

The Good News

The Pastor's Pen

A few years ago I was given a book for Christmas. It wasn't history, biography, or non-fiction, all of which I enjoy reading. But the book could and would eventually become one or all of the above. You see, the book was a book filled with blank pages from cover to cover. The only things going onto those pages, on one hand, were the events and activities, adventures and routines, thoughts, joys, sorrows, victories and defeats, surprises and anticipated experiences of life that I was willing to record for posterity or as lessons to grow by. On the other hand, all those things I've just mentioned were orchestrated or allowed by God to shape us into the men and women of faith he desires for us to be. That's what Paul was talking about in his letter to the Philippians, when he wrote,

...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Phil 2:12,13)

Did you notice I said the book would have "what I was willing to record"? Things happen in our lives we would rather avoid remembering and thinking about such as foolish decisions, failures, losses, problems we have caused. But if our desire is to learn and grow, we need to face those painful memories with God's help to either avoid making the same mistakes again or to experience healing from them. Or, even to view them as God's means to transform and shape us. His Word says, *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what I good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)*

So, now we are on the threshold of another year. We may not want to look back because of the pain and struggles along the way. But maybe the book on 2014 with your name on it isn't quite finished because of what was left out. Maybe there needs to be an Appendix or Addendum or Epilogue that will help you finish the book with a peace in your heart and mind that will allow you to go forward. Or possibly that will express how God continued to work in your life for you to one day say as Paul Harvey said for many years..."And now you know the rest of the story."

But maybe we need to resolve to do one thing before we step over the threshold, determine the priorities necessary to write a different and even better story in the coming year. As Pastor Lavelle Gibson reminds us, that one thing is to *Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness...(Mt. 6:33)*

Now, Go M.A.D.* in 2015!

In His Grip,

Art Helin

*"Go Make a Difference"



Annual Meeting January 25th

The Annual Meeting will take place immediately following the 10:15 a.m. worship service on Jan. 26, 2014. Lunch will be provided and child care will be available after the luncheon. More information will follow in Sunday bulletins.

Committee Leaders: If you haven't turned in your report to the office yet, do it SOON! Thank you.

PANTRY ITEMS CONTINUE TO BE COLLECTED

We continue to collect food items for the Macedonia Emergency Center. They need dry, boxed nonperishable food items such as: Spaghetti noodles and all other types of pasta either in a box or bags as well as rice, instant potatoes, cereal, hamburger or tuna helper, crackers jellies and Jams.



There is a container in the narthex where church families can drop off their donations on Sundays or any other day they are in the building. We will continue to collect them as long as they are being donated.

Thank you to all who donated toys and gift cards to their Christmas Lane event. Over 400 registered individuals benefitted from the "shopping" experience. They were very grateful.

New Officers Elected

The following officers were elected at the Dec. 28th congregational meeting following the service.

Session: Class of 2015: Keith Miller
Class of 2017: Tim Maholm, Chris Louis

Deacons: Class of 2017: Scott Williamson, Rich and Pauline Enczur, Patty Fenn, Renell Noack

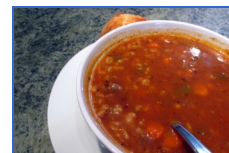
Day Care Board: Class of 2017: Kathy Moore, Linda Goldenbogen, Sharon Hofmeister

Nominating Committee 2015: Rich and Pauline Enczur, Fran Merriam, Carol Metz

Women's Association

The next meeting of the Women's Association will be **Monday, January 12, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.** Cindy Maxhimer will lead the study of "*A Sinful Woman; a Forgiven Heart*" based on Luke 7:36-50. All women encouraged to attend.

SAVE THE DATE...



Women's Association Sponsored
"SOUP"er Fundraiser Dinner and Bakery Auction
Saturday, February 28th, 2015

Details next month.

"Substitute" Help Wanted at the Day Care!

The Day Care is looking for an individual, preferably female, who would like to serve as a substitute for us. Individual would need to be caring, loving, and not afraid of young children. We are looking for someone to be able to call when we need an extra pair of hands. Individual would need to have at least a high school diploma, be able to pass a background check and physical. If you are interested, please contact Sherry at administrator@npcdaycare.com.




January

Carol Kreger	4-Jan
Michele Galambos	4-Jan
Kristyn Van Der Meulen	6-Jan
Thomas McCavish	7-Jan
Marianne Fiala	7-Jan
Iris McCavish	7-Jan
Steve Galambos	9-Jan
Margaret Stitt	13-Jan
Heather Williamson	16-Jan
Patty Fenn	19-Jan
Ann Anderson	24-Jan

January 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 8pm AA	2	3 8am Men's Bible Study at Chick-Fil-A
4 COMMUNION 9am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 12:30 pm VBC Worship	5 7pm Boy Scouts	6 7pm Evening Bible Study	7 9:45 am DC Chapel 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	8 8pm AA	9	10 9am Session Budget Meeting
11 9am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Deacons 12:30 pm VBC Worship	12 10:00 am Women's Association 7pm Boy Scouts	13 7pm Evening Bible Study	14 9:45 am DC Chapel 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	15 7:30 pm Building and Grounds 8pm AA	16	17 7am Session Prayer 8am Men's Bible Study at Chick-Fil-A
18 9am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 Anti-trafficking 12:30 pm VBC Worship 3pm Scout Court of Honor 7pm Mission Committee	19 7pm Session 7pm Boy Scouts	20 7pm Evening Bible Study	21 9:45 am DC Chapel 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	22 8pm AA	23	24
25 9am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am ANNUAL MEETING 12:30 pm VBC Worship	26 7pm Boy Scouts & Scout Parents	27 7pm Evening Bible Study	28 9:45 am DC Chapel 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	29 8pm AA	30 5:30 pm Community Meal	



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