



From the Pastor:

Dear Friends,

Many thanks to all who contributed pots of chili and other goodies for Sunday night's Hymn Sing and Social. What a great time we had eating, singing and enjoying one another's company. And thanks to all who stayed after to tidy up. Church family meals are wonderful events for nurturing our love and friendship together.

We plan to eat twice together in February - a spaghetti meal on Sunday the 19th after worship and chicken pot pie on Sunday evening the 26th.

I'm sure many of you are anxiously awaiting Groundhog Day to see if winter will soon be over! I can't wait for spring to arrive - longer days, warmth, new life sprouting.

Thinking on the phrase "groundhog day", normally meaning the same old things the same old way day after day, I'm reminded of something somebody told me lately. They spoke of people needing to think of the magic of ordinary days. It's a privilege to be alive, to work, to do what's necessary - even if it seems monotonous. And even if there are hard times.

People today want everything to be extraordinary, exciting, easy. A dose of real life to them is depressing and dissatisfying.

When our family was in the thick of babies, diapers, sleepless nights and all that comes with having a young family, someone encouraged us to see the mundane and monotonous as simple service to the Lord. Yes, we do worship the Lord each Sunday with the gathered people of God. We also worship God in the everyday moments of life - diapers, emptying trash, pulling weeds, the blaring alarm waking us each morning and more. The monotony shifts as we age. Sometimes the mundane is making sure our pills are in order, making multiple doctor visits in a week or sitting alone while the world goes by us.

Some refer to this, to distinguish it from worship on Sunday, as "all of life worship". Our chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever (Westminster Shorter Catechism #1). Yes, we worship with God's people in church, but everyday we need to see as glorifying to God.

We've been made and redeemed to serve God and neighbor. Our simple daily duties are our high calling from God. Some days, weeks, months and years do seem monotonous. Some stretches of life are rather mundane. We should see behind the daily grind, understanding that God has a purpose in every moment.

Scripture teaches us, "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)

See you Sunday when we gather to worship!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Booklets are available at the piano narthex entrance with information that will help you shop year round.

PRAYER REQUEST

Cindy Wright will be having hip replacement surgery on February 22.

Handbell Rehearsals will resume TONIGHT, Wednesday, February 1.

Men's Lunch will next meet on Monday, February 6 at Noon at Southbound Sandwich Works and the next **Men's Evening Gathering** will be February 20 at 7 PM at Panera Bread.

Ladies Tuesday Evening Book Study. Our Ladies' book study of Melissa Krueger's *Envy of Eve* will begin with a study/discussion of Chapter 1 on Tuesday, February 7 at 7 PM in the Hospitality Room. This study is for ladies of all ages and will be taught by Pastor Crotts. Please let him know if you need a copy of the book.

The Session will next meet on Monday, February 13 at 7 PM. The deacons will meet at 6 PM.

Congregational Luncheon will be held on Sunday, February 19 after Worship. 19 Connie Bennett will be giving a report on her Mission Trip to Trinidad. The Church will provide the meal of spaghetti, meatballs, salad, and bread. The Congregation is requested to bring desserts.



First ARP Calendar of Events

February

- 1 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM
- 1 Handbell Rehearsal Resumes
- 5 Lord's Supper
- 6 Men's Lunch
- 7 Women's Envy of Eve Book Study - 7 PM
- 8 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM
- 13 Stated Session Meeting 7 PM
- 13 Deacons Meeting 6 PM
- 15 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM
- 19 Congregational Luncheon & Short-Term Missions Report
- 20 Men's Gathering - 7 PM
- * Young at Heart Luncheon resumes in March
- 22 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM

FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

Sarah Ickes	2/1
Don Childrey	2/2
Dylan Jones	2/2
Harold Boswell	2/4
Janice Richardson	2/4
John Robinson	2/7
Stephanie Dobbins	2/9
George McKinney	2/10
Margaret Owens	2/10
Abigail Newton	2/13
Jan Burwell	2/15
Karen Hoke	2/17
Lynn Limon	2/18
Al Wright	2/18
Alex Jones	2/22
John Greeson	2/23
Karen Jones	2/27
Jim Christopher	2/28

ANNIVERSARIES

John & Cathy Young (38)	2/3
Stephen & Ann Dobbins (23)	2/12
Ossie & Jennifer Spaulding (21)	2/14
Michael & Mary Peppo (25)	2/21

January/February ARP Magazine

You can find the latest ARP magazine here:
<http://www.omagdigital.com/publication/?i=369130>

Nursery:

Feb 5: Jimmy Smith & Vicki McPherson
Feb 12: John Robinson & Carol Erb

Counter:

Feb 5: John Robinson
Feb 12: Larry Isley

Deacon Duty:

Feb 5: Glenn Owens
Feb 12: Larry Isley

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