

The Union Baptist Church Newsletter



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A DEVOTIONAL FOR MEN ON THE GO

RUNNING FULL SPEED TO HIM

"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3 NIV

Have you ever watched little children around a swimming pool? Whether they can swim or not you need to watch them very carefully. So many of them have no fear whatsoever. Deep end or shallow end, it doesn't matter. Fearless and not fully aware of the consequences, they jump, confident that everything will turn out okay because Mom and Dad or Grandma and Granddad are there. A simple--but not simpleminded--approach to life.

It's the picture of the complete dependence Christ describes in today's verse, a dependence necessary to enter His Kingdom, to be great in His Kingdom, to be His servants for all the world. A dependence marked with a simple--but not simple minded--approach to life. A dependence using the knowledge, gifts, and abilities--the wisdom--He has created within us to make decisions that honor Him, not us. And then announcing, "God, here I come!" knowing He will be there to make sure everything turns out okay.

You may not believe that God stands ready to catch you in His arms. You may not have had the benefits of being raised in the secure and loving setting that you are providing for your children or grandchildren. Maybe instead of loving, protecting and defending you, your parents, grandparents, and other family members did the exact opposite.

Let me suggest that you find someone to share with, someone who by their example gives you a glimpse of the loving nature of the God you can trust to always provide and who wants the very best for you. Start there to catch the view of the God who waits for you. Start there to develop that eternal relationship with the God you can trust to catch you when you fall or when you jump, yelling, "God here I come." AMEN.

UNCOMMON KEY > *Spend time with children to see their simple approach to life. And then try to adopt that approach in your own life. If things seem too complicated, find someone you can confide in. And pray that God will give you the faith of a little child.* AMEN.

*Uncommon Life-Daily Challenge
~~ Tony Dungy and Nathan Whitaker*

A MEDITATION FOR EVERY MARRIED COUPLE

KINGDOM COUPLES LEAN ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

H. was a splendid thing; a soul straight, bright, and tempered like a sword. But not a perfected saint. A sinful woman married to a sinful man: two of God's patients, not yet cured.

- C.S. Lewis about his wife, Joy, in *A Grief Observed*

Some people will tell you that *opposites attract*. But what allows unlikely personalities to find each other and ultimately become one? For believers it's the Holy Spirit's unifying power, and the result can be powerful for the Kingdom.

When C.S. Lewis and Joy Gresham married, eyebrows shot heavenward. C.S. "Jack" Lewis was one of the most beloved Christian authors of all time, and Joy Davidson Gresham, a fellow writer, was a confident and outspoken New Yorker with none of the genteel sensibilities of the mannerly British. **Her first husband had left her for another, and she moved to England where she and Jack became friends.** Over several years, their friendship bloomed into love, but sadly during their brief marriage, Joy would battle the cancer that took her life. Though opposites in some ways, their brief ten-year relationship played an impactful part in his writing. **A professor who wrote about the marriage concluded that without this unlikely union, "the Lewis collection would be smaller and poorer."** God used a stoic, contemplative old bachelor and a harried, struggling mother to further His kingdom purposes.

A classic illustration about unity is mayonnaise. "Oil and water do not mix." So, the makers of mayonnaise introduced an emulsifier into the ingredients.

An emulsifier helps things that are at odds with each other to get along. The Holy Spirit is the emulsifier in any marriage. When there is ongoing conflict between Christian husbands and wives, one or both parties have ignored the emulsifying work of the Holy Spirit. As a result, they can no longer point to this shared work of the Spirit in their lives. The Holy Spirit is the key to unity with you and your spouse regardless of the differences that seek to divide you. AMEN.

APPLICATION

1. In what ways are you and your spouse different?
2. How do your differences hinder or help your relationship?
3. What can you do to embrace the unique qualities in your spouse?

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for differences in our personalities:

Guide us to celebrate these while embracing the purpose in our union.
AMEN.

*Kingdom Marriage Devotional
~~ Dr. Tony Evans*



DEVOTIONAL FOR SINGLES

WORTH THE WAIT

“Let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.”

James 1:4 CSB

Baking homemade bread is much more difficult than it appears. I had watched a friend work her magic with yeast, dough roller, and oven, and had tasted the glorious results she produced. So, I decided to try my hand at it too--not realizing it would be a year and a half before I could pull out any soft, billowing, golden loaves to match hers. Yes, nearly two years of perfecting it. Some were nice tries, but others were pretty sad. My family chomped their way through quite a few dense, heavy batches that were advertised with seductive aroma from the kitchen but fell a little flat in the execution.

Honestly, it was a frustrating process, requiring a great deal of time, patience, diligence and detail.

But some dreams, I’ve found are like that. They take months and years before they finally come to fruition. In fact, the more worthwhile and satisfying they are, the longer they generally take to accomplish. Like the walls of Jerusalem that took Nehemiah fifty-two days to rebuild. Like Solomon’s Temple, which took seven years to construct. Like the Israelites’ forty-year trek through the wilderness of Sinai to the Promised Land--their hearts being refined in the heat of the desert. Some things--things worth having and achieving--take time to complete.

Readings in those early books of the Old Testament can often seem tedious and fraught with endless details. We are often tempted to skip some of the more detailed stories and circumstances. But in those pages, we see that God was working on *people*, not just the *projects* that those people were trying to complete. And the transformation of those people took time. He was revealing His nature to them, introducing them to principles of obedience and blessings, and of sin and repercussions. **But in the struggle for them to understand--even in our struggle to hang in there when we read their stories--He leads us to Jesus.**

Is there a goal you’ve been working toward? An ambition or dream you’ve been aiming to reach? The Lord knows how many hours you’ve put in and how much energy you’ve expended. He’s not unaware or ambivalent to your diligence. **He knows your hardships and frustrations. And with every step, He’s been working right along with you, nipping and tucking and turning you into a version of you that’s becoming increasingly--mature. Complete. Lacking nothing. This kind of work--this masterpiece--doesn’t happen overnight. It takes time.**

So, keep pressing into it, breaking it down into smaller-sized portions that don’t appear quite so overwhelming. Endure. The day is coming--sooner than you think--when you’ll not only be able to enjoy the fruit of your diligence, but you’ll see that while you were working on it, God was working on *you*.

And that’ll taste pretty sweet. AMEN.

“May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy.”
COLOSSIANS 1:11 ESV

*Awaken
~~Priscilla Shirer*

TEEN'S CORNER

JESUS IS MY HERO

The Lord will march forth like a mighty hero.
--Isaiah 42:13 NLT



Jesus is certainly superhero material. He may not have worn a flashy outfit, complete with leotard and a cape. He might not have had laser vision or bionic legs, but don't let that fool you.

The citizens of first-century Palestine often sought his help. He multiplied a meager lunch into enough food for thousands. With little more than a few words, he transformed jugs of tap water into fine wine. His powerful hands healed incurable illnesses and lifelong disabilities. Violent storms were stilled by the sound of his voice. **Demonic minions scattered at the mention of his name.** On at least one occasion, he passed through a locked door as if it wasn't even there. **And though his sandals must have logged hundreds of miles during his life, he was not limited to such ordinary means of transportation.** At the end of his life on earth, he ascended back into heaven without using a helicopter or a rocket suit.

Not even the archenemy Death could defeat him. *"Where O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? . . . Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Cor. 15: 55, 57). Jesus won that epic battle in a most decisive victory, standing up and walking out of his own grave.

Now that's definitely superhero stuff. But do you want to know something truly incredible? Something absolutely *amazing*? Something really *awesome*? **God gives that same power to those of us who believe in him.** It's true. **Hard to believe, I know.** Not often experienced, I understand. **But the better we know Jesus, the more we'll imitate him. And the more we know and follow him, the more we understand the power-filled life that he promises (see Eph. 1:17-23).** God wants his power to be a part of your story. **He offers you the power to overcome the addiction, release the bitterness, repair the relationship, or whatever else you might add to this list. Nothing is too difficult for the God who conquered death. AMEN.**

Following Today

Are you living a life of power, or do you regularly feel defeated? In what areas of your life do you feel like you could use some heroic strength? Admit your weakness here. Then pray believing God's truth for you. "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak" (Isa. 40:20). AMEN.

Not a Fan. Daily Devotional
~~Kyle Iddleman



DEVOTIONAL FOR SENIORS

The Real Thing!

*“But whoever keeps his word,
in him truly the love of God is perfected. “
1 John 2:5*

On April 23, 1985, Coca-Cola announced that it was changing its 100-year-old formula by introducing “New Coke.” There was a firestorm of consumer protest over changing a formula that was thought to be tried and true. Protesters at a Coca-Cola event in Atlanta were seen carrying signs that read, “We want the real thing.” Ultimately, the folks at Coca-Cola brought back classic Coke. Many people find excitement in things that are brand new. Yet there is value in something or someone who has been around for a while. The older we get, the more “mileage” or “experience” we have to share in shaping lives. Pointing to our experiences (including our errors), we then point to the love of God in Christ Jesus who comes to us in his Word and forgives our sins. The love of God never goes out of style. Dear Jesus, in sharing my experiences, help me to be a blessing to others. Amen.

How has God used your experiences to mold you into the person you are today?

*Hope-full Living Daily Devotions
~~Jonathan Vierkant*

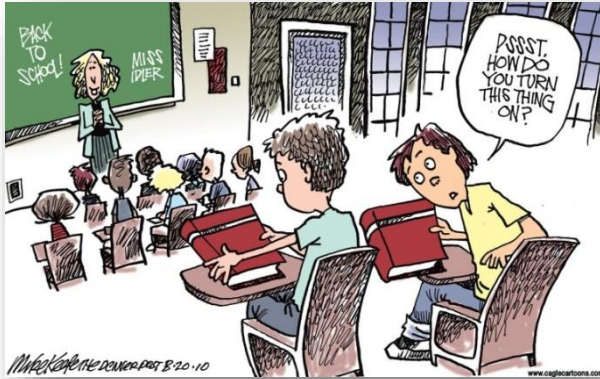
Quotes for Today:

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” – *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

“Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it.” – *Dennis P. Kimbro*

“Rule #1 of life. Do what makes YOU happy.” – *Unknown*

“Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.”
– *Joshua J. Marin*



Humor... It's School Time Again!!

True Teacher Stories: Funny Stuff Kids Say in the Classroom

This is a collection of stories from real teachers posted by Angela Wilson, a National Board Certified Teacher and founder of Due Season Press and Educational Services. The names of the teachers are unknown. Enjoy!

During the Christmas/holiday classroom party, a boy comes up to me with a gift bag (obviously re-used) and says: "Here teacher...my mom got this present and she didn't want it and she called everyone in our family and they didn't want it either so she said to just bring it to school and give it to you!" I love how they tell the truth! If their parents only knew how much they really tell us.

Mine happened at the beginning of this year. At one point all the students were doing their assignments and on task. It was a lovely few minutes! LOL Anyway, this one girl all of a sudden yelled out "I'm tired of this! Raise your hand if you want to go home!" Well, of course most of the class raised their hands and that lovely time was over. She reminds me, in some ways, of Junie B. Jones and I think that comment is something she might say. I try to laugh them off (in my head) but oh, how sometimes it's really a challenge.

As Christmas approached, a boy announced that Santa Claus isn't real. One of my bright students tearfully said, "Ms. A., he's disrespecting my religious beliefs!"

Student A didn't do her homework and told me that she couldn't because her mom made her go buy a new cat that night and she wanted to play with the cat instead and her mom said it was okay... This story checked out. A phone call later, mom says yes, she was too tired from playing with her cat so she didn't see the need for her to do her homework. She'll do it another time.

I teach third grade. About a month ago we had a sick student who was out for a couple of weeks. I told my class that I would get some things for him; we would make some get well cards and send it all to the boy. I got some things from Wal-Mart and left them in my truck. I asked three of my boys to go to my truck (parked right outside our door) and get the items from the back seat. I gave one of the boys a list- model airplane, poster to color, crossword puzzle etc.... When they came back into the room he was holding several sacks. I could see that one of the small sacks held a box of tampons. (I forgot they were back there.) My teaching partner was in my room and before I could do anything the boy took them out of the sack, held them up over his head and yells, "I guess this is the crossword puzzle." My co-teacher and I were both so red and trying not to laugh that I just said, "Uh-huh" and put the box back in the bag. His mom is an Assistant Principal on another campus. I emailed her to tell her the story and so that she would know if they were ever on the feminine product aisle and he asked for a crossword puzzle she would know what he meant. She thought it was too funny.

HUMOR....continued

Many years ago, when I was teaching 5th grade, I was grading students' science homework papers. One of the questions was "Who developed the system of naming organisms?" or something like that. Anyway, the correct answer was supposed to be Carl Linnaeus. One of my students wrote 'Adam' for his answer. When I questioned him about it, he said he was referring to Adam in the Bible. He had learned in Sunday School that Adam had named all the animals in the Garden of Eden. Guess what? I counted his answer correct!

My first year of teaching I had a boy named Patrick who never hung up his coat. I was tired of it and I warned him that it was going in the trash can the next time I found it on the floor. Well, the next time it happened...I threw it in the trash, with the good intention of taking it out within a few minutes. Within that few minutes a student felt sick and vomited in the trash can! Did I have some explaining to do to his parents. I was very lucky because I knew one parent and had worked with him before I became a teacher. I called him to explain, and he laughed and said they had the same problem with him at home. Boy, was I lucky. I offered to get it dry cleaned, but they said "No. Send it home in a garbage bag!"

I teach kindergarten and when I was urging a student to get down to work, he looked up and me and said, "You do know that I didn't sign up for this. My dad did it."

My first year of teaching I had a terribly naughty little boy (he tried to pull the fire alarm on the first day of school). About midway through the year he drew a picture at free time and brought it up to show me. He pointed to the pictures saying, "Look, this is me and on my shoulders I drew those two guys that tell you to do good things or bad things... I like to listen to the bad one!" It was so funny (and true) all I could do was hug him and laugh!

Another time we had been talking about healthy eating and our bodies and one boy raised his hand and said, "If you look at your arms you can see the VINES inside your body."

This one came from my then 4-year old grandson...I had promised to take him to the local ice cream shop one summer evening. He had been playing with some neighborhood friends and if we were going to get to the shop before it closed we needed to leave. As I put him in the car, he protested because he wanted to play some more. Well, we were driving and I turned to him and asked, "What kind of ice cream are you going to get tonight?" He would not answer me. So I turned to my husband who was driving and said, "I guess I'm getting the silent treatment." From the backseat we heard, "I don't think they have that kind."

I was teaching in a rural school district in a town of about 1200 people. It was 3rd grade. We were discussing Native American Indians. The kids were really into the discussion, when one little girl named Alysha raised her hand and said, "I know a whole lot about Native American Indians!" I said, "Oh you do?" She said, "Yes, the reason I know so much about them is because my daddy is FULL BLOODED REDNECK!"

<https://thecornerstoneforteachers.com/kid-stories/>

Hilarious Classroom Stories Guaranteed to Give You a Laugh

The Honest Student

During my first meeting with my physically challenged students, I assured them that most people are handicapped in some way. "Look at me," I said. "My eyes are so bad, I need to wear glasses. Because I can

HUMOR....continued

barely hear I need a hearing aid. And look at my ears—they're much bigger than they should be." From the back, a boy added, "And your nose too."

English as Second Language Students

For 98 percent of the students at the school where my wife teaches, English is a second language. But that didn't stop them from giving her Christmas cards. Still, their enthusiasm for the occasion sometimes exceeded their grasp of English. Among the many cards that flooded her desk were: "Happy Birthday, Grandma," "Get Well Soon," and "Congratulations on Passing Your Driving Test!" Teachers truly play incredible roles in student's lives.

<https://www.rd.com/funny-stuff/funny-school-stories/>



Funnies for the Rest of Us

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

The Sabbath School Teacher asked, "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?" "No, sir," Johnny replies, "I don't have to. My mom is a good cook!"

I had been teaching my three-year-old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail. Amen."

And one particular four-year-old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

A Sabbath school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

The preacher was wired for sound with a lapel microphone, and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mike cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

<https://www.godvine.com/read/church-going-kids-535.html>

BULLYING AND OUR CHILDREN

There are many warning signs that may indicate that someone is affected by bullying—either being bullied or bullying others. Recognizing the warning signs is an important first step in taking action against bullying. Not all children who are bullied or are bullying others ask for help.

It is important to talk with children who show signs of being bullied or bullying others. These warning signs can also point to other issues or problems, such as depression or substance abuse. Talking to the child can help identify the root of the problem.



Signs a Child Is Being Bullied

Look for changes in the child. However, be aware that not all children who are bullied exhibit warning signs.

Some signs that may point to a bullying problem are:

- Unexplainable injuries
- Lost or destroyed clothing, books, electronics, or jewelry
- Frequent headaches or stomach aches, feeling sick or faking illness
- Changes in eating habits, like suddenly skipping meals or binge eating. Kids may come home from school hungry because they did not eat lunch.
- Difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Declining grades, loss of interest in schoolwork, or not wanting to go to school
- Sudden loss of friends or avoidance of social situations
- Feelings of helplessness or decreased self esteem
- Self-destructive behaviors such as running away from home, harming themselves, or talking about suicide

If you know someone in serious distress or danger, don't ignore the problem. Get help right away.

Get Help Now

If you have done everything you can to resolve the situation and nothing has worked, or someone is in immediate danger, there are ways to get help.

The problem

There has been a crime or someone is at immediate risk of harm.

Someone is feeling hopeless, helpless, thinking of suicide.

What you can do

Call 911.

Contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline online or at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

The toll-free call goes to the nearest crisis center in our national network. These centers provide 24-hour crisis counseling and mental health referrals.

BULLYING...continued

Someone is acting differently than normal, such as always seeming sad or anxious, struggling to complete tasks, or not being able care for themselves.

A child is being bullied in school.

The school is not adequately addressing harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or religion.

Find a local counselor or other mental health services

The Mental Health and Addiction Insurance Help consumer portal prototype can help consumers get to the correct resource to solve their Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder insurance coverage issue.

Contact the:

Teacher
School counselor
School principal
School superintendent
State Department of Education

Contact:

School Superintendent
State Department of Education
U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division

Signs a Child is Bullying Others

Kids may be bullying others if they:

- Get into physical or verbal fights
- Have friends who bully others
- Are increasingly aggressive
- Get sent to the principal's office or to detention frequently
- Have unexplained extra money or new belongings
- Blame others for their problems
- Don't accept responsibility for their actions
- Are competitive and worry about their reputation or popularity

Why don't kids ask for help?

Statistics from the *2012 Indicators of School Crime and Safety - PDF* show that an adult was notified in less than half (40%) of bullying incidents. Kids don't tell adults for many reasons:

- Bullying can make a child feel helpless. Kids may want to handle it on their own to feel in control again. They may fear being seen as weak or a tattletale.
- Kids may fear backlash from the kid who bullied them.
- Bullying can be a humiliating experience. Kids may not want adults to know what is being said about them, whether true or false. They may also fear that adults will judge them or punish them for being weak.
- Kids who are bullied may already feel socially isolated. They may feel like no one cares or could understand.
- Kids may fear being rejected by their peers. Friends can help protect kids from bullying, and kids can fear losing this support.

STOP BULLYING.GOV

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/at-risk/warning-signs/index.html>

A Story to Warm Your Heart – Acts of Kindness. . .

*We get in return exactly what we give. It all comes back.
Incredible echoes mirror our actions to an empathic degree,
sometimes in greater measure than we give.*

Charles (Chuck) Swindoll

GOD'S LOVE IN A BASEBALL CARD?

