



Vol. 38 Issue 2

The Good News Letter

February 2012

A monthly publication of First Baptist Church, Gaston

"THE CARING PLACE"

1 Corinthians 13

Subject Love

LOVE DOES NOT:

Envy, Hate,
Display Pride,
Rejoice in Sin
or Behave
Rudely.

LOVE DOES:

Suffers Long,
Displays
Kindness,
Rejoices in
Truth, Never
Fails, and
Brings Hope to
All Situations.

*And now abide
faith, hope, love,
these three; but
the greatest of
these is love.*

*1 Corinthians
13:13*



*Let love be
without hypoc-
risy. Abhor
what is evil.
Cling to what is
good. Be kindly
affectionate to
one another
with brotherly
love, in honor
giving
preference to
one another.*

*Romans
12:9-10*

Psalm 119:1-8

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart! They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways. You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently. Oh, that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes! Then I would not be ashamed, when I look into all Your commandments. I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments. I will keep Your statutes; oh, do not forsake me utterly!

For those who have chosen to walk in the way of the Lord, there is promised great happiness. He has blueprinted His will to affect us with longevity of days (generally), optimum health (generally), and a hope of eternal life (absolutely). The blessing of God is reserved for those who are "...undefiled in the way...", who "...walk in the law of the LORD..." and "...keep His testi- monies..."

How will we walk in these wonderful commandments of God? The writer speaks of those "...who seek Him with the whole heart!" Half-hearted worship and service before the Lord is as acceptable as none at all! Recall the Lord's words to the Laodicean church, "...because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth..." (Rev 3:16). Either we must determine to be wholly for God or we will be wholly against Him, for there is no mid- dle ground.

Obedience to the gospel of Christ is the beginning of a wonderful life, but it is also the begin- ning of an assault on our soul by the wicked one. Things which we once conducted ourselves in are to be abstained from, and yet the pleasure of sin calls. So important is the need to con- tinually study God's Word in order that we can fill our minds with the glorious will of our Fa- ther. Get into God's Word in order that it might get into you!

The follower of Christ, having learned the ways of the Lord, the height and depth of love which caused God to supply us with such a wonderful Saviour and eternal hope, cannot help but bring praise before God. "I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments." Our praise to God will not be that of compulsion, nor will it be a matter of occasional gratitude, but an ongoing exalting of His name for His graciousness toward us in Christ Jesus. Hypocrisy will find no home in the child of God who knows well the righteous- ness of God, but rather a contrite heart, full of sorrow for sin and sincere thanksgiving for the forgiveness which God has brought to us through His Son.

This segment of the Psalm ends with the words, "I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly!" If God were to deal with us simply upon the basis of justice, He would then have to forsake the whole lot of us, as "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23). However, thanks be unto God, He deals with us not merely with justice, but with mercy and forgiveness.

—Pastor Larry

“All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.” [Charles M. Schulz](#)

Just a chuckle to get us going this month. We as Christians know that love is God... and not just a warm mushy feeling... not just an emotion that we have for others... Love is God and God is Love!

Love is a command...love one another as I have loved you

Love is obedience...if you love Me you will keep My commandments

Love is a testimony... by this shall all men know that you are My disciples if you have love one for another

Love is action... This is how we have come to know love; He laid down His life for us. We should also lay down our lives for others.

Love is a revelation...God's love was revealed among us in this way; God sent His One and Only Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

So, when I say these words... it is more than just words...

I love my church family!!!

Joyfully Serving,

Sherrell 

NEWS FROM OUR SPIRITUAL WARRIORS WITH HELEN KING, DIRECTOR

A couple weeks before Joe became sick, I encouraged him while he was going somewhere to go see someone who was in the hospital. When he returned home, I asked Joe if he had gone to which he answered, “Yes, but all I heard was complaining.”

Thinking about Joe's experience which took extra effort on his part and probably not feeling up to it, I thought about a story someone passed on to me by email. May it encourage you as it did me.

A 92-year-old, well-poised and proud man, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, freshly shaved with his hair fashionably combed, even though he is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today.

