

Pastor's Piece

AUTHENTIC LOVE!

“But God demonstrated His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us!” (Rom. 5:8)

“But God put his love on the line for us by offering His Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to Him.”

(Rom. 5:8, Message)

True love is not just an inclination (or feeling), it is a demonstration! What have you done lately to demonstrate your genuine love to others that are significant to you?

February is Valentine's month—when we take the opportunity to show our love for that special person. Often it is the ‘little things’ that make all the difference in the world...the kind word, the loving gesture, the unexpected help that you offer, the ‘above-and-beyond’ sacrifice when it is least expected!

At times it is difficult to keep the fires of love stoked and blazing...they often become mere embers if not tended to in an intentional way. It is easy to ‘take-for-granted’ those that we love the most! Paul put it this way in writing to the believers in Rome: “Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it...be good friends who love deeply” (Rom. 12:9-10). Aren't you thankful that the Lord in His providential wisdom ‘demonstrated His love toward us!’ It was a tangible love in the person of His only Son Jesus Christ. God's Word reminds us that “He first loved us!” (1 Jn. 4:19) Having experi-

enced the love of Jesus Christ in our hearts makes all the difference in how we feel about ourselves and how we relate to others! His love (Agape—the highest form, Godly Love) is Personal, Powerful and Permanent! Nothing can ever separate us from the Love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord! Alleluia! (Rom. 8:38-39). We know that it was real, genuine, authentic, because He shed His blood for us on the Cross of Calvary!

This Valentine's Day, express your love to that significant other in a tangible way. Also take time to say a word of ‘thanks’ to the Lord for His immeasurable love to you in the Person of His Son Jesus Christ!

Thanking God for His Love,
Pastor Paul



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FINANCIAL UPDATE

Just a brief financial report for the end of the year 2009:

Average Weekly Giving: \$5194.33

Average Weekly Expenditures: \$5376.42

Average Weekly Deficit: -\$182.09

Yearly Total Deficit: -\$9468.68

Thank you for your faithful financial contributions to the Lord and this ministry. Your stewardship enables this ministry and mission to reach out with the Love of Jesus Christ to those in need!

Jessica's Spot

Can you believe it is already February? WOW! Time sure is flying!

Main Event Kids' Club News:



- Main Event Kids' Club has started up again and we have been having a great time! We learned about how powerful God is through the story of Jesus calming the storm, how merciful He is through the story of the Prodigal Son, and in the next few weeks we will learn that God strengthens us and that God is the One true God.
- On February 10th, we will have a special movie night during Main Event Kids' Club!! The movie, well that is a secret, but I know you are going to love it! And yes, we will have snacks.
- February 17th, we will leave the island and begin our new series, "Agents in Action!" Think secret agents, magnifying glasses, finger prints, and lots of fun!! (Kids' Club is not stop-



ping; we are just transitioning to a new series).



Children's Ministry workshops:

- There is a great opportunity coming- and you should be there! Tina Houser, a dynamic children's pastor, author, and speaker is coming right here to First Baptist to do two (2) workshops with us. "Going Live in 3...2...1 With Creative Storytelling Techniques" and "Making Scripture Sticky" are the two workshops that she will be doing. We would love to have you join us for this fun day!!
- The workshops will begin at **9:00am on Saturday, February 6th**, and we will be finished around noon.
- Why should you attend?
 - It's going to be such a great time of fun and learning!
 - It's FREE to you! (Yes, I'm talking to you!)
 - We will be done around noon, so you still have the rest of the day to do what you please!
 - You don't have to travel across the country to hear Tina speak- just come right to the church!
 - And yes, there will be snacks!
- If you would like to attend, **please RSVP to Miss Jessica by February 1st**.

Miscellaneous Thoughts:

- *Stay tuned for a new Sunday School series for parents that will be starting in the near future...trust me, you will want to be there!!*
- Looking for a good movie to watch with your family? Check out www.pluggedin.com for movie reviews by Focus on the Family!