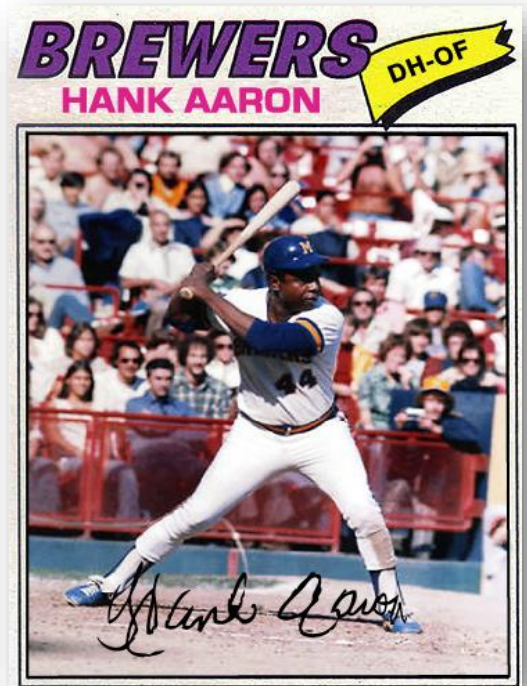
by John Nielsen

It is August 1999. We are in a small town in Northern Michigan at our son's wedding reception. The best man, Doug, is about to make a toast. I look at our son, Ben, and I marvel at the man he has become. My mind drifts away for a moment, reflecting on some events from the last twenty-five years.

It is late March 1974. It is 2 a.m. and I have fallen momentarily asleep. We are at the hospital waiting on the birth of our first child. The doctor nudges my shoulder. "We're going to have to do a C-section. Labor has not progressed in several hours. The baby is in fetal distress." Okay. I am worried. There is a blur of activity. My wife only wants relief from the nauseating pain. The surgery is quick. In 1974, most fathers still waited in the fathers' room. Shortly, the doctor returned. "You have a son. Mother and child are fine." My mind races with a flood of thoughts: *Is he healthy? Will his mother recover? What will he become? What will we do together?* Soon life returns to normal, and we are grateful to God for his gift to us.

As I begin to listen to the best man's toast at the wedding, more memories fly by in my thoughts. There was the first fish he caught. Though only a small sunfish, it was an incredible marvel to a four-year-old watching it slowly rise out of the water's depth. Hunting and fishing were to become his passions. Overtime he devoted most of his spare time and money to these pursuits. We approved. Young people have a difficult enough time growing up in our contemporary society. Because of his love for the outdoors, we never really had to worry about him.

One other interest area captured some of his time between the ages of seven and twelve. Like most boys his age, he loved to collect baseball cards. By whatever means were at his disposal and with great gusto and passion, he collected these cards representing his boyhood heroes. Over time, he amassed a rather large collection. The cards themselves represented carefully saved and spent allowance money, chore money, gifts from friends, holiday stocking stuffers, vacation souvenirs, birthday presents and, of course, the product of



A STORY TO WARM YOUR HEARTS...continued

intricately planned trading sessions with his buddies. Special cards dating back to the early 1950s were purchased or received as gifts.

Then, like many things in life, his interest in sports cards and collecting began to wane. The large box with the card collection found its quiet resting place in the back of a closet as if it were waiting for better days. It was a box of memories and repository of connections with the past.

Back to the wedding. I am looking at Ben's new bride, Andrea. She is beautiful and full of pride for her new husband. It is a special moment. I wonder if she knows how much she means to Ben. A few months earlier Ben had shared his intent with us to marry Andrea. We were pleased but a little taken aback that he was ready to make one of life's most meaningful commitments. His pursuit of his interest areas had not left him well-positioned to buy an engagement ring. As parents we felt that it was important for Ben to find the means to purchase the ring. Our hope was that it would help him realize the extent of the commitment he was making, and it would help him experience the self-sacrifice that goes into making a relationship work.

The process of saving for the ring quickly became tedious. The passions of young love seemed frustrated by the process. Ben came up with the idea of selling his sports card collection. After all, it was worth quite a bit of money by now and it was only gathering dust in the closet. What could be more important than solidifying his relationship with Andrea? After cataloging the cards and getting some idea of their worth, Ben set a price for the collection. A friend's father seemed to see the value in the collection as an investment and he purchased it. Ben couldn't have been happier. Though there was some sense of loss for the collection, he could now go about the business of forming a permanent relationship with Andrea.

Back to the wedding toast. . . The best man, Doug, had just finished describing some of the good times he and Ben had experienced hunting together. He then began telling the story of a young boy's love of his baseball card collection and his ultimate willingness to sell the collection to buy a diamond ring for his wife-to-be. A light hush fell over the reception as the guests began to realize the significance of the sacrifice Ben had made. As Doug proceeded with his toast, many eyes began to well up with tears. Perhaps those listening identified with the loss of something meaningful as part of pursuing a loving relationship.

And then the incredible happened. It was Doug's father who had purchased the card collection several months earlier. In an unbelievable moment of kindness and grace, Doug gave Ben's card collection back to him. It was a stunning reminder of how God's love can be mirrored through us to others.

We will never forget that moment. It was as if time stood still. Briefly, we were able to glimpse part of the true significance of life—through baseball cards!

Now it is October 1999. Ben has his new wife. Their marriage is a joyful thing to behold as they live out their young love for each other. He also has his baseball cards—probably gathering dust in a new closet. You see, it is not the cards and their memories that count. In this instance, these simple sports cards were a clear example of God's unconditional love and grace for us—a gift we can never fully repay. The marriage will grow. The sports cards will be a legacy to pass on. The message of God's awesome grace that they represent will, hopefully, be repeated many times over by those who chose to see it on a summer evening in a small town in Northern Michigan.

Canfield, Jack, et al. *Chicken Soup for the Christian Family Soul*. Deerpark Beach: Health Communications, 2000

The History of Labor Day

Many people are off work for the Labor Day holiday and have special dinners to celebrate the 'un-official end of summer' but don't have a clue about what the day means or how it began.

Read more, to increase your knowledge!



Labor Day: What it Means

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

Labor Day Legislation

The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed in 1885 and 1886. From these, a movement developed to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During 1887 four more states — Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 more states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1884, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

Founder of Labor Day

More than a century after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers.

Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

But Peter McGuire's place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What is clear is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic.

The History of Labor Day...continued

The First Labor Day

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

A Nationwide Holiday



The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take was outlined in the first proposal of the holiday — a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of

the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday proceeding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

The character of the Labor Day celebration has undergone a change in recent years, especially in large industrial centers where mass displays and huge parades have proved a problem. This change, however, is more a shift in emphasis and medium of expression. Labor Day addresses by leading union officials, industrialists, educators, clerics and government officials are given wide coverage in newspapers, radio, and television.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pays tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.

<https://www.dol.gov/general/laborday/history>



**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO
EVERYONE BORN IN THE MONTHS OF
SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER**



UBC COMMUNICATION CARDS: Anyone worshipping with us today and “making a decision for Christ” by using one of our UBC Communication Cards found in the pocket of the pews, is encouraged to follow-up your decision TODAY, by contacting REVEREND ALVIN L. WYATT, Minister of Christian Life and Witness at (513) 381-3858. When calling, please leave your name, the spelling of your name, the date and time of your call, and, most importantly, a telephone number where you may be reached. **Reverend Wyatt will be in touch with you**, as quickly as possible, after receiving your telephone call, as to the next steps in your decision(s) for Christ. GOD BLESS YOU.

PRAYER BAND MINISTRY: A Prayer Request Box with forms is available in the vestibule leading into the sanctuary. **In the future, look for prayer request cards in the pew pockets.** Please feel free to place your prayer request(s) in the box located in the vestibule at any time. Our prayer partners stand ready to pray with you, and for you. Please see the flyer on page 24 for additional information. **Thank you, Prayer Band Members**

NEED A RIDE TO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE? If you are in need of a ride to Church, please call (513) 981-0423 and leave your name and your telephone number. GOD BLESS YOU.

WORSHIP HOURS FOR EARLY MORNING, SUNDAY SCHOOL AND MID-MORNING WORSHIP: Union Baptist Church will resume Early Morning Worship on **October 7, 2018** at 8:00 a.m.; Sunday Church School will be held from 9:00 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.; and Mid-Morning Worship Celebration at 10:00 a.m.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY RESUMES ON TUESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M. ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2018 WITH A NEW BIBLE SERIES: Please see the flyer on page 31.

~~ Pastor Yates

WEDNESDAY NOON DAY BIBLE STUDY AT 12 P.M. AND WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY AT 7:00 P.M. RESUMES ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2018. Please see the flyers on pages 32 and 33 for more information. ~~ Pastor Yates

DEACONS MINISTRY: The Deacons Ministry will have meetings on Monday, **September 10th at 7:00 p.m.** and **Monday, October 15th** in the Page Archives Library. **Please have your updated monthly Family Ward Reports.** ~~Pastor Yates

GREETING CARD MINISTRY: The Greeting Card Ministry will distribute address labels for cards to send Union Baptist's sick and shut in members on **September 9, 2018**. Thank you. ~~ Sis. Kathy Spratley, Ministry Leader

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 (Continued)

HOME & FOREIGN MISSION EMPHASIS MONTH: In our ongoing efforts to be obedient to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Great Commission He has given to his disciples, we are once again asking that each member **give a sacrificial offering of \$20.00 by the fourth Sunday in September** and pray daily for God's will to be done in our world which needs his grace and healing power. Your offerings will allow our church to send a generous contribution to the Home & Foreign Mission Boards of the National Baptist Convention U.S.A. Inc.

~~ Pastor Yates

ANNUAL GRANDPARENTS/SENIOR CITIZENS DAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION: Rev. George F. Southerland, Pastor Emeritus of the First Baptist Church of Cumminsville will be the guest minister at the 10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration on **September 9, 2018**.

WOMEN'S DAY 2018 CHOIR REHEARSALS: Rehearsals for the Women's Day Choir are scheduled for **September 6, 13, and 20, 2018 at 7:00 pm**. All women of Union are asked to please participate.

~~ Sis. Felicia Mazion-Bryant, 2018 Women's Day Co- Chairperson

ADS FOR WOMEN'S DAY 2018 SOUVENIR BOOKLET ARE DUE ON SEPTEMBER 14TH: The costs of ads and patron lists are as follows:

- Full Page - \$100.00
- Half Page - \$50.00
- Quarter Page - \$25.00
- Business Card 1/8 Page - \$10.00
- Patron List per Name - \$2.00



ADDITIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2018 ANOUNCEMENTS: The Women's Day assessment is \$100.00. Incremental payments of the assessment may be made throughout the year. You may include your assessment in your offering envelope and please designate Women's Day on the outside of the envelope. Please be prayerful and do your best.

Please mark your calendar for the following Women's Day Celebrations:

- **Sowing Seeds Praise and Worship Celebration on Saturday, September 8, 2018 at 10:00 am**. Please see the flyer on page 27 for additional information.
- **Women's Day Worship Celebration on September 23, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday Church School at 9:00 a.m.** Please see the flyer on page 26 for additional information.

~~ Sis. Denise Harris, 2018 Women's Day Chairperson, and Sis. Felicia Mazion-Bryant, 2018 Women's Day Co-Chairperson

THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY RETURNS FROM SUMMER BREAK ON SEPTEMBER 16TH: The 2018 – 2019 Children's Ministry returns to our full schedule for both Children's Ministry and the Nursery on **September 16, 2018**. ~~ Rev. Emanuel Marshall

UNION WORSHIPS AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAZELWOOD ON SEPTEMBER 16TH AT 4:00 P.M.: The congregation of Union Baptist Church is invited to worship at First Baptist Church of Hazelwood for Pastor Donald E. Garrett's 7th Anniversary. First Baptist Church is located at 11085 Centennial Avenue (45242). Pastor Yates will preach and the Music Ministry and Usher Ministry are asked to serve. Please see the flyer on page 25 for additional information about revival services that will also be held for this special occasion.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 (Continued)

OUR DAILY BREAD FOR SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2018: The quarterly Our Daily Bread is now available for the months of September, October and November 2018. Please see an usher to pick up one for yourself, family members and friends.

THE MUSIC MINISTRY WILL OBSERVE ITS ANNUAL CHOIRS DAY ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2018: More information will be forthcoming. ~~ Bro. Jay Bailey, Minister of Music

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR FALL CEMETERY CLEAN-UP AT UNION BAPTIST CEMETERY ON OCTOBER 17, 2018 FROM 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM: Please see details on the flyer on page 28.
~~ Cemetery Committee

FOURTH QUARTERLY CHURCH CONFERENCE: The fourth quarterly church conference will be held on Friday, October 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend this important quarterly meeting.
~~ Pastor Yates

SARPM WORKSHOP ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2018, 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.: Can Men See Your Light? *Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify the Father which is in heaven* (Matthew 5:15). The Substance Abuse Recovery and Prevention Ministry will host this dynamic workshop in Hayes Hall with **Guest Speaker, Sis. Marilyn Taylor**. You don't want to miss it! All are invited to attend. Thank you. ~~ Sis. Phyllis Matthews, Ministry Leader and Sis. Yvonne Fairbanks, Co-Ministry Leader.

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S HARVEST PARTY ON OCTOBER 31, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M.: All children are encouraged to attend. Please see **Rev. Marshall** for additional information and to make donations.

REPORTING ILLNESSES, SURGERIES AND BEREAVEMENT INFORMATION: Please contact the church office if you or a loved one is sick or entering the hospital, so that your Family Ward Deacon and Pastor may be notified. Please also let the office know if you or a loved one is being released from the hospital. If there is bereavement in your family, please notify the church office at (513) 381-3858. ~~ Church Office Staff

TO MY CHURCH FAMILY: Next year, in February, I will embark on a mission trip to Jamaica with **Christian Service International located in Munich, Indiana**. Our project will involve building a two-room house for a needy family. In addition, **each participant is asked to bring donations of men, women, and children's clothing along with school supplies**. At this time, I am asking for the above items along with any monetary donations. If you are so led to help in this endeavor please contact me to make arrangements for any and all donations. *And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased* (Hebrews 13:16). Thank you and may God bless you in all you do. ~~ Sis. Doris Walker

GREETERS' MINISTRY: We are now and always in need of new greeters for morning worship service. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please see Sis. Doris Walker after morning worship. May the Lord bless and keep you in his care. ~~ Sis. Doris Walker, Greeters Ministry Leader

MATTHEW 25 MINISTRY: Our last and final outreach opportunity for 2018 will be **Saturday, October 13th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Thank everyone who served to make this ministry a success in helping the poorest of the poor. ~~ Sis. Doris Walker, Ministry Leader

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 (Continued)**

THANK YOU'S AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

A special and heartfelt thank you goes out to Sister Kathy Spratley for the lovely flowers in front of the church. During my husband's recovery, she informed me that I need not worry about the flowers outside because she would take care of them for I had enough on my plate taking care of him. We all have angels during difficult times and she was mine. You are so special and truly a blessing. God bless you!

Sis. Doris Walker, Horticultural Ministry Leader

To Pastor and Sis. Margie Yates and my Church Family:

Thank you is not enough for my cards, phone calls and gifts during my recuperation for two broken fingers. I'm still healing by God's grace. I'm making great progress.

Thank you. Peace and blessings to all.

Sis. Ramona L. Swan

To Pastor and Union Baptist Church:

May God return to you the kindness you have shown to me. Thank you.

Sincerest Regards,

Sis. Amberlyn V. Marshall

To Pastor Yates, Deaconess and Ministers' Wives Ministry and my Church Family:

Thanking Him for you. 1,000 Thank you's are not enough for your support and prayers during our time of grief. We are truly grateful; our mother loved her time here at Union and we know she is at peace.

God bless you all!

Sis. Dillard and the Spencer Family

To Union Baptist Church:

We deeply appreciate your kind expression of sympathy in our time of sorrow.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Nita Walker and the Tracy E. Williams, Jr. Family of Augusta, Ga.

The Shop at Union

Staff & Management



Would Like to Thank You for Helping Us to Exceed our Annual Income Budget.

This Could Not Have Been Made Possible Without Your Loyal Support.

Because of Your Generosity, Please Accept Our Generosity

By Presenting This Coupon To Receive 25% Off

The Next Item You Purchase From The Shop at Union!

God Bless You for Support of our Ministry. AMEN!

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 (Continued)

MESSAGE FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

What's next after I confess Jesus Christ as my risen savior?

After accepting Jesus Christ as your risen savior, and you go through your emersion (baptism) in the water; you shed your old nature for your new nature. The next thing anyone old enough must start doing is, studying God's word (Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth) 2Timothy 2:15. We all must continuously study God's word if we are to learn more about what He has in store for us, as we continue on our spiritual journey.



I therefore encourage parents, to start having your children attend Sunday school, so they can learn more about the wonderful God we serve. We have classes for all ages; our teachers are here every Sunday with lesson plans that will assist even the youngest child in learning more about Jesus Christ.

We also have a new members class for the adults, which is taught by Rev. Alvin Wyatt; we also have a number of adult (Co-Ed) classes as well. There is also a class for our older teens.

I am making this appeal because we are living in end times, church family. Our children, and even adults who have strayed away from the church must turn back to God, and not to what the world is saying they can do on their own. It is my prayer that the church will make a sincere effort to get back to studying God's Word, not only on Sunday mornings, but throughout the week.

May God bless and keep you is my prayer.

Deacon Ernest Norman, Superintendent

Are You Married or Just Dating the Church?

Now the difference in the two is obvious. Dating is a kind of trial period in a relationship where your commitments are soft, relationships are tentative, and you keep your options open. Marriage is a covenant relationship of devotion and sacrifice and joy. In marriage, you've burned the ships, there's no turning back, and you only have eyes for the one to whom you have pledged yourself.

So, I ask you again, are you married to the church-- fully devoted, making sacrificial investment of time and money and energy? Or are you just dating the church: nominally involved, partially invested, maintaining enough detachment so that if it doesn't work out the way you want, you can hit the door with no lingering obligations.

So, I ask you again, are you married or just dating the church? ~~Author Unknown

Submitted by Sis. Doris Walker, Greeters Ministry Leader



INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 (Continued)

The Union Foundation

"generating resources & services to impact our community"

Do you like to shop? Do you also have a desire to support the mission of The Union Foundation? Do you know that you could combine these two desires to assist The Union Foundation?

The Union Foundation has partnered with the **Kroger Company** and **Amazon** to receive donations from these companies for purchases made by customers who have selected The Union Foundation as the supported charitable organization. There is no cost to the customers for registering for these programs.

To register your Kroger purchases for this program, you will need to provide a copy of the reverse side of your Kroger Card to Sis. Jaci Powell. She will register the card with the Kroger Company.

To register for the Amazon program, please go to smile.amazon.com. Please select The Union Foundation as your designated charity. Then go shop! The Union Foundation thanks you for your support.

Should you have any questions, please see Sis. Jaci Powell, Director of The Union Foundation or Dea. Darrell Phillips, Chairperson of The Union Foundation.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY UPDATE



The Union Baptist Church Women's Ministry salutes Sis. Doris Walker in her committed leadership of the Matthew 25 Ministry efforts. The women of Union had a chance to minister at Matthew 25 Ministries on Saturday, August 11, 2018. A good time was had by all.

Praise the Lord for the volunteers who join us at **Matthew 25 Ministries** on August 11th. We sorted clothing for families in dire need all over the world. Our work time seems to go so fast because of the joyful spirits of our volunteers. This time we asked about mission trips and how we can participate next year. (West Virginia and/or Haiti). More information to come. Our last visit of the year will be Saturday, October 13th, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. We are inviting the PDYM and their parents and friends to join us.

For more information, contact **Sis. Doris Walker** our **Matthew 25 Ministry Outreach Leader**



INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 (Continued)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY UPDATE (Continued)

The Union Baptist Church Women's Ministry salutes Sis. Tristan Cargile and Sis. Carol Cargile on the occasion of the 5th Year Anniversary of the Vessels of Praise Ministry. The 3-day anniversary celebration kicked off on Friday, June 29, 2018, with a reception at the Madisonville Arts Center. Entertainment was provided by Bro. Herb Brock and his band members. A praise dance was presented by Sis. Zinadia Hicks. Delicious food was prepared and served by Sis. Melanie Montgomery. First Lady Erica Garrett of First Baptist Church of Hazelwood, graciously served as our Mistress of Ceremonies. Sis. Renee Payne was surprised with an award of appreciation from her former Glory Girls.



The second day of the anniversary celebration consisted of a full-day dance workshop. Several praise dance troupes joined with the Vessels of Praise to receive instruction on praise dancing, miming, and the use of flags in the dance ministry and worship experience.

The anniversary celebration culminated on Sunday, July 1, 2018, in a spirit-filled worship celebration where not only the UBC dance ministry, but other dance ministries from the community came together to praise and worship the Lord. Union was blessed to have P. Ann Everson Price serve as the Mistress of Ceremonies for this wonderful event. When all of the praise dance dancers came together for the finale dance, there was no question that God's presence filled the sanctuary. Congratulations to Tristan for a well-planned and spiritual event. All praise and honor is given to God for using the Vessels of Praise Dance Ministry in his Kingdom work!

Sis. Louise Stevenson, Women's Ministry Chairperson
Sis. Rogena Stargel, Women's Ministry Co-Chairperson



INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 (Continued)

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY

In June 2018, the UBC Scholarship ministry recognized the 2018 high school and college graduates:

Amberlyn Marshall
Jamari Gay-Shabazz
Aaliyah Mazion-Yates
Faith Roberson
Demetrius Hyneman
Elijah Peppers
Donna Johnson

The high school graduates were blessed with scholarships from:

Union Baptist Church
Eastern Personnel
The Clarence G. Pierre Scholarship
The James and Clara Young Scholarship
The Freddie Powell Junior Memorial Scholarship
The Angelita Jones Book Scholarship
The Powell Rogers Scholarship
The George Thomas Scholarship

Gifts were given to the graduates by the Union Baptist Church Usher Ministry, the Vessels of Praise Dance Ministry and Pastor and Sis. Yates.

The Scholarship Ministry would like to announce that the McGoodwin Scholarship was awarded to Aaliyah Mazion-Yates and Amberlyn Marshall.

The committee thanks all of the scholarship donors for the support of this ministry. The committee prays for the continued success of these graduates as they continue on their journey.



INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 (Continued)

ARE YOU A SENIOR AND WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE? Then this University of Cincinnati opportunity is for you! Scholarships are available at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of U.C. Online and mail registration began on August 21, 2018 for the Fall Quarter. Please contact 513-556-9186 or uc.edu/ce/olli or olli@uc.edu. ~~~**Sis. Louise Stevenson**, Chairperson, Union Baptist Church Scholarship Ministry

MADE ALIVE in CHRIST



Remember at that time you were separated from Christ [excluded from any relationship with Him], alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise [with no share in the sacred Messianic promise and without knowledge of God's agreements], and having no hope and living in a world without.

But now [at this very moment] in Christ Jesus you who were [so very far away from God] have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For He Himself is our peace and our bond of unity. He who made both groups [Jews and Gentiles] into one body and broke down the barrier, the dividing wall [of spiritual antagonism between us].

By abolishing in His [own crucified] flesh the hostility caused by the law with its commandments contained in ordinances [which He satisfied]; so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thereby establishing peace.

And [that He] might reconcile them both [Jew and Gentile] united in one body to God through the cross thereby putting to death the hostility.

And He came and Preached the Good News of Peace to You [Gentiles] Who Were Far Away, and Peace to those [Jews] Who Were NEAR.

For it is through Him that we both have a [direct] way of approach in one Spirit to the Father.

So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens [outsiders without rights of citizenship], but you are fellow citizens with the saints (God's people), and are[members]of God's Household.

Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the [chief] Cornerstone,

In whom the whole structure is joined together, and it continues [to increase] growing into a holy temple in the Lord [a sanctuary dedicates, set apart, and sacred to the presence of the Lord].

In Him [and in fellowship with one another] you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (AMP Ephesians 2:12-22 & 3:1-2)

Deacon James E. Darby, Men's Ministry Leader

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 (Continued)**

**REFLECTIONS – 187TH Church Anniversary
Sunday, July 15, 2018**

Special Guests

Greater New Hope Baptist Church of Cincinnati, Ohio
Dr. Donald E. Jones, Sr. – Senior Pastor

First Baptist Church of Hurst, Texas
Rev. Mark Garner, Worship and Creative Arts Pastor



Photo by Christopher Price

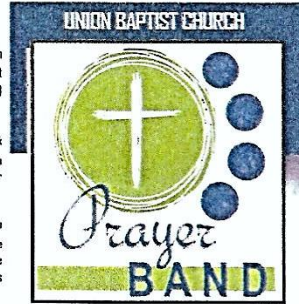
TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Brother and Sister Robert and Kimberly Young, 2018 Chairpersons

The Prayer Band...

Prays over each prayer request. In addition, each member of the Prayer Band prays for each request during our Tuesday morning meeting each week at 6:30 a.m.

- We invite you to share your prayer request on the back of this card. It would be a privilege for us to stand with you as you believe God answers the petitions of your heart.
- Has God answered prayer? Then we also invite you to submit a praise report that tells us what God has done for you, to the glory of God and for the encouragement of the body of Christ on the back as well, card as well.



*The Union Baptist Church Prayer Band...
prays over each prayer request.*

*In addition, each member of the Prayer Band
stands ready to petition the requests of the body of
Christ during our Tuesday Morning Prayer
Meetings each week at 6:30 a.m.*

**We invite you to share your prayer requests on
the card pictured. It would be a privilege for us
to stand with you as you believe God for answers
to the petitions of your heart.**

**Has God answered prayer? Then we also invite
you to submit a Praise Report that tells what God
has done for you, to the Glory of God and for the
Encouragement of the body of Christ!**

**Look for these cards in the pocket of the pews
soon. God bless you!**

Pastor's 7th Anniversary Celebration

Reverend Donald E. Garrett Jr. Pastor/Teacher

Theme: "Pressing Towards The Mark."

Philippians 2:13-14

REVIVAL

Sep. 11, 2018 – Sep. 15, 2018 7pm Nightly

Pastor Rick Hardy.-Second Corinthians Missionary Baptist Church

Reverend Lymon Gaines -First Baptist Church of Hartwell

Dr. K.Z Smith- Corinthians Missionary Baptist Church

Dr. Marcus A. Brown- New Hope Baptist Church



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



Elder Denzeil A. Tubbs St. Greater Emmanuel Apostolic Church

Dr. Orlando B. Yates. Union Baptist Church



Sunday 11am

Sunday 4pm

***Come and join in on the celebration of the move of God in our pastor celebrating 7 years of successful service.**

First Baptist Church of Hazelwood

11085 Centennial Ave Blue Ash Ohio 45242

513489-8535 Office



WOMEN'S DAY 2018

September 23, 2018

**Sunday Church School – 9:00 a.m.
Worship Celebration – 10:00 a.m.**

Theme: “I Am My Sister’s Keeper.”

Scripture: Ruth 1:16-18

Colors: Red and Pink

Keynote Speaker

**Mother Betty Rose
House of Joy Christian Ministries**

The Women’s Day assessment is \$100.00 for adults, \$10 for teens, and \$5 for girls. Incremental payments of the assessment may be made throughout the year. You may include your assessment in your offering envelope and please designate Women’s Day on the outside of the envelope. Please be prayerful and do your best.

**Sis. Denise Harris, Chairperson
Sis. Felicia Mazion-Bryant, Co-Chairperson**



**Women's Day Committee
Sowing Seeds Praise and Worship
Saturday, September 8, 2018
At Union Baptist Church, Sanctuary
405 W. 7th Street, Cincinnati,**



10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

“Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” (2 *Corinthian* 9:6 – 15)

Coordinator: Sis. Annette I. Bell

Three of our very own First Ladies will also be participating:

Sister Erica Garrett, *First Baptist Church of Hazelwood*, (Donald E. Garrett Jr, Pastor)

Sister Karla Phillips, *Saving Grace Community Church* (Trevor K. Phillips, Sr., Pastor)

Sister Margie Yates, *Union Baptist Church*, (Dr. Orlando B. Yates, Pastor)

Come to Praise God and be Ministered to by Local Ministries!

Representing all ages



Vision Ministries

One in Worship

Saving Grace Praise Dancers

First Baptist Church of Hazelwood Praise Dancers

Second Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church Youth Choir

And More!



THE UNION BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY COMMITTEE

ANNOUNCES ITS

FALL CEMETERY CLEAN-UP AT UNION BAPTIST CEMETERY

**4933 Cleves Warsaw Pike
Cincinnati, OH 45238**

**WE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP IN OUR
FALL CEMETERY CLEAN-UP**

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED! CALL 513-981-0421
AND LEAVE A MESSAGE WITH YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY YARD TOOLS AVAILABLE FOR USE, PLEASE LET US KNOW
AND BRING THEM WITH YOU!**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018 AND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2018
9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**

Established in 1864, the Union Baptist Cemetery is one of the oldest African-American cemeteries in Hamilton County at its original location purchased, maintained, and still used by a black congregation. Prominent African Americans, including Reverend David Leroy Nickens, the first Pastor of the Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati; Honorable George W. Hays, Jr.; and Jennie D. Porter, founder and principal of the Harriet Beecher Stowe School, are buried in the cemetery. Many former slaves, anti-slavery advocates, and active members of the Underground Railroad are interred here.



ECHOES OF THANKS FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



"O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever."

Psalms 107:1

Dearest Union, Family and Friends:

God is great and He is worthy to be praised! I would like to take a moment to praise God for His Grace and Mercy. For I realize in the hands of the Father, sinners become saints, failures become victories, and the common is made holy. As a gifted potter fashions shapeless clay into a work of art, God can sculpt us into more than we ever imagined when we yield our lives to His gentle touch.

Thank you so much for all of your expressions of love, encouragement, gifts and support during our 30th Year Pastoral Appreciation Celebration! My heart overflows with joy. A special thank you is extended to Brother and Sister Richard Spratley and the entire Appreciation Committee for all that you did to insure that this would be a memorable time.

My wife and I were deeply inspired and God was well-pleased with our worship and praise! *May God richly bless you and may your joy overflow* as we minister the Gospel together to a world that is hungry for Jesus Christ, The Bread of Life.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

In His Service I Remain,

Pastor Orlando B. Yates

Cincinnati Recreation Commission

In partnership with



SENIOR WELLNESS EXPO

FREE GIVEAWAYS • OVER 25 VENDORS • OVER 20 RAFFLE ITEMS • LUNCH*

SAVE THE DATE

September 14, 2018 | 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

Evanston Recreation Center (3204 Woodburn Ave., 45207)

REGISTER

Call 513.352.4020 by September 7 to register.

*Box lunch is available for the first 200 registrants!

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

Fall Prevention

Hearing

Mammograms

Medications

...and many more!

**This event is
FREE!**



cincyrec.org

513.352.4000

info.crc@cincinnati-oh.gov



The City of Cincinnati and CRC are dedicated to providing equal employment without regard to race, gender, age, color, religion, disability status, marital status, sexual orientation, or transgender status, or ethnic, national or Appalachian origin, or on the basis of any other category protected under federal, state and local laws. The City of Cincinnati and CRC are committed to supporting the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please call if you require any special accommodations.

170074

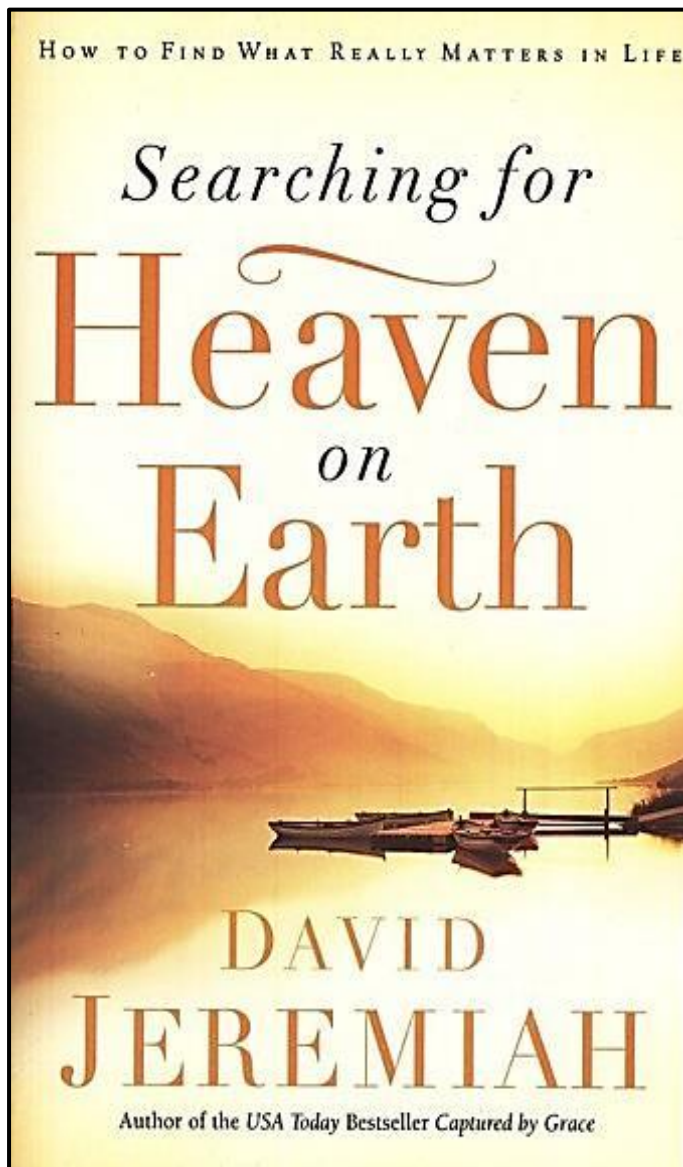
UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY SERIES

405 W. 7th Street

Cincinnati, Ohio 45203

Phone: 513-381-3858 – Web: www.union-baptist.net



Don't You Deserve a little happiness?



They are the questions that plague us:

- Is happiness within my reach?
- Why is life so frustrating?
- Is it too late for me?

Or to put it another way, “Where can I find a little heaven on earth?”

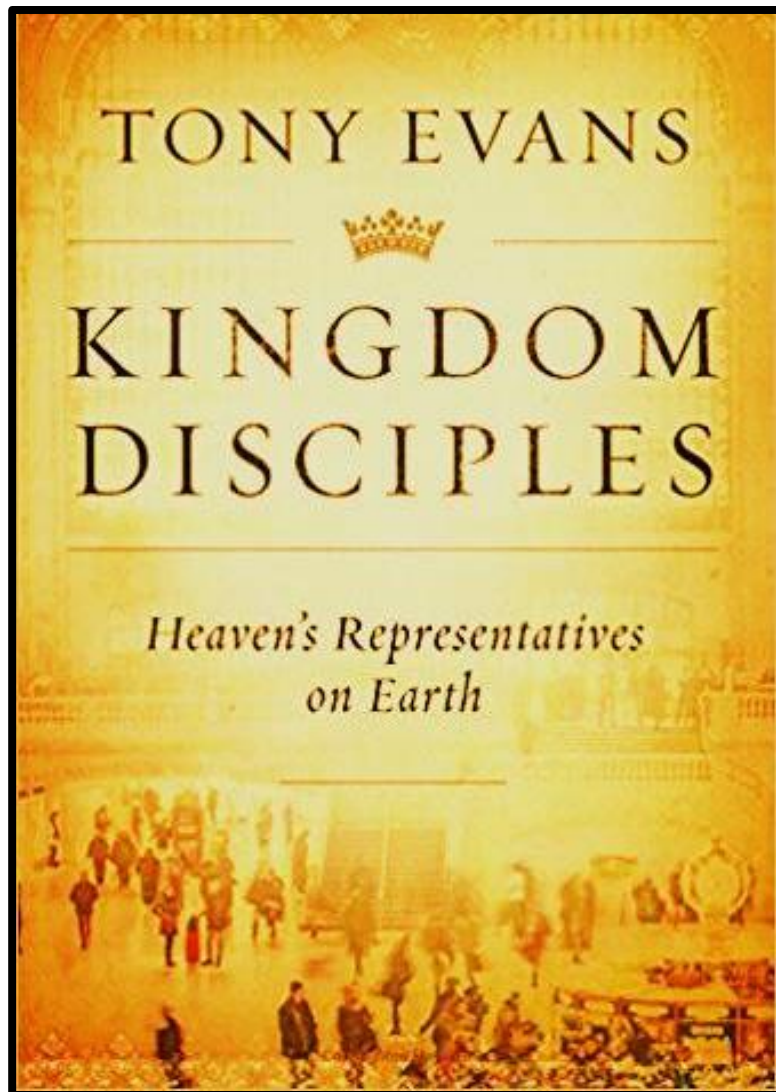
History's most successful man, Solomon, wondered just that. As Dr. David Jeremiah shows us, he was a man who tested life's haunting questions head-on. And tasted life's riches full-on. And who found his answers in the last place he thought to look.

Listen, then, to his voice. A voice that, if you pay attention, will speak directly to your flesh and bones and heart. A voice that admits: Maybe happiness is an empty hope. Or maybe we've simply been looking in all the wrong places.

All men are invited to attend this powerful new group study which will be led by Pastor Yates in the church sanctuary. Come fellowship with us on **Tuesday nights from 7:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. beginning September 18, 2018.**

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
NOON-DAY BIBLE STUDY SERIES

405 W. 7th Street
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There's a missing key in Christianity today. It's a critical one, and its absence has led to weak believers, ineffective churches, and a decaying culture. **That missing key is discipleship.** *Kingdom Disciples* calls believers and churches back to our **primary responsibility:** to be and make disciples. Only when we take this assignment seriously will the world see heaven at work on earth.

In this six-session Bible study, Dr. Tony Evans teaches what it means to be a kingdom disciple—a believer in Christ who takes part in the spiritual-development process of progressively learning how to live all of life under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Will you answer the call?

You are invited to attend this dynamic new group study which will be led by Pastor Yates in the church sanctuary. **Come and study with us on Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. beginning September 12, 2018.**

Lunch is served after each class.

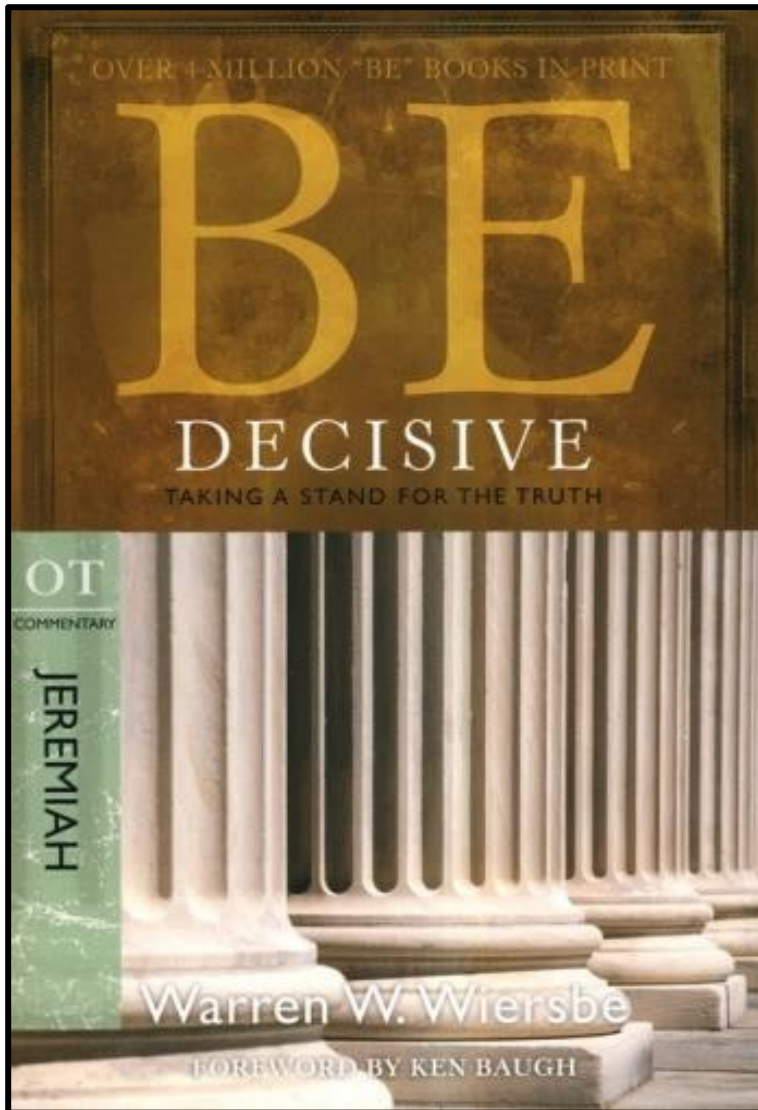
UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY SERIES

405 W. 7th Street

Cincinnati, Ohio 45203

Phone: 513-381-3858 – Web: www.union-baptist.net



Imagine living in a world with no moral absolutes. A place where truth is in the eye of the beholder. A society with eroding standards. Sound familiar? Yet this dilemma is not new. **The prophet Jeremiah was called to take a public, and unpopular, stand for God's truth.** His story can inspire us to make the powerful, decisive choice to stay firm in our faith and values.

This study is part of Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe's best-selling "BE" commentary series. *Be Decisive* includes study questions and other exciting biblical truths.

A respected pastor and Bible teacher, Dr. Wiersbe shares the need for decisive believers in a lukewarm culture.

Pastor Yates will lead this class on **Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. beginning September 12, 2018.** We will resume our study in the **Book of Jeremiah, Chapter 22.** All are invited to come and grow with us!

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 (Continued)

ATTENTION UNION: DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU MAY CONTRIBUTE YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS VIA PAYPAL?

You may submit your payments via PayPal, even if you do not have a PayPal account. If interested, you may access PayPal on the UBC website. **Just go to www.union-baptist.net and select the PayPal link.** Thank you.

THE CITY GOSPEL MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY: The schedule of the longstanding participation of Union Baptist Church Ministers began with Reverend Shawn D. Pate, is as follows:

September 22, 2018	Reverend Alvin Wyatt	Preaching at 7:30 p.m.
October 27, 2018	Reverend Barry Hixon, Jr.	Preaching at 7:30 p.m.
November 24, 2018	Reverend Emanuel Marshall	Preaching at 7:30 p.m.

Union is asked to pray for and support, in every way possible, **our Associate Ministers** as they serve at City Gospel Mission. The City Gospel Mission is located at 1805 Dalton St., 45215.

Thank You. ~~Pastor Yates.

FOOD PANTRY: The Food Pantry Ministry served **37 families** in July and was closed in August.

~~ Sis. Monica Ray, Ministry Leader

CLARIFICATION REGARDING THE GREETERS AND HORTICULTURAL MINISTRIES: The Greeters and Horticultural ministries are only responsible for morning worship services and the flowers on the altar. If any committees are hosting an event, they are responsible for their greeter during worship service and floral arrangements for the altar. If for any reason your event occurs during morning worship service, I only ask to be informed to let the scheduled greeter of that day know. With warm love and respect to my church family. ~~ Sister Doris Walker, Ministry Leader.

TRUTHSEEKERS SMALL CARE GROUP



The members of the Small Care Group TruthSeekers” **meet every Monday from 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. at the Avondale Branch Public Library** to study God’s word and grow through the five purposes of the church, worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and evangelism. Please feel free to join us as we learn about God’s Word and how to become more Christ like. **For more information, please contact**

~~ Rev. Shawn Pate, Small Care Group Ministry Leader
Email: unioncincinnati@gmail.com

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 (Continued)**

SEPTEMBER IS HOME & FOREIGN MISSIONS EMPHASIS MONTH



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

September 3, 2018: Church Office closed (Labor Day Holiday)

September 3-7, 2018: National Baptist Convention USA Inc., Annual Session, Minneapolis, MN.

September 8, 2018: Sowing Seeds Praise and Worship 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

September 9, 2018: Annual Grandparents / Senior Citizen's Day

September 10, 2018: Deacon Ministry Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

September 16, 2018: Union at First Baptist Church of Hazelwood at 4:00 p.m.

September 17, 2018: Trustee Board Ministry Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

September 23, 2018: Annual Women's Day Worship Celebration at 10:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

September 24, 2018: Union Foundation Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER IS PRAYER EMPHASIS MONTH

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

October 8, 2018: Fourth Quarter Church Leadership Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

October 14, 2018: Annual Choirs Day

October 15, 2018: Deacons Ministry Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

October 15, 2018: Trustee Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

October 20, 2018: Fall Cemetery Clean-Up Day, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

October 21, 2018: Union at Saving Grace Community Church, 3:30 p.m.

October 22, 2018: Fourth Quarterly Official Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

October 26, 2018: Fourth Quarterly Church Conference at 7:00 p.m.

October 27, 2018: SARPM Workshop, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

October 29, 2018: Union Foundation Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

October 31, 2018: Annual Children Church Harvest Party at 6:00 p.m.



INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 (Continued)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All members are asked to be mindful that no one should be in the **church building between the hours of 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.** due to security reasons. Any necessary exceptions should be coordinated and approved by the Chairman of Property and Space, Bro. Don Johnson, at least one week in advance.

Also, this is a reminder: **Please do not park in the Pastor's parking space at any time.** God's blessings to each of you from the Trustee Board Ministry. ~Dr. Carolyn Turner, Ministry Leader

UNION BAPTIST'S EMAIL ADDRESS: The church has an email address for all ministry announcements. Please send all forms of communications (church announcements, flyers, upcoming events, etc.) to unioncincinnati@gmail.com. Thank you!

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS: The deadline for church announcements for the November-December 2018 newsletter is **October 19, 2018**. Requests for announcements should be **e-mailed in care of Sis. Shirley Norman, Public Relations Ministry Leader**, at Union's email address: unioncincinnati@gmail.com. Please note "Sis. Norman – Announcement" on the subject line. **Please note: any announcements received after the deadline date will be included in the January-February 2019 Newsletter.**

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH OF CINCINNATI WEBSITE: Please visit our website (www.union-baptist.net) which is both informative and interactive for those who are seeking the Will of God in their lives. **On our website, you will see upcoming events; evangelistic missions inclusive for men, women and children;** discipleship opportunities for building God's kingdom; exploratory devotional links for personal spiritual growth; and, community connections that have demonstrated, in the past, and continue to demonstrate, the POWER OF GOD throughout the Greater Cincinnati area, and beyond.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH RADIO BROADCASTS: You can now also listen to the Union Baptist broadcast on WCVG 1320 every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. through live stream radio by connecting to the Union Baptist Church website at www.union-baptist.net.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ON FACEBOOK: The official Union Baptist Facebook is also linked to the Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati website at www.union-baptist.net.

UNION BAPTIST WI-FI SETTINGS: Please see Executive Church Administrator, Bro. Dale McAllister, to obtain the settings for the wireless router (Wi-Fi). Thank you.

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED: Opportunities for anyone interested in volunteering in the church office or other areas of the church are still available. Please contact Bro. Dale McAllister, Executive Church Administrator. Thank you.

UBC MEMBERSHIP DATA FORM: All members who have not completed their updated UBC Membership Form, are urged to complete and provide your updated information, including, any name change; your current home address; your home, cell and work telephone numbers; a number where you may be reached in case of an emergency; and, an emergency contact person, etc. Membership Data Forms are available in the wall receptacle near the church office. When you have completed your form, please give to **Sis. Gwendolyn Hall**, Church Office Receptionist. Thank You.

UBC WORSHIPS WITH SAVING GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018, 3:30 P.M.: The deacons, choir, ushers and Health & Wellness Ministry are to serve. Pastor Yates will preach and all members are invited to attend. God Bless You. ~ Pastor Yates



ABIGAIL And the Sudden Smile

In lieu of the bible study quiz, we will feature a Bible character each issue for your growth and spiritual development. Please read the scriptures below and enjoy!

Read about ABIGAIL, daughter of Jesse: 1 Samuel 25: 2-44; 27: 3; 30: 3, 5, 18; 2 Samuel 2: 2; 3: 3; 1 Chronicles 3: 1

“He what?” Abigail, wife to Nabal of Carmel, a wealthy herder of sheep and goats, was horrified.

“He called David a runaway slave and refused him food for his men, though there was plenty prepared for the shearers,” the servant, exclaimed. “And we owe David. His men have been protecting the shepherds and the beasts the whole time they’ve been in our hills. They’ve never taken a thing for themselves, not even a lamb, and so they reminded the master.”

“Who having already insulted the man, lost his temper and wouldn’t listen to anyone.” Abigail finished the sentence with a sigh. “And I suppose...?”

Her servant nodded. “David will destroy us all for his ingratitude. See what you can do, or we’re lost!” Abigail paused. This wasn’t the first time she had had to rescue them all from a dilemma into which her peasant-shrewd husband’s stubborn short-sightedness and greed had thrust them. But it might be the last – and she had no time.

Summoning her steward and cook, she learned that there were five sheep already prepared, two skins of wine and a hundred bunches of raisins in the store room, five measures of roasted grain in the bin and two hundred cakes of figs in the cooling room. “There are still three donkeys here,” the steward reported.

“Excellent! Exclaimed Abigail. “Then, Jacob, will you see to it that the stores are packed on two and the third fitted with a saddle and bridle? I’ll ride that. Just give me time to dress for the journey—no. On second thought, Jacob, you’d better go on ahead of me with the provisions. Take the spur trail as soon as the beasts are packed; I’ll catch up. There’s no time to lose!”

“But how will you find him?” asked the cook, who was also wondering where she would get more food for the feast Nabal was sure to order.

I’ll follow Jacob until I come to the promontory; I should be able to see David coming – all the dust his men will be raising will be visible for miles.” Then, seeing her cook’s worried frown, she suddenly smiled. “Don’t worry about the feast, Miriam! Have Judah slaughter five more sheep now, and take my key for the reserve storeroom. There’s a good supply of figs there, so you can make more cakes, and another five measures of grain ready for roasting. There are also more raisins. Can you manage with that Miriam?”

Oh, yes – wine, I tucked three skins in there with the rest, just in case. The last time we had extra!”

ABIGAIL...continued

“Don’t worry! With all that we’ll be fine. A little extra work never hurt any of us. But you – do take care! We need you back in one piece!” “Not unless I can succeed in deflecting the furious David,” said Abigail. “Well, nothing ventured, nothing gained.”

Twenty minutes later, she was dressed for travel. As she went to the yard where the mule awaited her, saddled and bridled as she and the mule preferred, she spotted the puff of dust on the road. “Good man, Jacob,” she smiled to herself, “We’re underway already!” She mounted the mule, and turned to follow. “But whatever shall I say to him?” she wondered, then scolded herself, “Find him first, Abigail! Then the Lord God will help, unless we must suffer for Nabal’s stupidity.”

Riding behind the provisions, Abigail kept a sharp watch, and as they reached the promontory, she saw him coming toward them – David, armed, with an armed troop. She caught her breath, slid off the mule and prostrated herself before him, still not knowing what she was going to say. Then the words came.

“I’ll take the blame,” she began. “Pay no attention to Nabal – he really is a brutish as his name. No sense at all! I didn’t see your soldiers. My prayer for you is that the Lord God, Who kept you from spilling blood with your own hands to avenge yourself, will give all your enemies Nabal’s fate. Please give the provisions I’ve bought to your soldiers, and please forgive our ingratitude. You’re fighting the Lord God’s battles! Surely He will give you a lasting dynasty, for you haven’t an evil bone in you! And then, when the Lord God has saved your life, defeated your enemies, given you rule over Israel and kept all His promises to you, you’ll be glad you took no vengeance on us! And – when the Lord God has rewarded you, remember us?”

And that seemed to be all. Abigail stopped and waited, holding her breath. Would he be angry? Would he kill her outright? Had she done any good at all?

“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,” David began, and she looked up, to see a sudden smile break the dusty warrior’s concentrated seriousness...

“...and I have no idea what he said next!” she exclaimed to Miriam that night in the kitchen as the cook prepared a late supper for her. She had returned home as soon as David’s men had accepted her provisions, checked at once on Nabal, deep in his harvest feast and in no condition for her news, and then made her way to the kitchen to report, the steward Jacob following her in. “I was so worried, to begin with, and then when he began with a blessing and I looked up, he smiled, and –! Well! I’ve never seen a smile like that before! It was like the sun breaking through the end of a storm and chasing the last of the clouds away! But I don’t know what he said! Jacob –?”

“He said,” supplied the steward with a smile of his own, “that your coming to him had, indeed, saved him from shedding blood to get vengeance on Nabal, and that he would have wiped us out, all the males anyway, if you hadn’t! What did Nabal say when you told him?” “I didn’t. He, well, you know Harvest feast.” Steward and cook nodded, matching wry smiles with her. “Tomorrow I’ll tell him.”

When Abigail told him, Nabal dropped like a rock; his coma ended in his death. Under her management, the flocks prospered, but when she received a proposal of marriage from David, her yes flew to him, singing all the way. **“That smile!” she would say in later years. “What a gift from the Lord God, to him *and* to me!”**

~Ann Spangler & Jean E. Syswerda, *Women of the Bible*

The AUDACITY OF HOPE.....An Excerpt



President Barack H. Obama

As we approach the **2018 Mid-Term Elections on November 6th**, in this current atmosphere of political dishevel and divisiveness in America, the Newsletter staff was led to share some timely words of wisdom from former President Barack Obama. This excerpt comes from his New York Times Bestseller book entitled, *"The Audacity of Hope...Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream."* Please read the inspiring excerpt, study the issues, pray and then **GO VOTE!**

Republicans and Democrats

We think of faith as a source of comfort and understanding but find our expressions of faith sowing division; we believe ourselves to be a tolerant people even as racial, religious, and cultural tensions roil the landscape. And instead of resolving these tensions or mediating these conflicts, our politics fans them, exploits them, and drives us further apart.

Privately, those of us in government will acknowledge this gap between the politics we have and the politics we need. Certainly Democrats aren't happy with the current situation, since for the moment at least they are on the losing side, dominated by Republicans who, thanks to winner-take-all elections, control every branch of government and feel no need to compromise. Thoughtful Republicans shouldn't be too sanguine, though, for if the Democrats have had trouble winning, it appears that the Republicans—having won elections on the basis of pledges that often defy reality (tax cuts without service cuts, privatization of Social Security with no change in benefits, war without sacrifice)—cannot govern.

And yet publicly it's difficult to find much soul-searching or introspection on either side of the divide, or even the slightest admission of responsibility for the gridlock. What we hear instead, not only in campaigns but on editorial pages, or bookstands, or in the ever-expanding blog universe, are deflections of criticism and assignments of blame. Depending on your tastes, our condition is the natural result of radical conservatism or perverse liberalism, big oil or greedy trial lawyers, Fox News or the New York Times. How well these stories are told, the subtlety of the arguments and the quality of the evidence, will vary by author, and I won't deny my preference for the story the Democrats tell, nor my belief that the arguments of liberals are more often grounded in reason and

The Audacity of Hope...continued

fact. In distilled form, though, the explanations of both the right and the left have become mirror images of each other. They are stories of conspiracy, of America being hijacked by an evil cabal. Like all good conspiracy theories, both tales contain just enough truth to satisfy those predisposed to believe in them, without admitting any contradictions that might shake up those assumptions. Their purpose is not to persuade the other side but to keep their bases agitated and assured of the rightness of their respective causes—and lure just enough new adherents to beat the other side into submission.

Of course, there is another story to be told, by millions of Americans who are going about their business every day. They are on the job or looking for work, starting businesses, helping their kids with their homework, and struggling with high gas bills, insufficient health insurance, and a pension that some bankruptcy court somewhere has rendered unenforceable. They are by turns hopeful and frightened about the future. Their lives are full of contradictions and ambiguities. And because politics seems to speak so little to what they are going through—because they understand that politics today is a business and not a mission, and what passes for debate is little more than spectacle—they turn inward, away from the noise and rage and endless chatter.

A government that truly represents these Americans—that truly serves these Americans—will require a different kind of politics. That politics needs to reflect people's lives as they are actually lived. It won't be prepackaged, ready to pull off the shelf. It will have to be constructed from the best of our traditions and will have to account for the darker aspects of our past. We will need to understand just how we got to this place, this land of warring factions and tribal hatreds. **And we will need to remind ourselves, despite all our differences, just how much we share: common hopes, common dreams, and a bond that will not break.**

Obama, B. (2006). Republicans and Democrats. *The Audacity of Hope* (pp.23-25). New York, NY. Three Rivers Press.



CEG DAY IN THE COMMUNITY FISH & LOAVES, SEPTEMBER 8, 11:00A.M. – 3:00P.M.

The Collective Empowerment Group is a community minded organization that cares about the needs of others. Join us as we attempt to make a difference in someone's life for just one day. There will be food, games, prizes and music. It's also a time for members of CEG, Strategic Partners and member churches to fellowship with one another. We are returning to the Bond Hill/Roselawn area at our member church, New Prospect Baptist.

Strategic Partners, bring your business cards to share or even better, reserve a table to display more information about your company. The only requirement is to email your request to Jackie@cegcincinnati.org for a table no later than Wednesday, September 5.

Strategic Partners, print this flier and share it at your business location. Ambassadors, post the flier and invite your church members to attend.

Volunteers are also needed. It's hard work but it's a fun day as well!

This event is free and open to the public. Spread the word by sharing on your Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages!

Jackie Moore

Executive Director, Phone: 513-996-3023

The Touch of the Master's Hand

'Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But held it up with a smile.
"What am I bidden, good folks," he cried,
"Who'll start the bidding for me?"
"A dollar, a dollar. Then two! Only two?
Two dollars, and who'll make it three?"

"Three dollars, once; three dollars, twice;
Going for three..." But no,
From the room, far back, a grey-haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow;
Then wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening the loosened strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet,
As a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said: "What am I bid for the old violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.
"A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two?
Two thousand! And who'll make it three?
Three thousand, once; three thousand, twice,
And going and gone," said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried,
"We do not quite understand.
What changed its worth?" Swift came the reply:
"The touch of the Master's hand."
And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd
Much like the old violin.

A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine,
A game — and he travels on.
He is "going" once, and "going" twice,
He's "going" and almost "gone."
But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul and the change that is wrought
By the touch of the Master's hand.



By Myra Brooks Welch, 1921

*The Master's Hand is the only hand that can transform the soul.
Hear His call, and accept Him as Lord and Savior today!*