



Tidings

IT TAKES GRACE...

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times... it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness...”
 [Charles Dickens]

I’m writing this just a few days before the inauguration of a new president. Seems like things haven’t been this crazy and divided since...well, our last inauguration. For some, this is the best of times for our culture; for others, this is the worst of times. Who knows? In *A Tale of Two Cities*, Dickens also said, “...it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness.” Hmmm. One thing I think we might safely agree on is that whatever the heck is happening, it feels like we are living in a post-Christian

society. This is not your parents’ or grandparents’ country anymore. Billy Sunday and Billy Graham have had their day. Christians, it seems, have had their “fifteen minutes in the sun.” If we have figured it out yet, we know it’s time for us to start living with Christ in our hearts, not just with our bumper fish, t-shirts, and ball caps. Now we have to live like Christ, not just wear Christian jewelry and hang out with other Christians who do the same. More than ever, it’s time for the grace we have received to be evident in public. It’s time for agape love to be more than what we share with our family and church. It is time to live like Christ... wherever

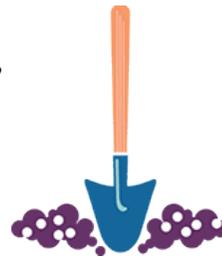
we are. I read about a man who wanted to reach his community for Christ by starting a Christian coffee-house. Then he realized his neighborhood already had a coffeehouse and maybe he should just start hanging out there and acting like Christ. It worked. Imagine that. Love God. Love others. It may just work...again. Blessings, RevLon. PS – By the way, we have training and encouragement available at the church, should you decide you can’t do it on your own.

Start Digging!

Scripture promises that God has a plan for our lives but also reveals that he wants us to play an active roll in that plan. In II Kings 3, three kings band together to defeat Moab but end up in an 80-mile desert. Amid this dire situation, God commands the people, “Make this valley full of ditches” (verse 16,

KJV) and promises to fill them with water—even though it won’t rain. Before the people’s need was supplied, they had to trust God and act. The next morning, water filled every ditch they had dug. Plus, they were victorious in battle.

The takeaway? God will bring the blessing, but we may have to dig first!



Dates of Interest:

- > ■ African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, *February 5, 2017*
- Valentine’s Day, *February 14, 2017*
- Presidents Day, *February 20, 2017*
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, *February 26, 2017*

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“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way.”

“Saint Valentine”

We are approaching a month that has been for certain merchants a huge holiday. Valentine’s Day is a day that people purchase cards, chocolates and flowers for one another. About 1 billion Valentine’s Day cards are exchanged each year. This makes it the second largest seasonal card sending time of the year. More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine’s Day. Over \$1 billion worth of chocolate is purchased for Valentine’s Day in the U.S. 189 million stems of roses are sold in the U.S. on Valentine’s Day. 73 percent of people who buy flowers for Valentine’s Day are men, while only 27 percent are women.

Most folks don’t know the story of St. Valentine. But he was a saint that was imprisoned for performing weddings for Roman soldiers. Why would someone be imprisoned and ultimately executed for doing this? Because the Roman emperor at this time didn’t want his soldiers married which he believed would affect their loyalty to him and their willingness to fight. Rumor has it, that before St. Valentine was executed he penned a note to the

jailor’s daughter and signed it Your Valentine. You can fact check me on this of course but it’s interesting that this holiday of giving and focus on loved ones had its origin in the pursuit of protecting and promoting the framework of the family, a husband and wife.

Family has an amazing impact on the path of our society and culture. As the family goes so goes everything else it seems. When God created man and then woman, Adam and Eve, He did it with the intent of being the foundation from which all humanity would have as its beginning. He created them to depend on and seek Him for their worth and identity. Even though the fall has led to our rebellion and sin against God, the family still has the potential to reflect holiness filled with love. I know that this world is imperfect and I know that we are imperfect people but that doesn’t excuse us from seeing a perfect plan in God’s grace. The amazing fact about being married to the love of your life is that you are in a place to give and receive grace on a regular basis. True love doesn’t hold grudges or demand its own way.

It’s not rude and it’s never ending. You know where this is going right?

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.” 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 So let’s love one another with genuine love and know that we have received perfect love in Christ Jesus. Be gracious and generous and don’t let evil conquer you but overcome evil by loving, even those that don’t love you back. That’s what Jesus did and He gives us the same power to accomplish His will! May your life glorify the One who gives you life! God is good all the time and all the time God is good!

In Christ’s Love,
Rob
Romans 12

“God’s Warm Place”

Did you know there currently is no shelter available in Hopkins County for people who have nowhere to spend the night out of cold freezing weather? We have members of the church who are working to change that.

“God’s Warm Place” is a cold weather overnight shelter available during the months of December, January, and February here at First Presbyterian Church. We are encouraging anyone who does not have access to a warm and safe place to sleep to utilize this community ministry. The only requirement is that our guests cooperate fully with our volunteer staff

and do not disturb others. We will provide a warm and secure indoor space in our gym with mattresses, blankets, bathroom facilities, and warm beverages for anyone who needs overnight shelter from the cold.

On nights when the temperature or wind chill is forecasted to be 32 degrees or below by The Weather Channel (or Weather Underground found on our website), we will fly a white flag on the outside wall of the gym, and open the shelter doors at 7:00PM. The shelter will remain open until 7:00AM the next morning. All

men, women, and children will be welcomed. For more information, please visit the church website at www.newfpc.com or call the church office at 270.821.6426. Our biggest need is for volunteers who will commit to physically being here during the nights we are open. Please consider the possibility of taking part in this needed mission to our community.



YOUTH NEWS

February 5th is for most people a day to gather to watch the Super Bowl and enjoy the food that goes along with the event. Several years ago, though, a youth group decided that those in need of food should become a focus on this day. Thus the Souper Bowl of Car-ing was begun and has grown to an amazing outreach to food banks across our country. Our church is once again giving all collected/donated food to our Christian Food Bank of Hopkins County. We hope that this year will be even

bigger and more generous than it ever has. Thanks for your support! March 1st is our annual Ash Wednesday Youth Fund Raiser meal. Please come show your support to our youth as we provide the meal of homemade soups and sandwiches plus desserts. And stay for our Ash Wednesday service as we begin our season of Lent. If you would like to provide some soup, sandwiches or dessert please let Rob or Denise know. Thanks! March 3-4 our church will host the Presby-

tery of West Kentucky Winter Retreat for 6-12 grade students. We will have times of worship, prayer, play, rest and service. And we will have some meals together too, of course. If you have any interest in helping provide snacks or with preparing any of those meals please contact Rob or Denise. And please pray that we will seek God and follow the lead of the Holy Spirit as we prepare and participate in this retreat.

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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR FEBRUARY

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|------|-------------------------------|------|-----------------|
| 4th | Burl Milligan | 23rd | Glori Cope |
| 7th | Bettye Riddle | 24th | Stuart Sherrell |
| 11th | Joe Phelan | 25th | Folmer Starr |
| 14th | Charlie & Shirley Hoskins (A) | 28th | Nancy Franklin |
| 17th | Lyndi Bryan | | |
| 18th | Maggie Pierce | | |
| 19th | Susanna Lee | | |
| 20th | Jim & Janet Agin (A) | | |
| 21st | Josh & Holly Pohlman (A) | | |
| 22nd | Serenity Agin | | |

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	2  Groundhog Day	3	4
5	6 9:30 Norma Siria Cr. 6PM GB Board Meeting	7 7PM Session Meeting	8 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11
12	13	14  Valentine's Day	15 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16 7PM Yucatan Mission Mtg	17	18
19	20  President's DAY	21	22 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25
26	27	28				