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- A special thanks for all of your prayers during my trip to the Children’s Pastors’ Conference in Nashville! The conference was wonderful! (Traveling there was not very fun, but I made it!) There were almost 1900 people there, so I got to meet lots of new people, share ideas with them, fellowship with them, and worship with them. The speakers brought lots of helpful ideas and strategies, and the resource room was HUGE! I can’t wait to go again next year! Thank you again for all of your thoughts and prayers.

CHM
Congregational Health

Hang on . . . Spring is just around the corner and so are Spring allergies.

I thought these reminders might be helpful during the allergy seasons of this year.

We are blessed to visualize the resurrection of life in our gardens, trees and grass. It is a wonderful reminder of the resurrection of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ!

Allergy Survival Tips

Try these techniques to keep sneezes and sniffles under control.

For millions of Americans, spring means sneezing and sniffing. It also means watery eyes, scratchy throat and—at worst—asthma attacks. The pollen and mold spores that come with spring make this season an unhappy one for those with allergies.



Since a single plant can produce a million grains of pollen in a day, it’s nearly impossible to avoid pollen. But these steps from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology can help:

- Keep windows, especially bedroom windows, closed to prevent allergens from drifting indoors.
- Use the air conditioner. Be sure to clean or replace filters often.
- Vacuum rugs and carpets regularly and dust frequently, using a damp cloth, to remove pollen and mold.
- Shampoo pets regularly to remove allergens from their coats. And keep them out of the bedroom.
- Wash your hair before going to bed to get the pollen out.
- Wear glasses rather than contact lenses. Contacts can trap pollen against your eyes.

Think only a prescription drug can treat your tough allergy symptoms?

Think again. Clinical studies have found the active ingredient in many over-the-counter (OTC) allergy medications to be just as effective as prescription allergy drugs. In fact, some OTC medicines, like Claritin and Zyrtec, were previously available only by prescription.

Decongestion medications are still available—but may be kept behind the pharmacy counter.

If your allergy symptoms come with a stuffy nose, help is still available without a prescription—it’s just a little harder to find. Some medications containing the decongestant pseudoephedrine are kept behind the pharmacy counter. The pharmacist will be happy to provide one of these medications to you.



Treat only the allergy symptoms you have.

Look for an allergy product targeted to your symptoms. Don't over-medicate with a multi-symptom allergy medication if you don't need to.

Still not sure? Spend a minute with your pharmacist.

Pharmacists are good sources of information and can help you figure out which allergy product matches your symptoms and offers the best value too.

OTC Options: Treat Your Symptoms

Many generic and over-the-counter (OTC) allergy medications are available to reduce allergy symptoms. A good example: non-sedating antihistamines. These drugs are used to combat seasonal allergies, hay fever and other allergies. A generic version is available called fexofenadine. And Zyrtec and Claritin are available over-the-counter. Another example: ophthalmic allergy agents. These eye drops treat itching, redness, tearing and eyelid swelling associated with allergy symptoms. Both come in generics (cromolyn sodium) or OTC (Alaway or Zaditor), so they are effective and can save you money. To make a switch to generics or OTC medications, talk to your doctor.



Missions Updates

Costa Rican Newsletter Ministry of Lillian Solt and Rebeca

We praise the Lord for His provision and goodness over the past year as we come to the end of 2009. We rejoice during this special Christmas season for the birth of our Savior

who died for our sins but rose again to give us eternal life. **“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him give us all things?”**

Romans 8:32

Highlights for this Year:

Rebeca has graduated with her BSN in nursing and is working in the ER of our biggest government hospital. She will be starting her “Licenciatura” which is halfway to a Masters degree. She is an excellent nurse and loves what she does. I am so proud of her!

This past year we had 7 work teams come to help us with our ministry. We continue to work with the St. Tomas Baptist church and also did several activities with VBS for kids. This was such a blessing for all. My sister Lois was able to bring a team and we worked in the squatter community of Guarari. We are working with Ronald Villalobos in Guarari.

