



Volume 20, No. 6

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March 18, 2018

Children and Youth Fellowship



Who: Children, youth and their families

What: Easter egg hunt and spaghetti lunch

When: Palm Sunday, March 25 right after morning worship

Where: Fellowship Hall and church grounds



Chuck's Column

In my reading I came across an author who argued that Jesus didn't practice what he preached about loving enemies, because of the things Jesus said about the Pharisees. Historical, critical scholars sometimes make the case that the intensity of Jesus' denouncement of the Pharisees was most likely exaggerated by the gospel writers because of the hostility their congregations faced at the time. Nevertheless, Jesus did indeed say some harsh things, calling them such names as "hypocrites" and "blind fools." Matthew's version (chap. 23) is particularly harsh. Does that mean that Jesus didn't love them?

In Luke's Gospel, we find Jesus sitting at the meal table with Pharisees on three separate occasions. I believe Jesus felt a solidarity with all people and regarded all of them as God's children. But that didn't mean he never became angry. Anger is not

incompatible with unconditional love. Does a parent ever get angry with a son or daughter? Does that mean the parent doesn't love the child? I'm sure it angered Jesus to see folks like the Pharisees mistreat and exclude their sisters and brothers who did not conform to their interpretations and holiness laws. I imagine Jesus getting very angry with religious leaders

who excluded, oppressed, and condemned others, and in the process were destroying their own souls.

But I also imagine that Jesus didn't harbor anger or allow it to turn into contempt. The Jewish scholar and mystic, Abraham Joshua Heschel, points out that God's anger is instrumental and conditional, designed to bring about repentance on the part of those who hurt, oppress, and cause others to suffer. God's anger is not God's disposition, but "a transient and reactive condition" designed for correction. The message of the psalmist and the prophets is that God's anger is but for a moment, but God's steadfast love is forever (Ps. 30:5; Isa. 26:20). Heschel points out that God's anger "is an act, a situation" for the purpose of correction, "not an essential attitude."

Paul tells the disciples in Ephesus, "Be angry but do not sin" (4:26a). We should be angry at injustice, at the mistreatment, marginalization, and oppression of any of God's children. Jesus stood with the downtrodden. But we must not let anger fester into hate or contempt. This is why Paul in the next statement says, "Do not let the sun go down on your anger" (4:26b). No matter how much we may hurt for others and become angry at those who hurt them, we must find balance and joy as well, and let the anger go.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Chuck

Deacon of the Week Schedule:

March 18 Khamisi Campbell

229-8615

March 25 Kay Osborne

875-2194

April 1 Karen Dungan

320-1940

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

6:00 p.m.

Adults: \$4.00 Children: \$3.00

Maximum per family \$10.00

March 21: Lasagna, fixings and dessert

March 28: Pizza, fixings and dessert

April 4: Spring Break no activities

Partners in Development new address

Attn: Greg Toulson

252 N. First Street

Hampton, VA 23664



Handbell Players Needed

Please contact Mac Stivers or Sandy Altom. Practice will be starting soon.

Our deepest sympathies to.....

Jean Lawson in the death of her brother, Ronald Fee, on March 1, 2018.

Bus Ministry

March 18 Greg Lawson

502-487-1091

March 25 Bruce Dungan

502-320-1687

April 1 JT O'Connell

502-545-3016

The Personnel Committee is looking to fill two part-time ministry positions – a part-time children's minister and a part-time youth minister. Each position will be paid at an hourly rate up to 15 hours weekly. Seminary or college religious training is not required, but would certainly be a plus. What is required is a passion to minister to children and youth, a readiness to learn, and the appropriate level of spiritual maturity.

We are also looking for a part-time church secretary to work on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-3.

If you know of someone who might be interested in applying for any of these positions please pass the word on. They can contact Pastor Chuck (cqueen.abc@gmail.com; cell: 502-229-7246) or Susan Laurenson (slaurenson121@gmail.com; cell: 502-545-1503) the chair of the Personnel Committee.

Opportunities at IBC

Sunday, March 18

9:15 am The Gathering followed by Bible Study

10:30 am Worship

Monday, March 19

9:30 am CCRTA

6:00 pm Cub Scouts

Tuesday, March 20

11:40 am XYZ Council

12:00 XYZ Potluck Luncheon

Wednesday, March 21

10:00 am Prayer Bible Study

5:30 pm Missions' Committee Meeting

6:00 pm Fellowship Meal
6:30 pm Prayer & Devotion & Children/Youth Music & Activities & Women, Food and God Study
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

Sunday, March 25

9:15 am Bible Study
10:30 am Worship

Monday, March 26

6:00 pm Cub Scouts

Wednesday, March 28

10:00 am Prayer Bible Study
6:00 pm Fellowship Meal
6:30 pm Prayer & Devotion & Children/Youth Music & Activities & Women, Food and God Study
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir