

THE *COMMUNICATOR*

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KEVIN'S KORNER

"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor. 13:13). That's how Paul ends one of the most beautiful and beloved chapters in the Bible. When we think of 1 Corinthians 13, we often think of it as a rhetorically polished piece of Scripture where eloquence just seems to pour out of Paul's pen. In one respect, there is something very elevated about this passage. But in another respect, this is one of the most down-to-earth portions of Scripture you'll ever meet. Sure, it has its share of lofty language, but Paul's purpose is extremely practical, namely, to get the Christians in Corinth to act more lovingly toward one another. To do that, he offers them both his words and his walk. He wants them to see in him a model of long-suffering and kindness. He wants them to follow his own example of perseverance.

There's something about authentic Christian love that requires you to get specific. Beautiful words are good, but love resists being reduced to words, or to anything else that leaves out concrete action, like patience, kindness, humility, generosity, and forgiveness. These aren't the kinds of things you learn by separating yourself from other people and retreating within yourself. These are the kinds of things you learn by living in community with other believers – real, live human beings who will sometimes be impatient and unkind, who will get jealous, start bragging, or inflate with pride. Sometimes they will act selfishly, get provoked, or keep score. Like you, they're trusting in Jesus and striving to be more like him, but clearly none of us is completely there yet. Our love for one another is still so far from perfect.

But remember that love is a long-term project. All the Valentine's cards and gifts that get exchanged this month can certainly be generous expressions of your

love for a special person in your life. Yet at the same time, we have to be careful about trying to do in one day what we should be doing every day, namely, giving ourselves to others in the name of Christ. The kind of human love that's born out of our experience of God's love can't be concentrated into a single holiday. It can only be lived day in and day out within your network of relationships.

You can see the long-term nature of love in spouses who have been devoted to one another through thick and thin. You can see it in parents who refuse to give up on a child who has gotten into all kinds of messes and trouble. You can see it in friends who won't let time or distance sever their bond. You can see it in children who are fighting each other one minute and hugging each other the next. You can see it in deacons, teachers, and other church leaders who place service above self. You can see it in church members whose sense of common mission is bigger than their differences of opinion.

Paul says that love "always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (v.7). Love isn't something you master in a single day. Love is learned patterns of behavior that have to be cultivated and developed over time in the context of a community of believers who model and support loving behavior. Patience, kindness, humility, generosity, discipline, self-control, reconciliation, compassion – these are aspects of personal character that must be taught and learned through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us. To that end, God has given us the church, the community where we learn how to love. And for that we give thanks.

Faithfully,

Pastor Kevin

FROM THE COMMUNICATOR STAFF

By Jenny Boswell, editor and church administrative assistant

The Deacon of the Month for February is Jerry Coombs.

Groundhog Day is on Sunday, February 2, 2020. Will he or won't he see his shadow?



Also, on Sunday, February 2, 2020, the newsletter articles are due for the months of March and April. These articles will be about spring and Easter. I will need new and interesting stories and **recipes**.

On February 8th we celebrate the 110th birthday of the Boy Scouts of America. Worldwide the Boy Scouts are 113 years old.

Happy Birthday Boy Scouts!



President Lincoln's birthday is February 12 and President Washington's birthday is February 22. We celebrate both of their birthdays on Monday, February 17. The Day Care Center and the church office will be closed.



**Happy Birthday
Abe and George!**

Valentine's Day this year is on Friday, February 14th. Let all whom you love be told and honored with some expression of love.

Happy Valentine's Day to all!

FEBRUARY NEWS

FROM THE DAY CARE CENTER

By Amy Shumpert, assistant director of the Day Care Center

In January, the Day Care Center welcomed back our learning routines and schedules after the hustle and bustle of the holidays. All preschool classes were busy learning about cold and snowy winter weather, hibernation, polar animals, hygiene, nursery rhymes, and our nation's history/Martin Luther King, Jr. When will it snow? We received a taste of wintery weather in early December, but in the eyes and hearts of children (and many teachers!), it's not officially winter until we get as least one BIG snow!

The month of February will be exciting and busy at Grace Baptist Day Care. On January 31st, the children will make their own groundhog predictions before Groundhog Day. Discovering and learning about the weather & shadows is always an interesting part of our science curriculum for the children.

We will celebrate friendship with Valentine's Day fast approaching. The children, staff and Pastor Kevin enjoy exchanging Valentine cards with one another every year. Every child gets to be the "mailman/woman" for the day, as they deliver the cards and goodies they have made for others to each uniquely created mailbox of their friends. Valentine's Day is a great time to share and spread kindness and friendship all around!

President's Day will bring us many lessons about our history. Abraham Lincoln and George Washington are the important historical figures studied. We also learn about historical landmarks in Washington, D.C. Of course, we all enjoy the fact that President's Day will also bring us a 3-day weekend!



WORDS OF THE MONTH:

"Faith, Hope, and Love"

Faith: *n.* reliance or trust in a person or thing; a system of religious belief; loyalty, sincerity

Hope: *n.* a feeling of expectation and desire combined; a desire for certain events to happen.