Many of you will remember that last year I wrote to you about black Friday which for us at the clinic was the worst day as we had a government audit about to begin and our head accountant resigned with the accounting 4 months behind. The audit was accomplished and we were penalized due to negligent accounting. We praise the Lord for the new head accountant who has joined us and is such a delight and bubbles over with the JOY of the Lord. We also had a private audit done which is available for anyone who would wish to see it. Praise the Lord all of these problems are behind us and we look to a new year full of blessings from the Lord. We have signed several contracts to give health care to many very poor communities and this is only because many of you help us to subsidize these programs. Working with the poor is never a profitable business so we have those who help us to offer these affordable prices. Our staff has been great and the Board froze the salary

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increases for this coming year due to the economic crisis. I know that for many this is very difficult but it allowed us to keep all of our staff and not fire anyone. Pray for us this year as we continue to reach out to other.

We have been working hard to get the remodeling of House of Health done so that we can use it full time this coming year. We were able to get the Ministry of Health permission for using it even though it is not completely painted and some of the details are not done. We are looking at March 27, 2010 as the date to officially inaugurate it and have invited Dr. Ted Heath and family to join us as the family has been the main contributors for this project. We will be dedicating the building to his wife, Helen Heath who passed away several years ago and this is a tribute to her missionary spirit. We praise the Lord for allowing us to remodel this house and use it for His glory.

We will be carrying out all of our prevention programs such as the program which works with 55 elderly from our communities helping them in the spiritual, physical and emotional aspects of these difficult years. We have named a new coordinator for this program (Leda) and I am thrilled as she served as a missionary to Peru from her local church in Costa Rica. She loves the Lord, has an incredible testimony and is a teacher which gives her the tools to work with our prevention programs for the next couple of years. Our priorities are children, women, elderly, parents and the family.

We were able to have our first meeting in the remodeled building, the Christmas party for the elderly. They were thrilled that they could all be together and we do not have to divide the group as we have had to do for the past couple of years.

We would love to see some of you in Costa Rica, come with a group being organized by C.A.M.P. This would give you a great oppor-

tunity to see the different areas where we minister and see also a lot of the country. The dates are February 6-13 and June 26 to July 3, 2010 where we will be visiting and working at the coffee project in the south. You would also see the communities where I have been working for the past 35 years. You can contact Dan Whitlock for more information at 815-872-4541 or danjan6@comcast.net.

Thank you for your prayers and support over the past year. If you would like to contribute to our work you can do so on line through LAM or contact me at soltcedcas@cs.com. May God bless each one of you where He has placed you to serve.

FBC Preschool Ministry



Preschool began the year with four new students. Welcome Jace, Christian, Kyra, Kyla, and we're so glad to have our little Malakhi back with us. One little guy and his family moved to Kokomo from Illinois and we're so honored they chose our Preschool.

The chapel was full of family to watch our 3's and 4's talent show. We listened to songs, watched some pretty cute dance moves and gymnastics. It's great to see our children's confidence growing.



One of our January themes is mittens. We read Jan Brett's story of the "The Mitten" and have all kinds of number, shape, color and letter activities to work with. The children act out the story and all love to play the part of the mouse that made bear sneeze. We almost reached our goal of 100 mittens for CAM. Another story we act out is the Bible story of the lost coin. They love to count their ten coins, pretend to lose one, and then sweep the floor looking for it.

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We talked about why Jesus wanted to tell this story and we had two little ones decide they wanted to give their heart to Jesus.



1, 2, 3, done and our kids are doing very well! Most of our Pre-k can count to 100, we're starting a reading group with eight students and our Spanish class started with four little amigos.

Blessings to you!
Lenora Burtch

FBC Daycare Ministry



The month of February always make me think of Valentine's Day. Which leads me to think of love. The kids are thinking about Valentine's Day, as well. They are already picking out cards and candy, and lining up valentines for the special day. This gives us the opportunity to truly teach them about friendship and love. It also gives us the opportunity to share one of my favorite bible verses John 3:16.