His wife of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, he smiled sweetly when told his room was ready.

As he maneuvered his walker to the elevator, the worker provided a visual description of his tiny room.

“I love it,” he stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented a new puppy.

“Mr. Jones, you haven't seen the room; just wait,” replied the worker.

“That doesn't have anything to do with it,” he replied. “Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not does not depend on how the furniture is arranged...it's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice; I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do.

He continued, “Each day is a gift; and as long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away...just for this time in my life. Old age is like a bank account, You withdraw from what you've put in. My advice would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories! Thank you for your part in filling my Memory Bank. I am still depositing.”

Here are five simple rules to live by this year to be happy.

1. Free your heart from hatred.
 2. Free your mind from worries.
 3. Live simply.
 4. Give more.
 5. Expect less.
- Now have a happy day, unless you plan otherwise...

Some of our seniors plan each month to make deposits in their Memory Bank by coming to the Spiritual Warriors luncheon on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30. Well, others...

Spiritual Warriors Luncheon ~ Wednesday, February 1, 2012 ~ 11:30 AM



February is the month of love and the Bible commands us to show God's love to everyone around. There are mission opportunities where you can show God's love to others.

We begin with Souper Bowl Sunday on **February 5**. The youth will be collecting funds and food for the GPS Center that Sunday. They will have more information in upcoming bulletins. Please pray how you can help.

Next we have **WMU Focus Week February 12-19**. There will be a ladies choir Sunday, Feb 12 and the GAs will be handling the offering. We have Ms. Donna Britt from the State WMU Office as guest speaker for the morning service. We are looking forward to her sharing how everyone is involved in WMU and the mission opportunities that are available.

The home meeting this month is **February 20** at the home of Lisa Pound at 219 S. Carlisle Street beginning at 6:30 pm. We will have a reminder in the bulletin and let you know what's being served.

February 18 is Children's Ministry Day and the GAs are planning to do a couple of projects at the local schools during part of February and March in support of Children's Ministry Day. Parents will receive information prior to the girls being involved in any projects and what will be involved. Please be in prayer about the upcoming projects and if you would like to help, please let me know.

NOTICE TO PARENTS:

The RA camp information has been received by the RA leaders and the GA camp information will be received shortly. We will try to have information out to all the parents for both groups by the middle of March. If your child is involved in one of these programs and you are interested in them attending summer camp, please see Margie Rish or Cindy Furtick. We will make sure you receive the information for your child.

March will kick off with a bang with the **Week of Prayer for North American Missions March 4-11**. This is also our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering emphasis time. The Church goal is \$3,000. Please be in prayer as to how you can be a part of this prayer time and special offering.

As always thank you for your support with all our mission projects and continue to be in prayer as to how you can become involved in missions.

Love in Christ, Cindy Furtick & Margie Rish

The springs of love are in God, not in us. It is absurd to look for the love of God in our hearts naturally; it is only there when it has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.
— Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*, April 30



We extend our deepest sympathy to the Eric Mack Family. Mr. Mack passed away December 27, 2011. He was one of our homebound members. A graveside memorial service was held at First Baptist Church of Gaston on Friday, December 30, 2011 at 11 A.M.

The church, community and family will miss Mr. Mack.

REFOCUS
Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.
Give up worry — trust God to provide.
Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
Give up hatred — return good for evil.
Give up anger — be more patient.
Give up pettiness — become mature.
Give up jealousy — pray for trust.
Give up gossiping — control your tongue.
Give up sin — turn to virtue.
Give up giving up — persevere.
—Author unknown

Jesus on Leadership: Developing Servant Leaders

Begins Sunday February 12th at 5 PM

During this six week study, Pam Spires will lead members of the body of Christ to apply biblical principles of servant leadership to all areas of their ministries. By following the pattern of Jesus' ministry of training people to do kingdom work, **Jesus on Leadership** helps develop church members into servant leaders.

Workbooks are \$12. Sign-up sheet is available in Welcome Center, or you may call church office at 794-0377. For more information contact Pam Spires or Debbie Spires.

Date Night Challenge

GET OUT. GET CLOSER.

