

Tidings

IT TAKES GRACE...

“I am not moved by what I see. I am not moved by what I feel.

I am moved only by what I believe.” [Smith Wigglesworth]

What we believe matters. It matters every second of every day...

* A flood of negative circumstances is batting you down. The existence of a good God begins to seem questionable to you. Where do you turn?

* Two nicely dressed men knock on your door wanting to teach you about their religion. The things they are teaching sound good, yet in your heart you know they are not being completely honest in what they say. Where do you turn?

* You're at a point in life where much of what you've thought and have worked for don't seem to be worth the effort. And now, there are choices ahead – choices that will determine the rest of your life. Where do you turn?

* After years of faithful prayer and worship, this “God experience” is drying up and you are emotionally sapped. Where do you turn?

* Maybe you are standing on the edge of a compromise you thought you'd never make.

The moral crossroads in front of you are huge. Where do you turn?

In critical times like these (along with many more we will face daily), where can we turn to figure out right from wrong? Where do we go to test our thoughts and ideas to decide whether they are worthy of believing in? I was reminded last night in a conversation with one of our homeless who has been spending cold nights in God's Warm Place (our warming shelter). This person has just about everything he owns in the world tucked in a backpack and a couple of bags. Like you and me, he's made some decisions in life that were not very good. Unlike you and me, his choices have

left him homeless. His word to me, when everything in life seems unstable and unsure, was that God is still there and continues to give us the guidance he has given everyone who would only pay attention:

“For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow;

it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” [Hebrews 4:12]

Lord, when my thoughts are muddied and my emotions are out of check, please pull my mind back into the truth of Your Word. Today, fill my soul with Your living Word, so that I might believe and live the truth (Your truth). Amen.

*Blessings,
RevLon*

Lord, when my thoughts are muddied and my emotions are out of check, please pull my mind back into the truth of Your Word. Today, fill my soul with Your living Word, so that I might believe and live the truth (Your truth). Amen.

*Blessings,
RevLon*

who want to carpool can meet at the church at 5:45.



Inside this Issue:

YOUTH NEWS	2
RESOLUTION CHECK	2
BLESSINGS	2
FINANCES AT-A-GLANCE	3
PERSECUTED CHURCH	3
ASH WENDESDAY WORSHIP	3
DEAR FRIENDS...	4

Special dates of interest:

- African-American History Month
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 11, 2018
- Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2018
- First Sunday in Lent, February 18, 2018
- Presidents Day, February 19, 2018
- Second Sunday in Lent, February 25, 2018

W.O.W MOVIE NIGHT

Our Women of Worth will have a movie night on Tuesday, February 13, at 6:00pm at Shirley Michael's house (1010 Calumet Lane, Madi-

sonville). Bring snacky foods, dress comfy, and come ready to have a good time! All ladies in the church are invited. Bring a friend! Those

YOUTH NEWS:

YOUTH NEWS: February 14th is our Ash Wednesday Youth Fundraiser at 5:15. Please come support our youth as we share a meal of homemade soups with grilled cheese

and homemade desserts. Look forward to seeing you there and please plan on staying for our Ash Wednesday service following the meal at 6. Thanks for all your encouragement

and support for the youth that call our church home!

“RESOLUTION CHECK”

“So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves.” Galatians 5:16

It’s a new year tradition to put a resolution goal out there. For some it’s exercise, with January being one the months that more gym memberships or exercise equipment is bought. For others it’s just eating better after all the Halloween, Thanksgiving & Christmas meals and treats have overwhelmed our will power and our waist line. And for some it’s a time to set out to get rid of bad habits, you fill in the blank there. As I’m writing this though some that have begun well may have already ended their streak. Two weeks is the average for those that make those resolutions and stop before succeeding. I could make a list of mine over the years, but I’m limited on how much space I can take here. I’ll just say it’s easier to start strong than stay for the long haul, endurance and motivation can easily succumb to tired and discouraged.

The football game that ended in a heroic catch and touchdown by the Vikings is a picture of not giving up until your time is up. The backstory on that quarterback is interesting too, did you know

he wasn’t drafted by an NFL team even though he had set NCAA Division 1 records at Houston, his college team? Look it up, but it’s a story of sticking to it and not giving up. But the main story I must share about this man is the statement he made after the game. He said, “this is the third best thing that has ever happened to me, the first was giving my life to Jesus Christ, the second was marrying my wife.” This comes on the heels of another come from behind story of the NCAA National football championship game in which a freshman stepped into the lineup for Alabama and led them to the title. And what did he say after the game when interviewed, “excuse me, but I just have to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who makes all things possible.” These are just 2 of millions of stories of people who have experienced the goodness of God through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. And then shared that good news with the world, wherever that opportunity is given.

Paul says that he is running the race, towards the goal of being with Jesus but the run is the journey we all are on. So, don’t give up and don’t let

the discouragement define you but keep getting up even when you fall, and He will be your constant companion, your everlasting hope and the carrier of your burdens whenever they weigh you down. Resolve to love Him with all that you have and love others as you love yourself. And remember that success nor failure define our worth to our Savior and Lord, our identity is in Him who made us, whose image we bear, whose creation we care for and whose humanity we work to restore. With the help and power of the Holy Spirit we keep going. Because He gave His all for our salvation we have the privilege of being redeemed and that’s better than any new year’s resolution success story. God is good, all the time and all the time, God is good!

In Christ’s Love, Rob - Romans 12

BLESSINGS...

Matthew 11:2-6. John the Baptist, having done exactly what God has wanted him to do, finds himself in prison and about to be beheaded. He sends his disciples to ask Jesus are you the Messiah, or should we seek someone else? I used to think John was questioning Jesus. However, he knows who Jesus is and he, John, knows he is about to die. So, he send his followers to Jesus to become disciples of Christ. Jesus told them, “Go back and tell John what you have heard and seen.” In other words, go back and tell John that you believe the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being

preached to the poor. Tell John that he has accomplished what God the Father had for him to do (Jeremiah 29). Tell him that those who have been living in darkness now see the LIGHT, that those crippled by the energy now walk in that Light, that those who were living in sin are now cleansed by the power of the Holy Spirit, that those who refused to listen to the WORD are now living by it, and that those who were dead to the SPIRIT are now alive and are preaching the Good News. Now John can die in Peace (John 33:16) and he knows that he has been blessed by God. “God blesses those who do not turn away because of me” (v.6). When we pro-

claim that we are followers of Christ, do we truly know how blessed we are, and that we can die in peace, or are we looking for something else? Jesus has already done what He is going to do.

Those who are offended by Christ shall be truly blessed.

On the Inside, Pastor Pete

Finances At-A-Glance for December

		YTD	
Income	\$38,364.68	YTD Income	\$442,867.51
Expense	\$(26,543.49)	YTD Expense	\$(326,000.51)
Net	\$11,830.19	YTD Net	\$116,867.00
		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$29,241.20	Income	\$372,252.28
Expense	\$(20,802.13)	Expense	\$(241,118.80)
Net	\$ 8,439.07	Net	\$131,133.48
		YTD Designated	
Income	\$9,123.48	Income	\$70,615.23
Expense	\$(5,732.36)	Expense	\$(84,881.71)
Net	\$3,391.12		

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT SERIES

By the time you read this newsletter, our Marriage Enrichment series – Kingdom Marriage – will be in full swing. If you have not participated, please know that you can join in for the upcoming Sunday afternoons through the month of February and ending on Sunday, March 4.

We meet in the fellowship hall at 5:00PM (immediately after worship on Super Bowl Sunday) for a shared meal, good fellowship, and a video presentation on strengthening our marriages with reminders from God of what a Kingdom marriage looks like.

Persecuted Church

So many Christian believers around the world endure tremendous hardship and persecution because of their commitment to Jesus. As brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ, let us be mindful of supporting and encouraging those Christian friends who suffer because of their Christian witness.

1. Commit to pray every day with the PRAY TODAY app for your Smartphone or tablet. Each day you'll receive a specific prayer request for our brothers and sisters in hostile and restricted nations, and you can even set your phone to remind you to pray each

day.

2. Receive new prayer requests by email each week. Go to www.icommittoprayer.com and sign up to receive weekly emails with current, specific prayer requests from Christians in hostile and restricted nations. Print out each week's requests to share with your pastor or Sunday school class.
3. Order VOM's 2018 Prayer Calendar to remind you to pray daily. [The Voice of the Martyrs' 2018 Prayer Calendar](#) serves as a daily reminder to pray for persecuted Christians and for their

persecutors. Hang it on your wall or keep it with your Bible to help you pray every day in 2018. Order extra copies to share with Christian friends!

4. Read a book from the First Presbyterian Library. Books that chronicle believers sacrifices and demonstrate the love of Christ being lived out today by Christians around the world challenge us to a more active prayer life. Their adventures in faith remind us of their need for our fervent prayers and their desire not to be forgotten in the midst of their suffering.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent – the time leading up to the remembrance of Good Friday and the celebration of Easter Sunday. Our service of Ash Wednesday will help us focus on Christ's death and resurrection, the purpose of His coming to

earth. Traditions of this season include *giving up* things that get in the way of our clear focus on Jesus. They also include the *taking on* of better habits of faith in our walk with Him. You are encouraged to take part, and invite others you know, to share in this simple

act of worship as we take on the mark of ashes and share holy communion. The service will be in the chapel at 6:00PM following our youth fundraiser supper at 5:15PM.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 4 th | Burl Milligan | 24 th | Stuart Sherrell |
| 7 th | Bettye Riddle | 25 th | Folmer Starr |
| 17 th | Lyndi Bryan | 28 th | Nancy Franklin |
| 18 th | Maggie Vandiver | | |
| 19 th | Susanna Lee | | |
| 20 th | Jim & Janet Agin (A) | | |
| 22 nd | Serenity Agin | | |
| 23 rd | Glori Cope | | |



Dear family & friends,

Hey, guess where I am?...Give up? In the state of Georgia, in a small town called Chickamauga, which is Cherokee for “river of blessing”. Yikes! Seriously, my middle son Michael and his wife Marie invited me to live with them. Just think, I’ll be waited on, fed, and pampered. Who could ask for more? I will miss Madisonville and the connections there, but this is the sensible thing to do. If you have a spare moment, drop me a line. It would be nice to hear from you. My new contact information is:

335 Oakwood Terrace, Chickamauga, GA 30707

Mama D Cell: 270-821-8426 Home: 706-375-1400

Marie Cell: 706-639-7040 Michael: 423-364-1606

Will miss all you friends whom I have known for oh, so many years! And thanks for your prayers!

Love to all, Doris (aka Mama D) (as dictated to Marie)

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Groundhog Day 	3 Elder Training 9AM-Noon
4 5PM Marriage Enrichment Class	5 6PM G.B. Team Mtgs	6 6PM Session Mtg	7 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	8	9	10
11 5PM Marriage Enrichment Class	12 6PM G.B. Team Mtgs	13	14 5:15 Youth Fundraiser Meal 6:00 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> Service	15	16	17
18 5PM Marriage Enrichment Class	19 6PM G.B. Team Mtgs	20	21 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24
25 5PM Marriage Enrichment Class	26 6PM G.B. Team Mtgs	27	28 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			