



Tower Topics

The monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Mansfield, PA

February 2011 - Vol. XXXVIII #2

Rev. Steven C Case

<http://www.firstbaptistchurchmansfield.com>

What is it about February that excites people so? For some it is the opportunity to hit the slopes. Others enjoy the temporary move to warmer climates. Some even look forward to having a nice winter break from school. There are even some of us who begin thinking about “spring training for golf and baseball.” Then there are the romantics left in our country that remember “Valentine’s Day.” February is often considered the “Love Month.” Our First Baptist Church ABW has an article in this month’s Tower Topic reminding us about the ABW Love Gift. According to the “Topical Bible,” which I have on my office, there are 180 references to “love” in Holy Scripture. Out of all of those, my favorite portion is from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 13, commonly referred to as “THE LOVE CHAPTER.” Bruce Metzger, in his commentary about this chapter wrote, “This chapter, wonderfully significant when considered alone, is even more meaningful in its context. Paul is still discussing spiritual gifts; the great gift of the Spirit is not tongues or even prophesies, but LOVE. This LOVE is not love in an ordinary or general sense, but the love which is known within the church, the very love of God poured out in Christ.” How correct Dr. Metzger is in his assessment of this chapter. This beautiful chapter on love sits between two somewhat controversial ones. Chapter 12 deals with “spiritual gifts and “the body and its members,” while Chapter 14 deals with “speaking in tongues.” However, right in the middle is one of the greatest four letters words in our English language: LOVE. For me, the verse that sums up this chapter is the last one: “So faith, hope, love abide, these three: but the greatest of these is love.” Dr. Emil Brunner in his book, “Faith, Hope and Love,” wrote this about verse 13, “Faith has to do with the basis, the ground on which we stand. Hope is reaching out for something to come. Love is just being there and acting.” In other words, love is the greatest because it is God’s love poured into our hearts; faith and hope are our response to what God has already done for all people everywhere. Therefore, as was coined in the 1960’s, “Love makes the world go ‘round.” Nicely stated, but remember it is God’s love first that works—IT NEVER FAILS.

Shalom
- Pastor Steve



Seeds of Hope needs YOU!

At our regular meeting of Seeds of Hope Partners (SOHP) on January 19th we learned that volunteers are needed to help in several areas. One of those needs is for men or women who have experience in house repairs, to do assessments for the repairs at homes. You do not have to do the work; you just go out and make a list of what is needed to do the repairs and maybe measure and determine the cost. We also need people to do the repairs.

Another need will be the removal of the beds in the cellar of our church. We need a list of volunteers and their trucks to help remove the beds and transport them to Williamsport so they can be scrapped. The money will then be available for SOHP to be able to purchase beds for our families in need. This will not be done until spring. We will also need people to help us move the metal beds out of the cellar and into the trucks.

Do you enjoy Scrap booking? SOHP needs someone to work on the SOHP scrapbook. It is in need of updating and this is a job someone can do at home.

Do you have a second set of cookware that you no longer use? Perhaps you can donate it to SOHP. We need all sizes of pots and pans but they must be in good shape. We reserve the right to refuse them if they are not in good condition.

Rose Benson, Sylvia Sumner and I go each month to the meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. If any of you would like to join us we would welcome your company. I think you would be amazed at what the needs of our county are and how many folks we serve.

We also want to thank you for helping this organization. It is a mission field in our own back yard serving families in need in Tioga County.

Sue Wilber

American Spiritual Ensemble Concert

On Monday evening, February 28 at 7:30, the world-renowned American Spiritual Ensemble will present a concert of American Negro spirituals.

This group is made up of some of the finest classically trained singers in the United States. Dr. Peggy Detwiler has spoken of them as dynamic. It is not only a wonderful musical experience, but also a spiritual experience. Admission price is \$5.00.

There will be a light supper for those of us interested in attending the concert. The supper will begin at 6:00, in Griffiths Annex and we will plan to be at Steadman Theatre at 7:00. If you would like to come to supper, please let Anne Nevin know.- at 662-3172

Stuck on how to fill up your Love Gift box? Here's some suggestions!

Love Gift Calendar

February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1] IT'S COLD! Donate \$.15 for each scarf/pair of gloves or mittens you own	2] Groundhog see his shadow? Yes- Donate \$.30 NO - Donate \$.50 (YEA! Early Spring)	3] For each book you own...Donate\$.01 (except Cookbooks, catch ya later)	4] Did it snow today? YES - \$.25 NO - \$.40 (because you didn't have to shovel)	5] Count the # of pairs of shoes and Donate \$.05 for each pair.
6] SUPER BOWL SUNDAY...did your Team win? YES! Donate \$.50 NO/don't care! Donate \$.75	7] Donate \$.10 for each doorknob in your home.	8] For each TV set in your home Donate \$.50	9] Donate \$.15 for each plant (living or dead)	10] Count you CD's and donate \$.05 for each one of them.	11] Do you have a birthday today? \$.10 if YES \$.25 if NO	12] Did you call a friend today? YES...\$.15 NO...\$.25
13] Did you invite someone to church? YES - \$.25 NO! - \$.50	14] Valentine's DAY \$.25 if you received one...\$.25 if you sent one	15] Did you exercise today? YES - \$.15 NO - \$.20	16] Count the light bulbs in your home? Donate \$.02 for each one	17] Did you grocery shop today? YES...\$.25 NO...\$.25	18] How many pens & pencils do you have? Donate \$.02 for each	19] Did you say "I love you" to someone today? YES..\$.10 NO...\$.25
20] Did you make it to SS AND church? \$.25 - Both \$.45 - only one	21] Donate \$.05 for each Bible verse you read today	22] Donate \$.25 for each pet you own. NONE?? Donate \$.50	23] Donate \$.15 for each candle in your home	24] Donate \$.10 for each Cookbook you own.	25] Count your throw rugs and donate \$.15 for each one	26] For each inch of your height - donate \$.01
27] Eating out today? YES...\$.50 NO...\$.25	28] Count the love & blessings you have received this month and donate from your heart					