Sweetheart Banquet February 11, 2012 6 PM

Reservations must be made by February 5th

\$10 per person includes dinner ~ childcare available

Reinvent your date night and strengthen your marriage by taking the **Date Night Challenge** at the Sweetheart Banquet. Discover what **"doing dating differently"** can do for your relationship. The Date Night Challenge is an evening of fun and laughter for couples, featuring comedian Jeff Allen, singer/songwriter Michael O'Brien and bestselling authors Dr. Greg and Erin Smalley.

During the event, the Smalleys will explain the power of dating your mate and encourage couples to take the "Date Night Challenge": go on three dates in three weeks. Research shows that dating at least once a month significantly improves relationships. This is part of a national "date night movement" where the goal is for 5 million dates to take place across the country during the month of February. This event is the first date of the challenge! Focus on the Family will then provide free, downloadable materials and content for their next two dates. Then, each month for the next year, couples can download a new, free date night guide that provides content and ideas for their dates.

This event is for all couples in our church and community. The goal is to encourage couples, young and old, singles and married couples, parents and grandparents, to put their relationship on the top of their priority list. Strong relationships produce strong marriages and strong marriages produce strong families.



February 7-14

National Marriage Week USA

Let's Strengthen Marriage

DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday at Five

Christ the Center

Greg Pouncey, the writer of February's commentary tells us "The apostle Paul affirmed that Christ "is before all things, and by Him all things consist" (Col.1:17). This study is about the centrality and sufficiency of Christ. We live in a culture that does not acknowledge the supremacy of Christ. Some believers, because they do not have a good grasp of the truths of the gospel, are easily shaken when the exclusive claims of the gospel of Christ are challenged. Other Christians do not live Christ-centered lives. They may say Jesus is important, but their lives are centered on their own ambitions. This study will challenge adults to recognize and submit to the centrality of Christ in all life.

February 5 – **Center of Everything** – Colossians 1:1-23. Seeing Christ for who He really is and then seeing everything else in light of that reality. This lesson can help you to have a better understanding of who Christ is and what He has done, to revere Him, and to bow in submission to His authority.

February 12 – **Center of My Church** – Colossians 1:24-2:7. What makes a church Christ-centered? This lesson can help you evaluate your church's message and ministry. It also will help you determine ways you can contribute to keeping Christ at the center of everything your church does.

February 19 – **Center of My Belief** – Colossians 2:8-23. Keep Christ the center of your beliefs by rejecting any thinking or practices that hinder or deny the centrality of Christ. This lesson can help you recognize the importance of sound doctrine and evaluate all spiritual truth claims in light of biblical truths that have Christ as their focus and fulfillment.

February 26 – **Center of My Life** – Colossians 3:1-4:6. Who Christ is and what He has done for us should shape our character, guide our homes, and direct our interactions with those who do not believe. This lesson can help you live a Christ-centered life.

Care enough to invite someone to Sunday School



WALKING WITH GOD

The essence of the Christian life is knowing God and walking with Him. It's about sticking with Him when the sky is blue and also when it's filled with clouds or choked with smoke. It's about walking with the Lord through thick and thin, and pressing on through every heartache and trial that happens to come our way.

—Greg Laurie

MEDIA LIBRARY - REPORTING THIS MONTH - PHYLLIS TEMPLETON



I love to read and because I love to read and am also a media assistant, I encourage others to read. I have recommended many books available in our church library and will continue to do so. Whether you are an avid reader or occasional reader, today I recommend that you read the most important book of all--- your Bible. Some resolve at the beginning of the year to read the Bible through in a year. I have done that in the past, and if that is something you want to do, go for it! (although you have some catching up to do, if you have not already started.) If that is more than you want to take on, especially if you don't read your Bible on a regular basis, I would urge you to start by reading a little a day. Perhaps one of the Psalms or, as Mrs. Sheppard suggested, the book of John. We need to spend time every day with God and we can do that by spending time in His Word and prayer. It is important that we make time in our busy lives to set aside time to read and study God's Word. Sometime our time with God is a brief prayer in the morning and maybe one at night. We talk to God through prayer, but do we give Him an opportunity to talk to us? He does that through His Word. If you have determined to read more this year, I encourage you to start with your Bible.

