. Stir until mixture becomes difficult to stir anymore. Mix in cereal and stir.
3. Butter the 9 x 13 pan and spread the mixture evenly in it. Allow to cool.
4. When cool, use cookie cutter to cut out heart-shaped treats.
5. Melt chocolate chips in a bowl in the microwave.
6. Spoon melted chocolate into a baggie. Cut off a corner and drizzle chocolate over the treats.
7. Enjoy giving a heart to your neighbor!





In the Bible, Jesus says there are two greatest commandments. Below is a heart with continuous words around it. With your pencil, draw lines between the words. Then copy the words onto the lines below to complete Luke 10:27, NIV.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

MEET JERRY & SHARYL PARKIN...

Jerry and Sharyl moved to Harney County from Arizona two years ago and have been part of the FBC family since then.

They have been married for 32-1/2 years and have three children: Shannon, Seth and Emily. They also have four grandchildren: 3 in Anchorage, Alaska and 1 in Phoenix, Arizona.

A very special dimension to Jerry's and Sharyl's relationship is that Jerry led Sharyl to the Lord before they were married.

The word is that Jerry is a talented handyman.

Sharyl is a housekeeper and leaves various FBC family homes shining! Speaking of Sharyl's housekeeping ministry, Peggy Asmussen said, "Sometimes when Sharyl comes to clean my house, we have the chance to visit about the Lord before I go to work." She added, "When Sharyl drives up, she always has a smile on her face."

Sharyl loves horses, enjoys Women's Ministry events, attends the Thursday morning Ladies Bible Study, and has helped out in leading Sunday School for the women's class.

It's been a blessing to have these two in our midst and we look forward to many years of sharing the joy of the Lord with them.

Hymn Stories...

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus (1882)

In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. Psalm 56:11

How fitting that a missionary should write this hymn about faith and trust. Louisa M. R. Stead was born about 1850 in Dover, England, and became a Christian at age nine. She felt a burden to become a missionary in her teenage years. When she was 21 or so, she emigrated to the United States and attended a revival meeting in Urbana, Ohio. There the Lord deeply impressed her with a ringing missionary call.

She made plans to go to China, but her hopes were dashed when her health proved too frail for the climate there. Shortly afterward, she married a man named Stead. But sometime around 1879 or 1880, Mr. Stead drowned off the coast of Long Island. Some accounts say that he saved a boy who was drowning, and other accounts say both Mr. Stead and the boy perished. Other records suggest it was his own four-year-old daughter, Lily, that he saved. In any event, the family's beach-side picnic ended in tragedy for Louisa.

Shortly afterward, taking little Lily, Louisa went to South Africa as a missionary, and it was there during those days she wrote, "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."

Louisa served in South Africa for fifteen years, and while there she married Robert Wodehouse. When her health forced a return to America, Robert pastored a local Methodist Church. In 1900, her health restored, Robert and Louisa attended a large missionary conference in New York, and were so enthused by the experience they again offered themselves as missionary candidates.

They arrived as Methodist missionaries in Rhodesia on April 4, 1901. "In connection with this whole mission there are glorious possibilities," she wrote. "One cannot in the face of the peculiar

Continued next column...

"Continuing in His Word..."

By Jess Wenick

In John 8:31-32, Jesus said, "If you continue in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Unfortunately, we sometimes forget that God's Word includes all 66 books of Scripture. Because it's a lot easier for Christians today to read and study the New Testament, we tend to neglect the writings of the Old Testament. It's difficult to understand, it's really lengthy, and it seems out of touch with modern life. We tend to use the New Testament as a substitute – since it offers a commentary of the Old Testament that is far easier to understand. So, why is it so important to read the Holy Scriptures in their entirety?

The Bible says that God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Testimony of His character is scattered throughout the pages of the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. Through studying both Old and New Testaments, we are able to learn what pleases God and what angers Him. We are able to build a stronger relationship with Him because we have a more complete picture of Him.

We are also able to see God's glorious and amazing plan of salvation by studying all of His Word. Only by understanding the Law of Moses can we appreciate and understand how Jesus Christ was the only one who could fulfill its terms and sacrifice Himself on the cross to usher in the New Covenant of grace.

It is important to remember that the early Church didn't have the New Testament. The occasional letter of an apostle was passed around, but nothing was compiled and reproduced en masse for at least a couple hundred years. The Old Testament was used quite effectively to bring people to Christ. In the book of Acts, Philip was able to convert an Ethiopian court official by interpreting the book of Isaiah for him. Because of his understanding of the Old Testament, he was able to show the eunuch how this Scripture pointed to Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament also plays a critical role in validating God's Word. It contains countless prophesies that have already come true. Some were penned hundreds or thousands of years before prophesied events unfolded. Through the prophets, God was able to provide a book that no other religion can compare to. It is truly written beyond the limits of time, and tangible evidence can be provided to anyone willing to listen.

As Christians, we should thirst to know as much about God as we can. If we pursue Him through His Word in its entirety, our search will not come up empty. As Jesus said, if we continue in His Word, it will set us free.

Hymn Stories (*continued*)...

difficulties help saying, 'Who is sufficient for these things?' But with simple confidence and trust we may and do say, 'Our sufficiency is of God.'

Louisa retired in 1911, and passed away in 1917; but her daughter, Lily, married missionary D. A. Carson and continued the work for many years at the Methodist mission station in southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

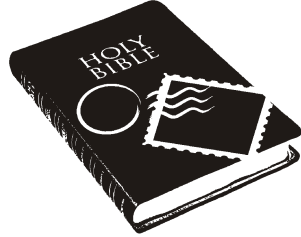
Robert J. Morgan

Then Sings My Soul, Thomas Nelson, Inc. 2006

The Bible as a letter...

Søren Kierkegaard, a brilliant 19th-century philosopher, said this about the Bible: "The Bible should be read as a letter from God with our personal address on it."

How true! The Bible tells us who's behind our amazing lives. The Bible makes clear the source of our existence and explains how we're to live out our years on Earth. The Bible gives us the best rules for living with others and for living in our own skin.



Scripture tells us of the wisdom of saints and the foolishness of scoundrels. It explains how God tries to relate to us. It guides us and provides strength and courage through our daily lives.

The Bible tells how God walked among us on Earth in the person of Christ. Most importantly, it details how Christ revealed God's immeasurable love for all humankind.

Finally, the Bible assures us that God not only cares for us here and now, but will care for us in the hereafter. Forever and forever!

The Newsletter *Newsletter*©

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH OF HARNEY COUNTY

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Sunday Schedule

The Nine 9:00am

Fellowship 10:15-10:45am

The Quarter 'til 10:45am

Sunday School runs concurrently with services.

Staff

Rev. Mike Fast Senior Pastor

David Curtis Associate Pastor

Tom Garo Director of Worship

Dona Johnson Secretary



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