Maybe this valentine's day we can ask Jesus to be our valentine. His is the true measure of love.

Cherie Wilson
Assistant Director

ALESIA'S AREA

Conversation Heart Fudge



Ingredients

- **DARK CHOCOLATE LAYER:**
 - 1 1/4 cups semisweet chocolate chips
 - 1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk
 - Dash of salt
- **WHITE CHOCOLATE LAYER:**
 - 1 1/4 cups white chocolate chips
 - 1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk
 - Dash of salt
- **OTHER INGREDIENTS AND MATERIALS:**
 - Aluminum foil
 - 64 conversation hearts
 - 64 red foil bonbon cups or mini muffin cups
 - Clear or red cellophane wrap, cut into 64 5- by 6-inch rectangles Sparkly pipe cleaners in red, pink, or silver

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Instructions

Line an 8-inch square pan with aluminum foil. Set aside.

In a medium-size, microwave-safe bowl, combine the dark chocolate layer ingredients. Microwave the mixture on high at 30-second intervals until the chocolate is melted (about a minute), stirring at each interval. When the mixture's smooth, use a spatula to spread it evenly into the prepared pan.

In another medium-size microwave-safe bowl, combine the white chocolate layer ingredients. Repeat the melting process as described in step 2, but stir at 20-second intervals, as white chocolate tends to scorch easily. Spread the white chocolate evenly over the dark chocolate layer.

While the fudge is still warm, use a knife to gently score it into 1-inch squares, then put a candy heart on top of each square.

Chill the fudge uncovered in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours or until firm. Lift the foil to remove the fudge from the pan and place the whole hunk of fudge on a cutting board. Use a large knife (a parent's job) to cut apart the squares, then peel off the foil from the bottom.

Place each fudge square into a foil bonbon cup or mini muffin cup. Center the cup on a cellophane square and wrap it as shown on page 53, using 1-inch pieces of pipe cleaner to secure the ends. Makes 64 bite-size pieces. Store at room temperature or in the refrigerator for added firmness.



God's Valentine Gift

God's Valentine gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.
His gift was to become a man,
So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us,
So you and I could live.
He gave us sweet salvation, and
Instruction, good and true--
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Savior, too.
So as we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.
By Joanna Fuchs



Continued.....



February Children Church Schedule

7th: Jessica Boyce & Mel Bozard
 14th: Travis & Amy Cunningham
 21st: Al & Jane Sparlin & Emily Gamblin
 28th: Darrell & Susann York



February Nursery Schedule

7th: Wanda Hunt & Kathy Reel
 14th: Travis & Amy Hueston
 21st: Greg & Karen Hueston
 28th: Jessica Boyce & Ree Moon



Kids R.O.C. February Schedule

7th: NO KIDS R.O.C.
 14th: Jessica Boyce & Steve Woodall
 21st: Karen Featherston & Debbie Breisch
 28th: Patty Boyd & Steve Woodall



SS Nursery February Schedule

7th: ???
 14th: ???
 21st: ???
 28th: ???



LOCK-UP

7th ~ Darrell York
14th ~ Buddy Wysong
21st ~ Rick Shuck
28th ~ JC Breisch

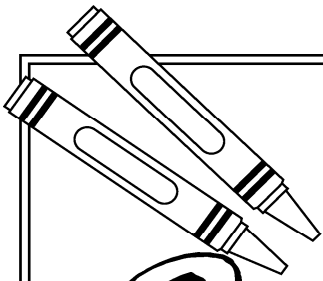
If you are not able to be in attendance on your assigned date please find a replacement or call Adam Hunt: 765-395-6081



Card Care Writers

February meeting will be Tuesday, February 23rd at 6:00 pm. We meet each month to send Birthday and Anniversary Cards. We often send notes of encouragement, and thinking of you cards when special needs or circumstances are brought to their attention.