—Phyllis Templeton, Media Assistant

God's Valentine

February 14th is Valentines Day! It is so much fun to get Valentines from your family and friends. Valentines say nice things like, "I love you", "I think you're nice", "Have a Happy Valentines day!"

Did you know God gave us all a Valentine too? God tells us how much He loves us in His word, the **Bible**. John 3:16 says "For God **loved** the world in this way, He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." And Psalms 136:2 says "Give thanks to the God of gods. His **love** is eternal."

God gave us these verses, not just for Valentines Day, but for everyday. And He loves you, your family, your friends, and everyone in the whole world!

"Lord, thank You for giving us the best Valentine ever....the Bible! Amen"

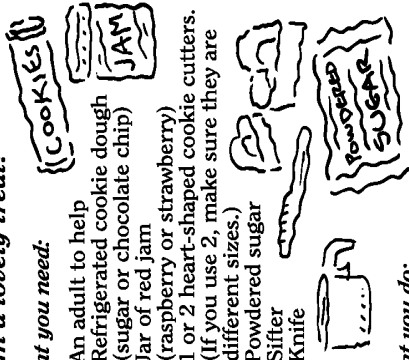


LOVE TREATS

Show others love by baking them a lovely treat!

What you need:

- ▶ An adult to help
- ▶ Refrigerated cookie dough (sugar or chocolate chip)
- ▶ Jar of red jam
- ▶ (raspberry or strawberry)
- ▶ 1 or 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters. (If you use 2, make sure they are different sizes.)
- ▶ Powdered sugar
- ▶ Sifter
- ▶ Knife



What you do:

1. Follow the cookie dough directions for rolling out the dough.
2. If you are using one cookie cutter, cut out the heart-shaped cookies and transfer to a baking sheet. Try to have an even number of hearts when finished.
3. If you are using two cookie cutters, cut out the large hearts. Take half of the hearts, and cut out a small heart window in the center with the smaller cookie cutter. Now you have a heart inside another heart.
4. Have an adult help you bake the cookies according to the dough directions.
5. After baking, place the cookies on a cooling rack.
6. When the cookies are cooled, make cookie sandwiches by spreading jam onto the flat side of half the cookies, and then placing another cookie on top of each one. (If you made cookie windows, use those for the tops.)
7. Sprinkle powdered sugar over your heart sandwiches with a sifter.
8. Share the cookies with the people you love.



LEARNING FROM PETER'S MISTAKES

In Mark 9:2-10, Jesus takes three disciples up a mountain, where his clothes become dazzling white and Moses and Elijah speak with him. Terrified, Peter starts babbling. He offers to construct three "dwellings" — presumably, worship structures. But Peter makes two common mistakes.

First, he fails to treat Jesus as the unique object of worship. Just as Peter would have worshiped Moses and Elijah alongside Jesus, we sometimes act as though money, work, another person or even church and Scripture are coequal with Christ. Obviously, family and friends are important, but Jesus is the only Son of God. The church and the Bible, though worthy of devotion, are only vehicles that bring us to Christ.

Second, Peter would have stayed on that mountain indefinitely. Spiritual highs are tempting that way. We resist going back "down" to daily life. Ecstatic glimpses of Jesus' glory are one way God strengthens us to continue serving in Christ's name.

— The Newsletter Newsletter

PRONOUN SHIFT



Society encourages us to focus on ourselves. The pronouns in the parable of the rich man indicate that he fell into this trap, too: "He talked to himself: 'What can I do? My barn isn't big enough for this harvest. ... I'll tear down my

barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll gather in all my grain and goods, and I'll say to myself, Self, you've done well!" (Luke 12:16-19, The Message).

What a difference other pronouns would have made. The man could have asked, "**What would you have me do, God?**" He could have seen things as God's, on loan to him to share with others: "This barn you've blessed me with, God, isn't big enough for this harvest you've provided. I'll share the extra with others, as you've commanded."

And instead of taking credit himself, he could have offered praise: "**God, You've cared so well for me. Thank You, Lord!**"


February 2012


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Jessica Dowd John Hayes Ida Alice Redmond Shelby Rollison	2 John Brewster Jack Easterling Tony Miller John Morrow	3 Cathy Clark Peggy Donaldson Carol Furtick Bucky Jeffcoat Sara Rish David Spires Tresha Vella Emma Lee Dowd	4 Matthew Barfield Jewel Sharpe Carla Sightler
5 Candace Whitaker	6 Tyler Moore	7	8 Lucille Golf David Hildebrand Charlie Miles Theodore Skinner, Jr	9 Kayla Dowd Matthew Frown- felder Rickey Vick	10 Billy Fennimore Charles Fickling Chris Golf Brandon Huseby Robert Whitaker	11 Celeste Haig- wood Michael Hart Joyce Lucas Matt Pound 
Souper Bowl Of Caring						
12 Edward Harsey	13 Jackie Hart Dustin Hicks Sandra Pound Meagan Rawlinson Mark Snyder ♥Bryan & Carrie Knight	14 Ronald Farmer Hope Johnson Anita Nelson Mandy Nelson William Whittington Oliver Willard ♥Allen & Traci Rish	15 Donavan Bennett Belinda Clark Pat Finley Shawn King Lauren Rish Landon Stabler	16 Kay Joseph Lisa Pound ♥James & Vanessa McIver	17 Alexandra Laughlin Teddy Skinner ♥Jay & Gloria Sharpe	18
WMU Sunday			WMU FOCUS	WEEK		
19 Kelly Beasley Lucy Whitaker	20 Natalie Bobbitt Cathy McLwain Nancy Shuler Valerie Yow WOM Meeting	21 Helen King Becky Reynolds	22 ♥Michael & Becky Bryan ♥Dwain & Rhonda Smith	23 Michael Bryan Janet Daniels Mia Henderson Johnny Knowlton Casey Whetsell	24 Joey Smith Mike Spradley ♥Jim & Michelle Cox	25 David Gooldy Michelle Melton Tosha Mack
26 Nolyn Bozard Phillip Spires Amanda White	27 Nicole Kirkland Rebekah Rish- Kuempel Louise Spradley	28 Mary Pound Will Reynolds Deacon Meeting	29 Rodney Moran			



On Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, the youth will take up a collection asking for at least \$1.00 or one food item for the GPS Center. Please consider what you will give to help people in need and help tackle hunger here in our community.

First Baptist Church, Gaston

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 Gaston, SC 29053
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 www.firstbaptistgaston.org

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Weekly Schedule
Sunday
 9:45am.....Sunday School
 11:00am.....Worship
 11:00am..Children's Worship
 5:00pm.....Adult Choir
 5:00pm.....Discipleship
 6:00pm.....Worship
Monday
 3:00pm....Ladies' & Men's
 Prayer Time
Wednesday
 6:00 PM Joyful Noise, Jr &
 06:45 Youth
 7:00pm.Prayer Service
 7:00pm.....GA, RA &
 Mission Friends Meetings

Monthly Meetings:
 1st Wednesday all mission
 groups meet 7:00PM
 3rd Wednesday Conference/
 Prayer Service 7:00PM
 3rd Monday Women on
 Mission Home Meeting 6:15
 Last Tuesday Deacons Meet

Check bulletin & website for
 Additional activities.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GASTON WELCOMES YOU!!
"THE CARING PLACE"
 We are here to minister to you and your loved ones and to help strengthen
 your faith in the LORD JESUS CHRIST. If you are not currently attending a
 church, we invite you to join us. See our weekly schedule to the left of page.

During Jesus' time in the wilderness after His baptism, Satan tempted Him to do three things. Which of the following was not one of the temptations?



A. To change water into wine so wedding guests would know He was God's Son
 B. To throw Himself down from the top of the temple, expecting angels to save him
 C. To turn stones into bread to satisfy His hunger
 D. To worship Satan in order to gain all the world's kingdoms

Answer: A (See Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13.)