Provided by: www.TheTeachersCorner.net

ABW-WHITE CROSS

We are hoping to meet our goal of \$200 to Neighborhood Ministries (part of Overland National Ministries) to provide requested clothing for people of all ages/sizes. At Christmas through generous donations from many here at First Baptist, we were able to send \$150 to provide toys for children. Now we are striving to complete our pledge to fill their clothing needs. Contributions in any amount can be made in the form of gift cards from Wal-Mart or checks may be made out to American Baptist Women and given to Joyce Bixby, Treasurer.



Dorothy Smith's Date-Nut Apple Cake



- 1 pkg (8 oz) chopped dates
- 1 cup raisins
- 2 1/2 c. all-purpose flour divided
- 1/2 c. butter, softened
- 2 c. sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 3/4 c. boiling water
- 1 c. chopped peeled tart apple
- 1 c. chopped walnuts
- Confectioners' sugar, optional

In a small bowl, combine dates & raisins. Add 1 Tablespoon flour and toss to coat; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, cream butter & sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla. Combine the baking soda, salt & remaining flour; add to creamed mixture alternately with boiling water. Stir in the date mixture, apple and walnuts. Transfer to a greased & floured 10-in. fluted tube pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 65-70 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pan to wire rack to cool completely. Dust with confectioners' sugar if desired. Yield 10-12 servings
(A slice topped with whipped cream or a scoop of ice cream will have your guest coming back for more.)

Prayer List

David & Linda Cook (Tammy Nevin's parents)
Faye Hotelling's daughter Sonja
Nevin Buck
Iris Berguson
Jon & Gayle Clark
Lou Sine
Omer & Betty Sumner
Nancy Spencer (Marilyn Wiles' Mother)
Rev. Charles Mercer
Evelyn Henninger
Shut-ins and those in our Armed Forces



Tentative Preaching Schedule February 2011

6th - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

*Matthew 5:13-20, Isaiah 58:1-12, I Corinthians 2:1-12
“ Making Sure the Lights Shine On”

13th - Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

*Matthew 5:21-37, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, I Corinthians 3:1-9

20th - Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

*Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18, I Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23, Matthew 5:38-48

27th - Eighth Sunday after Epiphany

*Matthew 6:24-34, Isaiah 49:8-16, I Corinthians 4:1-5

* *Sermon Text*

American Baptist Women

A few women gathered on Saturday, January 15, looking forward to something we knew little about: Yoga. No, we didn't sit on the floor in odd poses, or chant. Instead we were introduced to it through the delightful history from Kathleen Thompson, owner of Main St. Yoga. We learned of its origins and how it has changed over the years. We learned a few yoga moves that helped us relax and gain more energy. We will not forget the "Audible Sigh", the "Lions Roar", and the posture stretch. We ended with a blessing.

Looking ahead to our February gathering, Rev. Myra Goss, Pastor at Columbia Cross Roads Baptist Church, will present "Clowning for Love". We look forward to Myra in her Christian Clowning presentation of Love Gift. If you have never experienced Christian Clowning, now is a good time to be inspired.

February is Love Gift month and all in the congregation will receive a special Love Gift calendar, found in Tower Topics, a fun way to remember Love Gift. Also at our February gathering, we will be fixing some little Valentine baskets for our shut-ins. If you can help with some items for the baskets please contact Carol Mortimer or Sue Wilber, so you now what to contribute for our shut-ins.



Fellowship List for February 2011

Please check the list below for your name.
If you are unable to serve on your scheduled week, **please find a replacement for that date.**
Thank you for your help!

February 6

Main Street Greeter: Fran Garrison
Sherwood Street Greeter: Joh Garrison
Ushers: Bruce & Nancy Dart
Hosts: David & Frances Garrison

February 13

Main Street Greeter: Sam Garrison
Sherwood Street Greeter: Sylvia Sumner
Ushers: Bruce & Nancy Dart
Hosts: Sylvia Sumner & Judy Bott

February 20

Main Street Greeter: Richard Becker
Sherwood Street Greeter: Diane Case
Ushers: Bruce & Nancy Dart
Hosts: Cliff & Marilyn Wiles

February 27

Main Street Greeter: Rob Garrison
Sherwood Street Greeter: Marilyn Wiles
Ushers: Bruce & Nancy Dart
Hosts: Ben & Sarah Nevin

March 6

Main Street Greeter: Sue Wilber
Sherwood Street Greeter: Nancy Becker
Ushers: Bob Smith & Brenda Rumsey
Hosts: Mary Ann Walker & Diane Case

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Feb. 1 - Gary Mortimer	Feb. 22 - Kevin Hill
Feb. 2 - Cliff Wiles	Feb. 25 - Ben E. Nevin
Feb. 5 - Rev. Charles & Marie Mercer (A)	Feb. 25 - Jim Cummings
Feb. 9 - Rev. Charles Mercer	Feb. 26 - Bill & Dorothy Bogart (A)
Feb. 9 - Sarah Nevin	

Please visit our website to see our calendar!

<http://www.firstbaptistchurchmansfield.com/calendar.htm>

First Baptist Church of Mansfield, PA
North Main & Sherwood Streets

Sunday Morning Worship is at 11:00
Holy Communion is observed the first Sunday of the month