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February 5, 2017



## *SOUP-er Bowl Sunday* *THIS Sunday, Feb. 5*

Our annual SOUP-er Bowl Luncheon and Service Auction is **THIS** Sunday! Men will be serving an assortment of soups, and Bible Study classes will provide sandwiches and desserts to make for a hearty lunch for the entire church family. There is no charge for the lunch, however **donations of cans of soup**, as well as monetary contributions for the Franklin County Food Pantry will be accepted.

Jimmy Claycomb will serve as our auctioneer for the annual Service Auction that will follow the luncheon. A list of services offered by our members is included inside this Connection. Come prepared to bid! All proceeds will help support the Container Challenge, an extension of the ministry of Fran & Lonnie Turner in Zambia.

## **Chuck's Column**

The Hebrew prophets proclaimed over and over again the need for justice in the land. Micah was very clear about what he considered essential: "O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness [to do mercy], and to walk humbly with your God" (6:8). Isaiah says, "Seek justice," and then immediately enumerates some specifics of what that involved in his day and time: "Rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow" (Isa. 1:17).

Seeking justice meant standing with and advocating for the most vulnerable in society. That included at least three primary groups in ancient Israel: widows, orphans, and aliens (foreigners, immigrants, undocumented persons). The prophets railed against Israel's leaders and the people at large when they prided themselves in being faithful to their religious rituals and practices, but neglected justice.

Unfortunately many Christians in more conservative, evangelical traditions such as churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, Pentecostalism, the Church of God, the Church of Christ, etc, and some of the more conservative churches within mainline denominations have never been challenged to consider all the biblical texts dealing with the importance of justice. They have traditionally emphasized the need for individual salvation with hardly a mention of the strong biblical tradition calling for restorative or social justice.

Jesus, too, is often preached in such a way that the Gospel texts emphasizing Jesus' passion for justice is either ignored or reinterpreted to fit our Americanized, individualized view of salvation which focuses on either heaven when we die or our own personal happiness and well-being now.

Luke's Gospel set forth Jesus' mission in terms of Isaiah 61 as a justice agenda: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19). Jesus's ministry targeted the poor, the sick, the demonized, the condemned, and the outcasts. Jesus enlisted disciples to join him in announcing God's will for the earth (the kingdom of God) and sent them out to also bring healing to the sick and liberation to the oppressed and demonized. His work centered on justice and mercy.

Many Christians today who are quite merciful in caring for the sick and the poor have never been taught in their traditions that justice is just as important. It offers one reason why we are in such a mess today and why many Christians are doing little or nothing to try to change political, economic, and social systems that are unjust. They do not understand the difference between mercy and justice.

I refuse to believe that so many Christians in our country are so selfish and protectionistic that they do not care about the plight of refugees and undocumented persons, who are the most vulnerable ones in our society today (the "least of these" in Matthew 25:40 whom the cosmic Christ is at one with). I put the blame on Christian leaders who have failed to teach their members and parishioners what God requires. Let's do all we can to resist policies that are unjust and let us speak for and advocate for the most vulnerable among us. Our first allegiance is not to any human agency or government, but to Christ who says, "When you did it (showed mercy and practiced justice) for the least of these you did it unto me."

*Pastor Chuck*

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**

6:00 p.m.

Adults: \$4.00 Children: \$3.00

Maximum per family \$10.00

Feb. 8: Lasagna, fixings and dessert

Feb. 15: BBQ, fixings and dessert

Feb. 22: Pizza, fixings and dessert

### **Deacon of the Week Schedule:**

February 5 Mac Stivers 502-382-7767

February 12 Becky Tippett 502-227-4709

February 19 Sandy Altom 502-875-4873



### **Just a reminder...**

in case of inclement weather, be sure to check the church's Facebook page or WLEX18 for updates regarding cancelations or schedule changes.



### **Bus Ministry**

\*Feb. 5 Greg Lawson  
502-487-1091

\*Feb. 12 Bruce Dungan  
502-320-1687

\*Feb. 19 JT O'Connell  
502-545-3016



**Youth** will meet at Frisch's **NEXT** Sunday morning at 9:00. We'll do another "secret angel" and try not to get caught! Let Lisa know if you plan to bring a guest.

### **XYZ Potluck Lunch**

Rhonda Abbott Blevins will be our guest speaker at the monthly XYZ Potluck Lunch at **noon** Tuesday, Feb. 7. Everyone 55 years of age and older is invited to bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert and enjoy a hearty meal and great meal fellowship.



### **XYZ February Outing**



**Who:** XYZ and adults 55 and older

**What:** Lunch

**When:** February 16, Thursday, 11:00 am

**Where:** Cracker Barrel of Frankfort

## **Service Auction 2017**

1. Bruce Dungan – One doz. cinnamon rolls
2. Mac Stivers – One computer clean-up
3. Meredith Shouse – 2 Doz. cupcakes
4. Lisa Wood – Calendar of cookies
5. Murray Cleveland – 3 Hours of labor
6. Luke Sosby – 4 half-hour ukulele lessons
7. Carol Smith – 1 large cheesecake
8. Joni Crowe – Bidder's choice: 2 throw pillows OR 1 window treatment
9. Bruce Dungan - One dozen cinnamon rolls
10. Naomi Walker – Weight Watcher strawberry pie
11. Etelle Nfor – 3 hours babysitting
12. Doris Bailey – 2 dozen yeast dinner rolls
13. Karen Dungan – Frozen lasagna and frozen chicken casserole
14. Elizabeth Wood – One May Day Pie
15. Jane & Anna - \$200 gift certificate to KY State Parks
16. Steve Dooley – Landscaping
17. Danny & Doris Bailey – One gallon of homemade ice cream
18. Jill LeMaster – One 2016 Tax Return
19. Carol O'Connell – One custom designed wreath or centerpiece
20. Becky Bishop – 12 Dozen homemade caramels
21. Rob Laurenson – One small piece of furniture refurbished
22. Rob Laurenson – Kitchen knives sharpened
23. Curtis & Matt – One small project
24. Betty Claycomb – 4 pies

*Expect at least one other addition to this fine list of services being offered.  
Come prepared to bid and support the Container Challenge!*

## **Opportunities at IBC**

### **Sunday, February 5**

9:15 am Bible Study  
10:30 am Worship  
11:45 am Soup-er Bowl Luncheon/Auction

### **Monday, February 6**

5:30 pm Cub Scouts  
6:00 pm Deacons' Meeting

### **Tuesday, February 7**

11:00 am XYZ Council  
12:00 XYZ Luncheon

### **Wednesday, February 8**

11:00 am *It's Your Story, Too* (Dr. Bailey's class)  
5:15 pm Mission Committee Meeting  
5:30 pm Rainbow Ringers  
6:00 pm Fellowship Meal  
6:30 pm Prayer meeting & Children's Choir  
6:40 pm *It's Your Story, Too* (Dr. Bailey's class)  
7:00 pm Children's Formation  
7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir

### **Friday, February 10**

6:00 pm Cropping

### **Saturday, February 11**

9:00 am Cropping

### **Sunday, February 12**

9:15 am Bible Study  
10:30 am Worship  
11:45 am Church Council

### **Monday, February 13**

5:30 pm Cub Scouts  
6:30 pm BMW Care meals

### **Wednesday February 15**

11:00 am *It's Your Story, Too* (Dr. Bailey's class)  
5:30 pm Rainbow Ringers  
6:00 pm Fellowship Meal  
6:30 pm Children's Choir  
6:40 pm *It's Your Story, Too* (Dr. Bailey's class)  
7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir

### **Thursday February 16**

11:00 am XYZ to Cracker Barrel