



MESSENGER

February 2012

From the Pastor

A Day Well Wasted

Matthew 22:37-38

I came across a short story that spoke to me as to what real love is all about. I want to share it with you. "Forgive me, Lord, for all the tasks that went undone today. But this morning when my child toddled in and said, 'Mommy play?' I simply had to say yes. And between the puzzles and trucks and blocks and dolls and old hats and books and giggles, we shared a thousand special thoughts, a hundred hopes and dreams and hugs. And tonight, when prayer time came and he folded his hands and softly whispered, 'Thank you, God, for Mommy and Daddy and toys and French fries, but 'specially for Mommy playing.' I knew it was a day well wasted. And I knew You'd understand."

— Jayne Jaudon Ferrer

There have been many days in my life when my desk was full of work to get done and the calendar was full as well and someone came along and said excuse me Pastor, dear or dad and asked if I was available to do something with them or for them. Many times it would have been easier to have said, "Can I schedule you at another time that is more convenient?" and yet as I reflect on those moments it was always time well wasted. Jesus taught the disciples a great truth with these words: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...Love your neighbor as yourself." Friends, it is so true that if you love God as he desires for you to love him and if you love your neighbor as you do yourself you will always find the time to spend in relationship with others that you care about and who care about you.

The sad reality of all of the business of our present culture is that we have forgotten that a day well wasted is of great importance to the significant people in our lives. However in many of the homes in this community in which we live, people are finding themselves living in loneliness and not sensing that anyone cares or even loves them. This has driven teens and adults to take on extreme behavior and to do the unthinkable to get attention and to communicate the emptiness and hurt that they are dealing with. Friends, don't be afraid to waste an hour

in taking the time to spend with another person who is seeking your attention and love. Don't be afraid to find that same amount of time to spend with God who is the greatest lover that you and I will ever have in this life. For when it is all said and done, you will then realize that it was not wasted time at all but that it was time well spent and you have the rewards of all the blessings that come your way.

Have a great day and make it a month of loving God and others in the midst of all your business.

In His Love,
Pastor Dean

Bible Book for February Philemon

Philemon was a wealthy man who owned slaves and who used his large house for church meetings (2). He probably lived in Colossae, since Paul's letter to the Colossians mentions Onesimus, a slave of Philemon, and Archippus (Colossians 4.9, 17).

Paul is writing from jail on behalf of Onesimus, a runaway slave owned by Philemon. Onesimus had become a follower of the Lord and a valuable friend to Paul, and Paul is writing to encourage Philemon to accept Onesimus also as a friend and follower of the Lord.

This letter is an excellent example of the art of letter-writing in the Roman world, and it is the most personal of all Paul's letters. The way the letter is written suggests that Paul and Philemon were close friends.

The Messenger

The Messenger is published monthly. Deadline for the March newsletter is 4:00 P.M., February 20. Articles of interest are gladly accepted as space permits.

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From the Youth Pastor

We have just transitioned into a new season and New Year. What is it that you are looking for God to do in you, your life, and your family's life?

In 2 Kings, chapter 4, Elisha asked the women, who needed God to come and change her situation, "What shall I do for thee? What is in your house?" and she replied "I have nothing but a pot of oil." If you go on to read, you will see that one pot of oil is what God used to turn around her situation. You may need God to help you and intervene in your situation whether it is your finances, your health, or family and God is asking what you have that He can use.

The women said I have nothing but a pot of oil, she looked at that as though it was something very little and worthless — like God could not use it to turn her situation around. Sometimes we may look at things we have or even ourselves and say God can't use this or God can't use me but God will use what you have and do something in your life. The only thing you may be able to do is cook or clean but God can use that. You may only be able to make people laugh but God can use that. Don't count anything out as not good enough, God will provide for you — just trust Him.

The youth group will now be known as "FIREBRAND" which was founded from the Scripture Zechariah 3:2 which says "And the Lord said unto Satan, "The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: Is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?" In verse 2 it says that Satan stood and tried to resist someone and that is why God rebuked him.

You may have felt resistance in 2011 and you may have felt that you could not break through but this is the year where God has rebuked Satan and asks what shall I do for you and what is in your house? Let's begin to clean house spiritually, move things out of the way that shouldn't be there so God has room to work with what you do have no matter how big or small. Don't worry how 2011 went, 2012 is going to be a better year for those who trust and seek God. This is the year of joy and laughter. From Psalms 126:5, "They that sew in tears shall reap in joy." .

God Bless
Pastor J

Bloodmobile Here

Our church will host the community Bloodmobile on Monday, February 27. Volunteers are needed to help unload the truck about 9:00am and then reload the truck at approximately 7:00pm. Contact the church office if you can help.

