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January 7, 2018



Kids' Café, **THIS** Sunday, Jan. 7

You won't BELIEVE the treats we have in store for you at our next Kids' Café! Join us at 6:00 in Fellowship Hall for a video of God's Story, as told by the kids (you're going to love the out-takes!). Mouth-watering desserts provided by the parents will be served to you at the table and there'll be gourmet coffees available for you to fix to your liking. A donation basket will be available for those who wish to contribute to the forthcoming upgrades to the Yo-Yo Room (youth room). We hope you'll be present to support our children and youth and enjoy a wonderful evening that will leave you inspired, enlightened, and giggling with glee.



Youth to Frisch's

Our older youth are invited to meet at Frisch's for breakfast Sunday, Jan.7 at 9:00. Let Lisa know if you plan to come and if you have a friend joining us so we can provide enough transportation back to the church.

Chuck's Column

Last Sunday in my sermon I offered three practices that can help keep hope alive: One, we can develop the habit and skill of learning how to listen to the Spirit – to the still small voice of God. Two, we can keep hope alive by learning how to live responsibly and lovingly within a community. And third, we can keep hope alive by intentionally practicing the golden rule – by doing unto others as we would have them do unto us. If you are interesting in reading more you can access the sermon on my webpage.

I would like to add two more practices that I also think are important, but didn't have time to develop in my sermon. One, we can nurture a spirit of gratitude. We are alive, and that is God's pure gift. We are God's daughters and sons, loved with an eternal love, kept and held in that love forever, and nothing can change that. For that we can be thankful. We experience untold blessings every day and for these we can be thankful. I'm not sure it's even possible to live any kind of intentional life in and with God without gratitude. Two, find something you enjoy and make time to do it. I believe God is delighted when we are delighted. God is such an intimate part of creation and our lives that when we suffer God suffers and when we find joy God experiences it too. I love the little poem by the late Rev. Howard Thurman who was a philosopher, minister, and a civil rights activist:

*Don't ask yourself
what the world needs.
Ask yourself what makes you
come alive,*

*and then go do it.
Because what the world needs
is people who have come alive.*

We can nurture hope by investing some time in simply doing what makes us “come alive.”

Jim Claycomb will be our auctioneer once again for our service auction on **February 4 for our Souper-bowl Sunday**. The money raised will go for summer camp and support for the work of the Turners in Zambia. Please let Sandy Altom know of the service you will be donating. It's for two great causes.

I will be meeting with parents of children and youth and anyone interested in these ministries after the worship service on Jan. 14 in the Fellowship Hall.

Grace and Peace,
Chuck

WEDNESDAY MORNING STUDY

“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing” wrote Martin Luther. Christians talk a great deal about prayer but talking about it is easier than practicing prayer. Little is said about the art of prayer in our preaching or teaching. This spring we will study the subject theory and practice of Christian prayer. We will look at what the Bible says about it and what others have shared regarding the experience. We will ask: why pray, when should we pray, what should we pray about, how can we develop a meaningful prayer life? The group meets in the Coed IV Sunday School classroom on Wednesdays at 10 am. We will resume meetings on January 10. *Raymond Bailey*



Fresh Look for Fellowship Hall

At the last business meeting, the church approved a recommendation from the Administrative Team to refresh and upgrade Fellowship Hall. Paneling along the wall by the kitchen will be removed and replaced with drywall and limestone across the entire length of the wall. The entire room will receive new window treatments and a fresh coat of paint. Work is scheduled to begin shortly and several designated contributions have been received that will help defray the cost of this project. It will be

exciting to watch the transformation of this area that is used for so many events that leave us with happy memories.

Open Craft Weekend

Jan. 12 & 13



Doors will open at 6:00 on Friday, Jan 12 for those who want to come and bring their craft of choice. There's always hearty laughter and good, creative inspiration among this little band of merry-makers and you're always welcome to join us. Bring a snack to share and let Lisa know you plan to come so we'll have space and materials prepared for you. There'll be at least one free make-and-take project. Return on Saturday at 9:00 and stay until...you leave!

XYZ January Lunch Outing
Cracker Barrel Restaurant
January 9, Tuesday



Please meet there at 11:00.

Deacon of the Week Schedule:

January 7 Sherri Henley
545-2364
January 14 Rob Laurensen

545-1503
January 21 Anna Mayne
695-9292

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

6:00 p.m.

Adults: \$4.00 Children: \$3.00

Maximum per family \$10.00

January 3: Lasagna, fixings, and dessert

January 10: Chicken, fixings and dessert

January 17: Tacos, fixings and dessert

Bus Ministry

January 7 Joni Crowe

502-229-0624

January 14 Rob Laurensen

502-382-8579

January 21 Greg Lawson

502-487-1091

Bereaved Church Families:

- Doug and Becky Bishop in the loss of Becky's mother.
- The Kay Harrod family including her cousin Roger Crittenden
- Henry League in the loss of his sister, Ella Young



SOUPER BOWL LUNCH/AUCTION

Save the Date

February 4, 2018

Immediately following Morning Services

Reminder: To avoid missing the *Connections* or other information, please notify the church office with your new/changed address or other information. *Thank you!*

Opportunities at IBC

Sunday, January 7

9:15 am Bible Study

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Church Council

5:00 pm Kids' Cafe

Monday, January 8

11:00 am CCBW

6:00 pm Deacons' Meeting
Cub Scouts

Tuesday, January 9

11:00 am XYZ to Cracker Barrel

Wednesday, January 10

10:00 am Prayer Bible Study

5:30 pm Children's Music

6:00 pm Fellowship Meal

6:30 pm Prayer & Devotion/
Children's Formation

7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

Friday, January 12

6:00 pm Crafting

Saturday, January 13

9:00 am Crafting

Sunday, January 14

9:15 am Bible Study

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Meeting of Parents of Children and
Youth

Monday, January 15

6:00 pm Cub Scouts

Wednesday, January 17

10:00 am Prayer Bible Study

5:30 pm Children's Music

6:00 pm Fellowship Meal

6:30 pm Prayer & Devotion/
Children's Formation

7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir