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Planted. Reaching. Growing.

FEBRUARY
2018

Missio Dei

You will hear me proclaim the word, “Gospel.” Michael Green, in his book *Evangelism in the Early Church*, states, “Only the person who is prepared to lose his life for the sake of Christ and the Gospel can find it; for it was only by losing His life for the sake of others that Christ could offer new life to mankind, the new life proclaimed by the Gospel.”

Years ago, John MacArthur wrote a book titled, *Ashamed of the Gospel*; in it he writes about the reasons why believers do not share their faith. There are many reasons we don’t share our faith, but it all boils down to commitment. I think many of us would have a different outlook regarding our faith if the New Testament only consisted of Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John. Sure, it is vital to have doctrine and theology, and to understand how the church disciplined and operated, but the *Gospels* have one constant theme: one must measure the cost of being a disciple, submit to the Christ, and lose life to gain it.

The early church grew without pastors, Bibles, programs, or church buildings. You may say, “Well, it was because the church always grew during persecution.” I would agree, but then challenge the statement. In its earliest years (the first 30) there was no persecution, not until the Emperor Nero (~64 AD). You may then conclude, “Ah, but it was the work of the Holy Spirit.” I will again agree, but refute with this, “Was not the same Holy Spirit which moved them, moving us”?

In Alan Hirsch’s book *Reactivating The Missional Church: The Forgotten Ways*, he described what occurred during the reign of Mao Tse-tung in China. When Mao came to power there were over 2 million adherents. He banished all missionaries and ministers seized all church properties, either killed, tortured, or jailed pastors, deacons, and all levels of leadership. Mao perpetrated one of the cruelest persecutions in history. However, after his death in 1976, Christian missionaries thought they would find the church decimated; to the contrary, it flourished to 60 million! What caused such growth—with no Bibles, pastors, or church buildings? It was their belief in the Gospel, they lived it!

Let me challenge you. The believers amidst both of the previously mentioned movements (almost 2,000 years apart) had one thing in common that we either do not understand, or truly believe—the Gospel! If we are fully committed to Christ, our Lord, Master, and King, submission must be evident. Submission to a Master who gave His life for us; we do not believe in a dead god, but One who has risen from the dead.

Do you believe that? If you do, then it is good news because Jesus has conquered sin and death and reigns today...now! If you are committed to Christ, you are committed to His Gospel. A Christian cannot live life on the proverbial fence—it’s all or nothing.

And, if Christ has rescued you from sin and death then you’ve been given a mandate (Mt. 28:19) to be a disciple-maker. This is not optional. For the better part of five and a half years I’ve poured out my heart to you—that you would engage in disciple-making. That you would walk with others, proclaim the gospel, and exalt Christ. Everything you have heard from me is declared in God’s Word. Embrace and engage your faith—take the next step.

Missio Dei! “The sending of God.”

His servant and yours!

MINISTRY UPDATES/REPORTS

DEACON OF THE MONTH

John Biange 781-0082

COMMUNITY DINNER

Monday: February 12, 6:30pm

Menu: Beef Tips
Rice
Peas
Bread
Dessert

Can you help? If so, please contact
Brenda Bass and Cindy Massengale.



COLLECTION ITEMS FOR F.I.S.H.

February

Instant Milk
(yes, same as January)

Notes from Agnes

Well, Christmas 2017 is behind us and for Christmas 2018, we are only about 11 months away!

My side of the family didn't do a lot of "celebrating" because of my oldest brother's death right at Christmas. I think most everyone that knows me, knows my two brothers—Allen and Frank—were much older than me. I loved them to pieces and still do. I am so thankful that the Lord gave me the opportunity to tell him how much I loved him before he went into semi-coma. But I still went one more time and this time I got to do all the talking (LOL). I confessed a few things I tattled to Mom and Dad; asked how he and Frank always managed to see Santa Claus "uptown" and waiting for me to go to sleep before he came to our house. I laughed and reminded him of the time he took me with him into the bank and instead of heeding my warning, decided to keep talking to his friend ahead of us in line instead of taking me to the bathroom! You can figure the rest!!!

A former pastor of his sang his favorite song at the funeral—"When He Was On The Cross, I Was On His Mind". It's a beautiful song and says a lot about us as God's children. Here is part of that song:

"I'm not on an ego trip. I'm nothing on my own. I Make mistakes, I often slip; just common flesh and bone. But, I'll prove some day just why I say, I'm of a special kind; cause when he was on the cross, I was on his mind. He knew me—yet He loved me! He whose glory makes the Heavens shine. So, unworthy of such mercy, but when He was on the cross, I was on His mind."

Even though Christ knew me and you and all our sins, he came and died and rose again, so that we imperfect children of His could have eternal life with Him. As we start to prepare for the Easter season, I am comforted and grateful that..."though his eyes were on the crowd that day, He looked ahead in time. For when He was on the cross, I (and you!) was on His Mind.



WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION NEWS

The Carolyn Grubbs Circle Group will be meeting on Tuesday, February 13th in the fellowship hall at 11:00. Bring your lunch and join us. Agnes has the program and Jackie will provide refreshments.

Thank you to everyone who gave to the Lottie Moon offering and participated in the Post Office, we exceeded our goal.

We will be collecting children's jewelry and watches along with hair ties/bows and sunglasses for Operation Christmas Child for the month of February. This enables the entire church body to get involved with purchasing items each month for the shoeboxes and there will be a packing party in late October or early November. There is a box for donations in the vestibule and check your newsletter and bulletins for the "items of the month".

There is a new bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for WMU news. If you have any questions please see Kym. If you are interested in starting a night time WMU group please let us know.

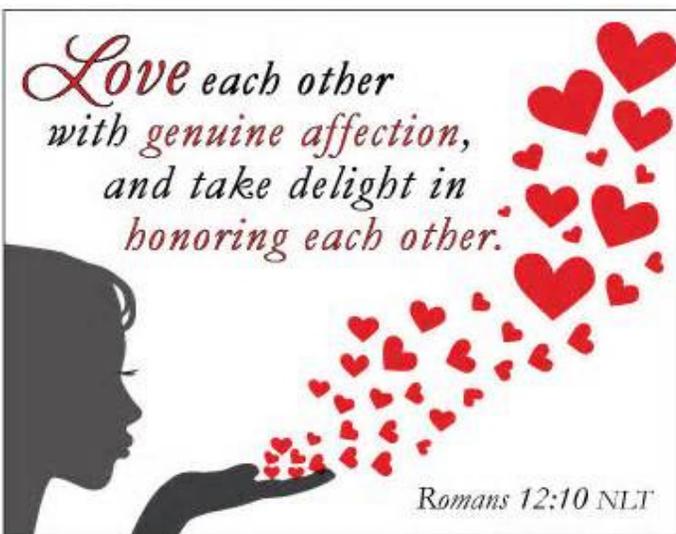
O. A. K. Sewing Group

The OAK ladies started the year off right, working on baby bonnets to be sent to Haiti and Africa, along with children's hats to give to a local organization for needy children, along with giving some to MCV Massey Cancer Center. We also have a box full and running over with lap quilts and blankets for those in ICU at Massey Cancer Center.

Come and join us at our next meeting on February 20 at 9:30am. Bring your lunch and enjoy the fellowship and the warm, loving feeling of helping others. We will be making more older children/adult hats for MCV. We will be collecting children's jewelry and watches along with hair ties/bows and sunglasses for Operation Christmas Child. This enables the entire church body to get involved with purchasing items each month for the shoeboxes and there will be a packing party in late October or early November. There is a box for donations in the vestibule. At our next meeting we will also be working on tissue box covers.

There is a new bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for WMU news. If you have any questions please see Kym. If you are interested in starting a night time WMU group please let us know. Thank you Jeanne for the wonderful soup you made and brought for our lunch last time.! Oh, how it hit the spot that blustery, cold day.

Please come and join us any time. There is always a job for everyone!



DEACONS' BANQUET

February 10 at 5:30pm

For deacons and their spouses,
Whether current or past

Come join us for a lovely dinner, fellowship and fun.

Attend and let us show appreciation for your time and services.

Please RSVP to Tiffany Hertel.

MINISTRY UPDATES AND NEWS

Welcome to the LIBRARY

February has arrived, So long January, cold, snow...Hello, warm hearts and minds

.It's time to check out a few books, like the Baxter Family series by Karen Kingsbury, authors Karen Karon, James Merritt (as recommended by Mama Joyce Shaw) ,or even DVDs like the Veggie Tales series; it's time to enjoy that second cup of coffee or hot tea with a treasure from the Library....

With love,
from the
Library



**GIVE THANKS
TO THE LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD;
HIS LOVE ENDURES
FOREVER.**

PSALM 107 1

LOVING LIBERIA

Prayer Request for February:

It's hard sometimes for us who live in the USA to really understand what it is like to live in a country like Liberia. The smells of decaying trash just thrown on the side of the road; the muddy, insect infested water they use to clean with and drink.

How can they live like that? A lot don't. Odds for a baby/small child growing to be an adult are not good. They are not able to be seen by doctors; given regular inoculations most children in the USA receive for measles, etc. A lot of children do not have the chance to go to school—especially girls. They need to stay and help haul water from a mile away for the family to use that one day. They have to help baby sit younger children and help cook for the family, etc. They may even be sold to a richer man to be one of his wives in her early teens.

Pray for the health of these children and family members. May they learn God loves them—rich or poor.



I am so sorry I was unable to prepare the Newsletter for January. However, thank you all for the calls, cards and especially the prayers during my brother, Allen's, battle with cancer. We thank the Lord he has complete healing now—safe in the arms of Jesus!

Agnes Loyall

**Eastern Henrico FISH Inc
Benefit Bowling Tournament
Saturday, February 24, 2018
Doors open for registration at 9:00 a.m
Bowling starts at 9:30 a.m.
Bowl America, Williamsburg Road**

**Teams : Up to two teams per church. Each team will consist of 4 bowlers.
Cost: \$10 per bowler (includes 2 games and shoe rental).**

Sponsors

Sign up to sponsor our team by pledging \$.01 a pin for the total of the highest scores our team has at the end of the tournament. Example: To sponsor at \$.01 a pin, if our team's highest scores total 610; your pledge would be \$6.10.

Benefits: Eastern Henrico FISH Inc

YOU CAN ALWAYS MAKE A DONATION IN HONOR OF YOUR TEAM!





NURSERY

February 4 Gary Massengale and Brenda Horton
 February 11 Jennifer Mitchell and Tiffany Hertel
 February 18 Julia Fretwell and Amanda Chitty
 February 25 Cathy Barbee and Charles Powell



Janice Belcher	8
Mary Walker	8
Alice Fowler	9
Christine Pace	9
Charlotte Veasey	10
Christian Baynes	11
Charles Powell	11
Margie Kelly	19
Shirley Dickman	22
Gary Massengale	23
Shelby Haynes	26
Jonathan Collier	27
Cadence Rhodes	28

Children's Church



February 4	Kym Loyall
February 11	Holli and David Perez
February 18	Holli and David Perez
February 25	Holli and David Perez



Children's Mission Sunday

February

Children will be packing goodie bags for kids in need, located in our area. Included will be a game board, water, snacks, and Bible Verse Valentines.





**MEN!
SOMETHING
SPECIAL FOR
YOU!**

**BEAST FEAST
February 24**

**YOU WILL ENJOY
THE FOOD AND
FELLOWSHIP!**

Ladies Bible Study: Each Wednesday at 10:00 am in church Fellowship Hall

Small group meetings each Thursday night at 6:30 pm at Panera Bread in White Oak. Pastor Matt leading.

EASTER WEEK activities include:

SONrise Service (April 1)

Easter Worship Times

Never too early to get this on your calendar:

VACATION BIBLE: *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus*—June 20-22

If you can help, please contact Brenda Bass as soon as you can.

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Life Group 6:30 Panera Bread	2 Worship Team 6:30 P.M.	3
4	5 Deacons' Meeting 7:00 P.M.	6	7 Ladies' Bible Study – 10:00 am	8 Life Group 6:30 Panera Bread	9 Worship Team 6:30 pm	10 Deacon's Banquet 5:30 pm
11	12 Community Dinner 6:30 pm	13 Carolyn Grubbs Circle – 11:00 am	14 Valentine's Day Ladies' Bible Study – 10:00 am	15 Life Group 6:30 Panera Bread	16 Worship Team 6:30 P.M.	17
18	19	20 O.A.K. Sewing Group 9:30-2:00 pm	21 Ladies' Bible Study – 10:00 am	22 Life Group 6:30 Panera Bread	23 Worship Team 6:30 P.M.	24 BEAST FEAST FISH Bowling Tournament 9:30 am
25	26	27	28 Ladies' Bible Study – 10:00 am			