Love: *n.* warm liking or affection for a person, affectionate devotion; the relation between sweethearts. God's benevolence toward mankind.



CONDOLENCE

Our hearts and prayers go out to the family and many friends of Emmajean Jenkins who had passed away on December 20, 2019. Her funeral service was on the 27th of December. She was buried beside her husband, Tommy, at McKendree Cemetery in Rhodesdale, Maryland.

Emmajean was a long time member of Grace Baptist Church. She held many positions through the many years, such as clerk, membership committee, VBS, Sunday School, and teller just to name a few. She will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her.



MINDY'S PEACE

By Mindy Adams

Prayer for this Year

God give you **FAITH** this coming year!
The faith that will not fail the keenest test;
That trusts and sings in midst of fire and storm;
And dares rely upon His work and rest.

God give you **HOPE** this coming year!
The hope that through the darkness sees afar--
The purifying hope that fondly waits
The rising of the bright and Morning Star.

God give you **LOVE** this coming year!
His own great love that burns out for the lost;
That intercedes, and waits, and suffers long—
That never fails, nor stops to count the cost.
Margaret D. Armstrong

GRACE'S RECIPE BOX

Pizza Snack Cup

- 1 can (12 oz.) refrigerated biscuits (10 biscuits)
- ¼ pound ground beef
- 1 jar (14 oz.) RAGU Pizza Quick Sauce
- ¼ cup shredded mozzarella cheese (about 2 oz.)

1. Preheat oven to 375°. In 12-cup muffin pan, evenly press each biscuit in bottom and up side of each cup; chill until ready to fill.
2. In a 10 inch skillet, brown ground beef over medium-high heat; drain. Stir in pizza sauce and heat through.
3. Evenly spoon beef mixture into prepared muffin cups. Bake 15 minutes. Sprinkle with cheese and bake an additional 5 minutes or until cheese is melted and the biscuits are golden. Let stand 5 minutes. Gently remove pizza cups from muffin pan and serve.

If you're making these to take along, try baking them in individual foil baking cups (not paper liners) that can stand up to travel. Just cover with additional foil for transporting.



Submitted by Cathy Stouffer



FEBRUARY

Tobias Coombs	02/09
Marlene Wedding	02/10
Melinda Adams (Mindy)	02/13
Dan Krivitsky	02/13
Hanna Zanakis	02/16
Dora Heinbuch	02/18
G.C. Rogerson	02/19
James Sams	02/20
Joan Posey	02/23
Cheyenne Toma	02/27
Tiffany Wedding	02/28



EVENTS TO REMEMBER IN FEBRUARY

Feb. 1 Deacons Meeting
Feb. 2 Lord's Supper
Feb. 2 Groundhog Day
Feb. 4 Westside Stitches
Feb. 4 Girl Scouts
Feb. 5 Bible Study
Feb. 7 Stampin' Up
Feb. 8 Moving Night
Feb. 11 Girl Scouts
Feb. 12 Business Meeting
Feb. 13 G.S.S.U. Meeting
Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
Feb. 17 President's Day
Feb. 18 Westside Stitches
Feb. 18 Girl Scouts
Feb. 19 Bible Study
Feb. 23 Church Council Meeting
Feb. 25 Girl Scouts
Feb. 26 Bible Study
Feb. 26 Ash Wednesday

THE SCRIPTURES SAY...

About God's Love

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."
1 John 4:10 (NIV)

"But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved." Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV)

"God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him." 1 John 4:16-17 (NIV)



JUST A REMINDER!

The dates and times of all events are subject to change at any time. Please check bulletin board and bulletins weekly for updates.

The updated church directory (2020) will be out on the foyer the first and second week of February.



A NEW YEAR'S PROMISE

(Author unknown)

"Another year I enter, its history unknown.
Oh, how my feet would tremble to tread its paths alone!
But I have heard a whisper; I know I shall be blest.
'My presence shall go with thee and I will give thee rest.'

What will the New Year bring me? I may not, must not know;
Will it be love and rapture, or loneliness and woe?
Hush! Hush! I hear His whisper, I surely shall be blest;
'My presence shall go with thee and I will give thee rest.'"

FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Deacon of the Month: Jerry Coombs</p>						<p>1 7:00am Deacons Meeting</p>
<p>2 Lord's Supper 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am M. Service</p> 		<p>4 4:00pm Westside Stitchers 6:30pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>5 7:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 6:00pm Stampin' Up</p>	<p>8 6:00pm Movie Night</p>
<p>9 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am M. Service</p>		<p>11 6:30pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>12 7:00pm Business Meeting</p>	<p>13 6:45pm - 9:00pm G.S.S.U. Meeting</p>	<p>14 Valentine's Day</p> 	
<p>16 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am M. Service Fellowship Luncheon</p>	<p>17 President's Day</p>	<p>18 4:00pm Westside Stitchers 6:30pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>19 7:00pm Bible Study</p>			
<p>23 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am M. Service 12:30pm Church Council Meeting</p>		<p>25 6:30pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>26 7:00pm Bible Study ASH WEDNESDAY</p>			