BE A DISCIPLE: A girl returning home from Sunday School expressed disappointment with the class's reaction after the day's lesson. "We were taught to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations," she said, "but we just sat."

—Source unknown

LOVEGIFT Emphasis

American Baptist women show their love and thankfulness for God's blessings through a simple offering called LOVEGIFT. From its beginning in 1931, American Baptist women chose to use their Love Gifts to support the total mission outreach of American Baptist Churches USA. The concept of supporting the total mission is important, because if one area of the mission outreach suffers financial shortage, then the other areas also are affected. Today LOVEGIFT continues to be a part of the basic budget of American Baptist Churches USA.

During the month of February, our local American Baptist Women's Ministries group is asking for your help as they collect LOVEGIFT dollars. We are especially collecting L and G dollars (check the round circle with a letter inside on the left side of the bills). Then place your dollars (other denominations & change is also accepted) in the container at the special display in the Foyer of the church or in the offering plate marked LoveGift.

With your help, we can show much Love and thankfulness for all the blessings God has given to us. If you have questions, contact Sandy Elliott, Linda Brugman or Lois Chiles.

Preparing for the March Tasting Faire

February is the time of year we begin thinking about the Tasting Faire. The Tasting Faire is our special meal where you bring a couple of potluck dishes to share and then we buy back your plate/s of food at \$.20 per ounce. Along with the meal is a silent auction. The date of this year's Tasting Faire is March 10 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Our theme is "Extending Hands." This theme focuses on extending our hands in giving for the AB Women's Ministries project of building a garage at Bethel Neighborhood Center to provide cover and protection for their van. We will have more details about this event in the March Newsletter and in Sunday bulletins but start thinking about the handmade items, baked goods and other items you plan to donate for the silent auction. **Please remember — NO WHITE ELEPHANTS.**

Pictorial Directory Final Days

There is still time for your family to have their picture taken for our new pictorial directory. The photographer will be here February 2, 3 and 4. You can click the link on our website www.fbcleavenworth.org or call the church office and an appointment will be made for you. We want everyone to participate.

If for some reason you are unable to have your picture taken, you can provide a picture either electronically or in hard copy. If the picture was taken by someone other than yourself a release to use the picture will be needed. Contact the church office for details.

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February 2012

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

George Matheson (1842-1906) wrote the words to this much-loved hymn while feeling intensely lonely and afraid.

Years back, his fiancé had broken their engagement upon learning he was going blind. Despite that challenge, Matheson had followed God's call to a fruitful pastoral ministry — with his sister's assistance. Now his sister was getting married, and Matheson worried about who would take care of him and if anyone would ever want to marry him.

Amid such despair, Matheson later shared, God gave him all four verses of this hymn in five minutes. It's a poignant reminder that God's love sustains us even when human love falls short.



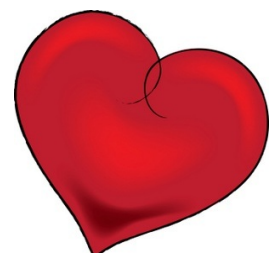
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
John 3:16 NIV

Valentine's Day has become commercialized through expectation of gifts of jewelry, flowers, and chocolate. But as Christians, let us reflect on the ultimate gift of love.

As a noun, love is an emotion - an affection, feeling, and fondness for another. The Scripture assures us of God's love. But the Scripture continues, "He gave His only Son . . ." God's love became a verb of giving and forgiving.

God calls us to share love for him and for each other through our actions and deeds. On February 5 a Valentine card will be given in the bulletin. Although unsigned, it expresses ABW Ministries' wishes for a Valentine Day filled with God's grace and love. It is our hope each of you will sign it and include a note of encouragement or perhaps a favorite Scripture and then give or send it to someone. The recipient could be a friend or merely an acquaintance who has recently experienced illness or the loss of a loved one, someone facing financial or employment uncertainty, a service member away from home, or even the child next door who is so helpful in placing your newspaper on your door stoop. If you prefer, you may simply place it in the marked ABW "mail" baskets (found at the Welcome Center) as you leave the service on Sunday and ABW will distribute to the local Veterans' Hospital and nursing care facilities. You can also address it and then bring it back to the church for mailing no later than Wednesday, February 8.

By doing this simple action, we will be sharing God's love in a planned and active way.



PUZZLE

FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

•••• DIRECTIONS ••••

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.

gain as or ear van an for give
gave her on it one other he an a

B _____ w _____ h each
ot _____ d _____ give
_____ e an _____ if _____ y
of you h _____ grie _____ ce
a _____ st some _____ .
For _____ as t _____ L _____ d
for _____ you." **COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV**

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIV