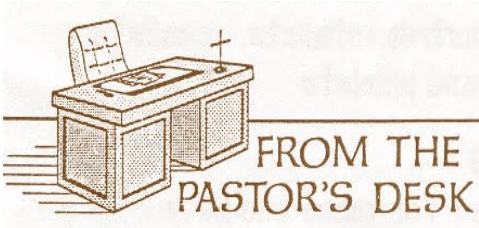


ECHOES *from the Valley*

February 2021

Volume 47, No. 2



Priorities . . . We all have them, and we all govern our lives by them, appropriately or perhaps not. Priorities come in different categories from extremely important to not so very important.

Generally, it is those things we *consider* to be most important that we make certain to put in first place. Some of our priorities are, in fact, very important, others less significant. We do well when we think carefully about those things that receive our most focused attention.

Our standards of living, conduct, habits, relationships with each other and especially our relationship with God are all extremely important matters; they are matters of priority!

So, it is important for us to get our priorities straight, in order; to separate important items from those that are not so important. It is especially important that we avoid allowing insignificant interests to interfere with matters that are truly important.

Charles Swindoll tells a story that comes from the sinking of the Titanic: "A frightened woman found her place in a lifeboat that was about to be lowered into the raging North Atlantic. She suddenly thought of something she needed, so she asked permission to return to her stateroom before they cast off. She was granted three minutes and told that if she was gone any longer, they would have to leave without her.

The woman ran across the deck that was already slanted at a dangerous angle. She raced through the gambling room ankle deep, past all the money that had rolled to one side. She came to her stateroom and quickly pushed aside her diamond rings and expensive bracelets and necklaces as she reached to the shelf above her bed. She grabbed three small oranges. She quickly found her way back to the lifeboat and got in.

That seems incredible, because thirty minutes earlier she would not have chosen a whole crate of oranges over even the smallest diamond. But death had boarded the Titanic. One blast of its awful breath had transformed all values. Instantaneously, priceless things had become worthless.

Valley Brook is a place of grace, where everybody is somebody and Jesus is Lord.

And in that moment, she preferred three small oranges to a crate of diamonds. When we look at life in the light of eternity, our perspective and values; OUR PRIORITIES totally change.”

That is why the Holy Spirit prompted Paul to write:

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature.”

- (Colossians 3:1-5)

In a sense, the Titanic symbolizes the world, which will one day be gone. During our brief residence here let us establish godly priorities and concentrate on those things that truly matter for eternity.

Because in the final analysis: “The person who has everything but Jesus has nothing, while the person who has *nothing* but Jesus has everything.

He is the ultimate priority!!!

Pastor Mike



With Deepest Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of J.W. Hodges.

LOVE

Love is *patient,*
love is *kind.*
It does not *envy,*
it does not *boast,*
it is not *proud.*

1 Corinthians 13:4

Attendance in January

	A.M. Worship
Jan. 3	29
Jan. 10	31
Jan. 17	32
Jan. 24	27

Need a Notary?



If you need to have something notarized, please contact the church office. Candy will be glad to assist you with this service. Bring your documents with you and she will be glad to notarize them for free.



PSALM 62:8



VALLEY BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Counters - Dan Warnock Candy Rogers	1	2 GROUNDHOG DAY	3	4 - BDAY	5	6
7 * Worship at 11:00 Inv. - Dennis Jackson Bene. - Terry Markert Super Bowl	8 **	9	10	11 - BDAY	12 - BDAY Chinese New Year and Lincoln's Birthday	13 ***
14 **** VALENTINE'S DAY Worship at 11:00 Inv. - Dan Warnock Bene. - Becky Markert	15 PRESIDENTS' DAY	16 Mardi Gras and Shrove Tuesday	17 Ash Wednesday and RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS DAY	18	19	20
21 Worship at 11:00 Inv. - Jeannine Peavy Bene. - Charley Scott	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24	25	26 Purim	27 Full Moon
28 Worship at 11:00 Inv. - Tom Gibbs Bene. - Tom Barnett	* Church Planting, Evangelism, and Missions Sunday ** February 8-14 Focus on W.M.U. *** Children's Mission Day **** Racial Reconciliation Day					



Birthdays: Pattie Hughes 2/4 Helen Adams 2/11 Robert Morris 2/12

A Prayer for My Best Friends

Jul 8, 2020, by Gini of Dayspring

Today, let's say a prayer for our best friends - the ones we allow to come a little closer to our hearts than others, the ones we count on to remind us of God's light during the hard times. **Let us ask the Lord to work in them and in us** as we journey through this world together, striving to honor God and complete His will for our lives.

Dear God,

Thank you for your promise to reveal your glory to us in heaven. Thank you for your grace and for your everlasting love. Lord, we come to you today to pray for our closest friends and companions on this earth. We pray that you give them the strength to overcome their battles as well as the insight to help us overcome ours. You know, Jesus, that this world can be tough, and we just ask your guiding hand to work in and through us to say, do and be exactly who you need us to be to guide each other back to your light. Thank you, Lord, for giving us each other to lean on as we walk through this journey called life. You truly do take care of those who love you. Amen

Thank you, Lord, for giving us each other to lean on as we walk through this journey called life.

"For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose."

- Philippians 2:13 CSB

Quote of the Month

"The world says 'Love yourself, grab all you can, follow your heart.' Jesus says 'Deny yourself, grab your cross, follow Me.'"

--Francis Chan



Monthly Financial Report

(January 2021)

Receipts - \$11,165.00
(as of Jan. 24, 2021)

(January 2020)

Receipts - \$14,318.00
Expenses - \$13,522.00

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There have been a few hints of possible winter weather in the forecast in recent days. So far, it has not happened. But, it does provide a good reminder to communicate our plans in the event of winter precipitation on a Sunday morning. Please use good sense in making the decision as to whether or not to get out. We do not want anyone to risk having an accident at any time.

