



THE BEACON

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As we turn the page of the calendar to February we remember times when this month seemed filled with days of recognition from Groundhog Day to George Washington's birthday. Now we look to Valentine's Day on the 14th, President's Day on the 20th, American Heart Association month, and Black History month along with

others. Are you aware that each year February 1 is designated as National Freedom Day? It was on February 1, 1865 that President Abraham Lincoln signed what would become the 13th Amendment to the Constitution outlawing slavery in the United States. With an emphasis on love and freedom and with a reminder of what has been happening across our country, let me share these verses.

Matthew 25.37-40 – 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Hebrews 13.1-2 – Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Leviticus 19.34 – The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

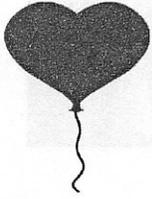
Luke 10.27-28 – The lawyer answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And Jesus said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

1 John 4.7-12, 16 – Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

May each day this month and in all the days ahead we remember that you and I and everyone we see, whether in person or on the screens in front of us, are all children of God. We know that each one of us is loved by God. May we be open, loving, welcoming and encouraging to everyone. This isn't easy when there are those with whom we don't agree and who don't agree with us. It isn't easy when our beliefs may be different. But, as followers of Christ we have a commandment to love. I would ask you to pray for strength, invite others to worship with you and love one another.

In the Peace and Love of Christ,

Rev. Dan Ege



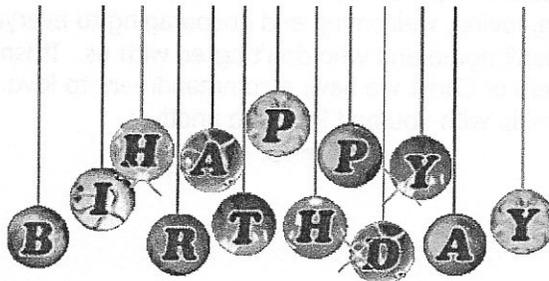
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Russell and Glenda Perry 12 February 5

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Brandon Lentz	February 4
Charlotte Smart	February 4
Wilfred Clark, Jr.	February 5
Jo Rolison	February 7
Rebecca Taylor	February 7
Willis Case	February 9
Xerex Navarro	February 14
Dot Abbott	February 15
Cynthia Rajotte	February 15
Chris Roberts	February 15
Victoria Macklin	February 18
Maria Higdon	February 20
Linda Brothers	February 23
Dorothy Gampp	February 23
Lily Koff	February 24



GOD IS LOVE

Phil Steinhoff, Deacon

This is an on-line article I came across while looking at devotionals written by Lynne Chapman Bella Online's Christian Living Editor.

February is the month most often associated with love. We start seeing cupids and hearts in the stores and begin thinking of what to give the one we love. Valentines become available in January for sending to loved ones in February. This is a good month to think about what real love is.

There are three kinds of love.

- Eros - This is erotic love. It is the first stage of a romantic relationship. It can be felt when you don't even know the person who is the object of this love. It is a physical love centered on self.
- Philo - This love is based on a friendship between two people. It is based on give and take. It is a mental love that is still centered on self but also the other person.
- Agape - This is totally selfless love. It is love given without expectation of receiving any benefit in return. It has no conditions and benefits the one who is loved not the one who loves. This is Spiritual love.

(Please be aware that the following bulleted comments are not bible verses. Each is the promise and encouragement that I receive from studying the indicated passage.)

God is love

- God demonstrated His agape love. Even though we were of no use to Him - we had no value to the Creator of the universe - He sent His Son to die as a sacrifice for our guilt. I have never deserved God's love but He loved me anyway. Romans 5:8
- God responds to those who love Him. He promises that if we look for Him we will find Him. God let Himself be found by me even when I didn't know what I was looking for. He knew what I needed and what my soul was longing for. Proverbs 8:17
- Jesus loves me in the same way that God the Father loves Him. He wants me to feel secure in that love. When I obey Jesus, just as Jesus obeyed His Father, I remain feeling at home within His love. Jesus told us this so that we will be filled with joy. This is joy that Jesus gives and joy that is not dependent on our circumstances. It is joy that bubbles up inside of us no matter what happens. Jesus wants me to love others in the same way He loved me. He laid down His life - died for me. At the very least, I can put myself out or allow myself to be uncomfortable, for someone else. John 15:9-13
- God is love. I know about God's love and I believe in how much God loves me. The Bible says that when I live in this love, I live in God and God lives in me. This is hard to understand but I have seen the results. I have seen the ability to love others grow in me. Because I love God, I can love other people. I love because God loved me first. 1 John 4:16,19
- I show that I have love for Jesus by obeying Him. Since I love Jesus, I am loved by God the Father. Jesus promises that He loves me and is making it possible for me to know Him as He really is. John 14:21
- Not much in this world lasts, but three things do - faith, hope and love. Faith is confidence and trust in God. Hope is joyful expectation of eternal salvation - expectation of a permanent home in heaven. Love is true affection for God and for others - affection that grows out of God's love for me. Three things last, faith, hope and love. The greatest of these three things is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