This ministry is another fabulous entity of the CHM (Congregational Health Ministry)

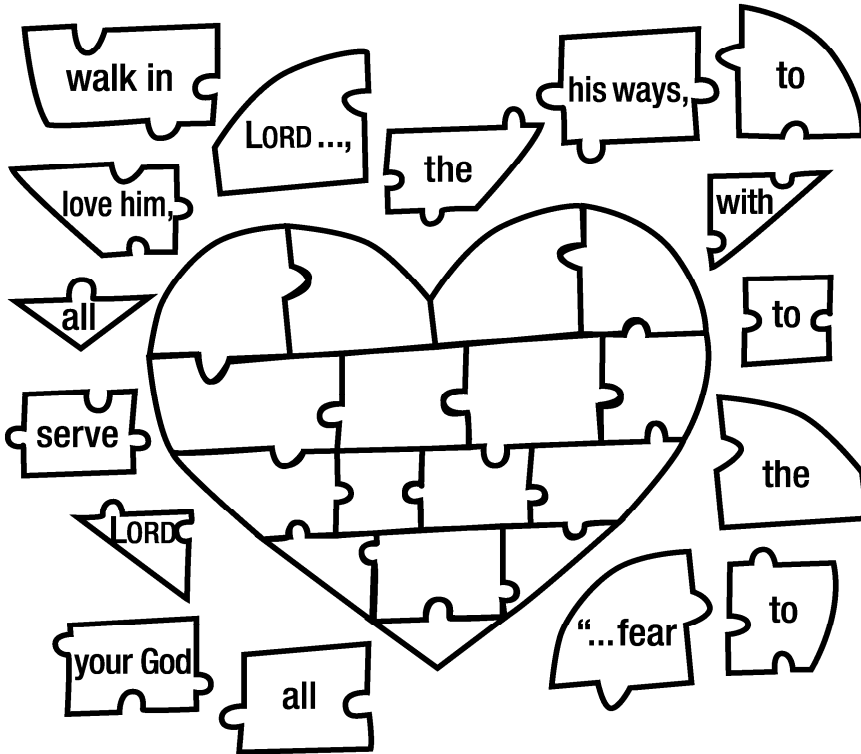


Just for KIDS

Our first love

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.



... your heart and with all your soul ..."

Answer:
"... fear the LORD ... to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ..."

1. Why did the kid start a gardening service?
2. What weighs six tons & wears glass slippers?
3. Why did Tigger look inside the toilet?
4. What did the hungry computer say?
5. What has two humps and is at the North Pole?

Answers

1. Because he wanted to rake in some cash!
2. Cinder-elephant!
3. He was looking for Pooh!
4. "I could go for a byte!"
5. A lost camel!

HERE ARE THE
FEBRUARY JOKES
HAVE FUN

KIDS CORNER

* A JAR OF *

Love and Appreciation



Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

What you need:

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

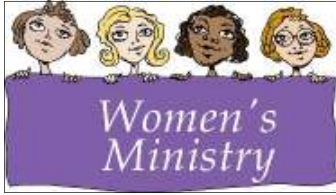
What you do:

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!



Continue

CHURCH NEWS



Women's Ministry

Meeting will be Tuesday, February 9th at 6:30 pm. The circle will be meeting at FBC. Hostess is Barb and Dawn Wysong. Program will consist of decisions on combining the two circles.

Main Event and Bible Study/Prayer Meeting



Main Event and Bible Study has started back up every Wednesdays. The topic for Main Event will be changing to "Agents In Action". The topic for Bible Study is Heaven.



Church Office Closing for February

The church office will be closed Monday, February 15th for President's Day.



Church Closing Because of Weather Radio & TV Information

You can check one of these radio or TV stations for closing of church service.



WZVZ Z92.5
WWKI 100.5 FM
WSHW Shine 99
WFRN 93.7/100.1



WTHR-TV Channel 13
WLFI Channel 18
WISH TV Channel 8
WRTV Channel 6

Happy VALENTINE'S DAY