I am certain that nothing will ever tear me away from God's love. Nothing in this life or the next, nothing seen or unseen, not even my own fears or worries, absolutely nothing can separate me from God's love. That means that nothing, not even the powers of hell, will ever win out over God's love. It isn't because of my strength or anything that I do, but because of Jesus Christ who calls me His own. Romans 8:38



ABWM
LET'S GO CAMPING!

This is the theme for this year's ABWM retreat on February 4th beginning at 9:30 until our activities end.

We plan to have a speaker on Bible Camps for Baptist Children and teens, camping games, crafts and a special camp lunch. We'll learn about this years' regional project.

Sue Moore

Xyz

Please plan to join us at the church on Thursday, February 2 for a time of sharing and devotions in the church parlor at 11:00 a.m. Or if you wish, meet us at the Countrie Eatery at 11:45 a.m. for lunch. Please sign up in the Welcome Center so that registrations can be made and indicate your preference (if you meet at church or the restaurant). Looking forward to seeing you.

Judy Daniels

BOARD OF MISSIONS

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Mission Service Trips to Nicaragua
American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware
and
American Baptist Churches of New York State
partnering together
with



AMOS (A Ministry of Sharing – Health & Hope) is a Christian non-profit organization that exists to improve the health of impoverished communities in Nicaragua by working alongside them in health, education and development.



Water of Blessing: Nicaragua 2017

Goal: To accompany AMOS in bringing clean water to rural communities in Nicaragua by supporting the Safe Water and Sanitation

Program Cost: Estimated \$1,800

Two different Opportunities

April 21-30, 2017 & July 21-30, 2017

Interested? Contact Rev. Taylor

2017 Hands-On Mission Opportunities ABHMS- American Baptist Home Mission Societies

'Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing...Baton Rouge,' La.

In August 2016, Baton Rouge received over 2 feet of rain within hours—an onslaught that resulted in severe flooding throughout the city and surrounding communities. According to news reports, damage estimates exceeded \$9 billion, and more than 150,000 properties were damaged with thousands of families displaced. Among those who remain displaced and struggling to rebuild are more than 80 American Baptist families. A joint effort of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) and American Baptist Churches of the South, **"Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing...Baton Rouge" will host several work weeks throughout 2017.** Join us in Baton Rouge as we help to rebuild, restore and renew Baton Rouge.

'Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing...Rainelle,' W. Va.

Teams are being formed to assist residents in Rainelle and surrounding areas that were flooded in June 2016 when 11 inches of rain fell in less than two hours. Although First Baptist, Rainelle, accumulated nearly 5 feet of water on its first floor, it opened its doors along with the heart of its people to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. Join us in this joint effort of ABHMS and the West Virginia Baptist Convention, as we help First Baptist continue to minister to its members and community during "Rebuilding, Restoring and Renewing...Rainelle." Two work weeks are planned: **June 10-17 and 17-24, 2017.**

'Coming Together for New Jersey...Rebuild, Renew and Restore'

Hurricane Sandy devastated New Jersey when it hit the East Coast in October 2012. A joint effort of ABHMS and American Baptist Churches of New Jersey, "Coming Together for New Jersey...Rebuild, Renew and Restore" provides another mission opportunity to serve, **July 8-15, 2017.** Join in hands-on efforts to rebuild homes, communities and lives, while encouraging and supporting those in need and worshipping with ABCNJ congregations. Neither construction skills nor training is required.

'Home Mission: 'Til the Work is Done' Work Week, New Orleans

Twelve years after hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast, residents continue their efforts to rebuild. But they need our support. The faith community was there as first responders. We will continue to be there for the victims of these storms until the work is done. Come to New Orleans as we worship, witness and work together to help those in need as they rebuild their homes, churches, communities and lives. "Til the Work is Done" is scheduled for **July 30-August 5, 2017.** This week of ministry and fellowship will not only help those still experiencing the aftermath of the hurricanes but will also highlight the need for continued work and ministry in this impacted region.

'Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing'...Murrow Indian Children's Home and Bacone College, both in Muskogee, Okla.

Murrow Indian Children's Home is a residential home for orphaned Native American children. Bacone College is the oldest continuously operated institution of higher education in Oklahoma with strong American Baptist ties. Both the home and college need volunteers to help with general construction, routine office work, grounds maintenance and landscaping. A special work week is planned for **July 16-22, 2017.** Plan to join us in "Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing"...Murrow Indian Children's Home and Bacone College.

**Are you interested in participating in any of these opportunities?
You can join others who will be adding their gifts with yours.**

CONTACT Rev. Taylor for additional details.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The Board of Trustees would like to thank Kenny Kemp , Austin Kemp , and Lucas Wester for their efforts in the snow removal at the church last month.

The kitchen has a couple of new additions. We recently purchased a new refrigerator as a replacement for the original one that has more than served its time and purpose. In addition, we thought it would be a novel idea to purchase an ice maker. Hopefully people will still use ice in 2017.

Finally, in the past couple of months, we have been diligent in trying to keep First Baptist warm & comfortable. Unfortunately, to be truly effective in this process, this requires a major overhaul of the main heating and air conditioning system. It is an arduous and costly project but if we want to be warm in the winter and cool in the summer, it must be done. We ask that you be mindful of this but more importantly, that you will keep this in prayer .



Dear First Baptist Family,

I want to thank you for the prayers, cards, flowers, and concerns for my and George's well-being that I have received following my knee replacement surgery. I am recovering very nicely and walking without assistance. I have felt your prayers, and thank God that I am a part of such a caring congregation.

With a heart full of love and gratitude to each of you,

Lois Glading



A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon.

"How do you know what to say?" he asked.

"Why, God tells me," the father answered.

The boy replied, "Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"



The Rev. Billy Graham tells of a time early in his career when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was.

heaven

When the boy told him, Rev. Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Baptist church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to Heaven."

"I don't think I'll be there," the boy said. "You don't even know your way to the post office."

Bloopers in the church

The following are church bulletin board bloopers found in churches across the U.S.

"Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on 'It's a Terrible Experience'."

"Due to the Rector's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice."

"Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community."

"The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy."

"A song fest was hell at the Methodist church Wednesday."

"Today's Sermon: 'How Much Can a Man Drink?' with hymns from a full choir."

On a church bulletin during the minister's illness: "God is good - Dr. Hargreaves is better."

"Potluck supper: prayer and medication to follow."

"The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church."



DARE 2 SHARE

The 2017 Tour

UNSHAKEABLE

Stand Your Ground

A high-energy, challenging youth ministry conference for junior high and high school age students will be held **Friday and Saturday, March 10-11** at the Hylton Chapel in Woodbridge, VA. This will be the third year that First Baptist Church will participate in this event. Six tickets have already been purchased and we are searching for interested students and adults who would want to attend. Yes, it means overnight in a hotel and driving from Dover to Woodbridge (outside Washington, DC). It is a wonderful, life-changing opportunity. For additional information please contact Victoria Macklin or Rev. Taylor. Check out www.dare2share.org

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2017

Next month in March we will be promoting the very diverse ministries that we help to support across the United States and Puerto Rico through the America for Christ Offering. The theme comes from Luke 4.18-19

CULTIVATING LEADERS

EQUIPPING
DISCIPLES
HEALING
COMMUNITIES

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Children's Time 7:00 Bible Study/ Prayer	2 11:00 XYZ 2:00 Clemmer Circle 2:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anon 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	3	4 8:00 Children's Choice 9:00 Women's Retreat
5 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 7:00 Chrysalis	6 7:00 Deacons 7:00 Visitation Teams	7 10:00 Bonar/Niles Circle 7:30 Narcotics Anon	8 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Children's Time 7:00 Bible Study/ Prayer	9 2:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anon 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	10	11 8:00 Children's Choice 9:00 Coordinating Com 10:00 Financial Peace University
12 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Blood Pressure Screening 7:00 Chrysalis	13 7:00 Visitation Teams	14 Valentine's Day 10:00 Harding Circle 7:30 Narcotics Anon	15 March Newsletter Articles due 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Children's Time 7:00 Bible Study/ Prayer	16 2:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anon 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	17 5:30 MS Support Grp	18 10:00 Financial Peace University
19 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:15 Healing Prayer 5:00 Trustees 7:00 Chrysalis	20 Presidents' Day Church office closed 1:00 Shawl Ministry 7:00 Visitation Teams	21 4:30 Missions 7:30 Narcotics Anon	22 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Children's Time 7:00 Bible Study/ Prayer	23 2:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Narcotics Anon 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	24 9:00-5:00 Children's Choice Training	25 10:00 Financial Peace University
26 9:10 Prayer 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 7:00 Chrysalis	27 5:30 Quilt Guild 7:00 Visitation Teams	28 9:00 Quilt Guild 5:30 Children's Choice 6:30 Christian Ed 7:30 Narcotics Anon				

