

# Shepherd's Journal

C H U R C H   O F   T H E   G O O D   S H E P H E R D

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- Letter From Russia pg. 5

## PASTOR'S NOTES

February presents two opportunities to think about "love." On Valentine's Day, which falls on a Sunday this year, we remember our God-given capacity for human love in commitment. Couples who want to renew their marriage vows can do so at the close of worship on February 14. Walk down the aisle together, repeat the promises, and have your relationship blessed.

On February 17, there is a different type of service -- Ash Wednesday. We remember our mortality and the brokenness of humanity. We begin the season of Lent, a 40-day period of preparation. We sacrifice, as Christ sacrificed for us. We love, as we are loved. We wait in anticipation of God's power to defeat sin and death. But let's not get ahead of the story. One day at a time - what is God showing us today?



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## F E B R U A R Y B I R T H D A Y S

<u>February 01</u> Heather Groen	<u>February 10</u> Patsy Harman	<u>February 17</u> Adrienne Kunce	<u>February 22</u> Adam Whitescarver
<u>February 02</u> Mike Skinner	Janet Losh	<u>February 18</u> Kevin Grinnan	<u>February 23</u> Dan Pauley
<u>February 03</u> Andriana Mayle	<u>February 11</u> Carol Rowe	Bill Harman	Pam Brown
Roger Sine	<u>February 12</u> Bettie Marshall	<u>February 19</u> Linda Sapp	<u>February 24</u> Larry Adlington
<u>February 04</u> Paul Reneau	<u>February 13</u> John Finch	<u>February 20</u> Pat Trischler	<u>February 26</u> Chris Smith
<u>February 06</u> Glenn Bartlett	Sydney Bolyard	Louie Gerard	<u>February 28</u> Katrisha Pauley
Jason Runner	Jonathon Sine	<u>February 21</u> Tom Stolzenfels	
John Souther	<u>February 16</u> Bob Leonard	Valerie Barlow	

**Heifer Project - Reminder** - As you celebrate your birthday, think of those that are less fortunate by placing 1 penny for each year of your age in the Birthday Church. The wooded church is located in the Narthex of our church. Happy Birthday, Nurture Committee



## F E B R U A R Y A N N I V E R S A R I E S

<u>February 05</u> Gary and Susan Sinsel	<u>February 16</u> Jim and Marie Fawcett
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## F E B R U A R Y S C H E D U L E O F E V E N T S

- February 7 - Souper Bowl Soup Sale
- February 14 - Wedding Vow Renewal
- February 16 - 5:00 Nurture Committee Meeting
  - 6:30 Finance Committee Meeting
  - 7:30 Administrative Council Meeting
- February 17 - 7:30 Ash Wednesday Service
- February 23 - TC Parish Council - Pruntytown UMC



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE FLOCK - CONVERSATIONS WITH CARLA

This month I talked to Dave, Teresa, Valerie and Kristen Barlow. Teresa was born in Baltimore, Maryland and her family moved to Grafton when she was five. Dave was born in Washington, D.C. and his family moved to Grafton when he was three or four. They met each other when they were boating at Tygart Lake.

Teresa graduated from Grafton High School, then from Fairmont State College with a degree in Math Education. She has been at Taylor County Middle School for twenty-four years where she teaches eighth grade math and Algebra I.

Dave graduated from Grafton High School and has worked for UPS for twenty-two years. I certainly would not last a day in his job, with all those heavy boxes and the long hours.

Kristen is in the seventh grade at Taylor County Middle School. Her favorite class is Spanish because of all the activities that they do in class. She enjoys playing soccer and plays two different positions: forward and midfield. Her team had a winning season last year. She enjoys spending time with her friends, loves to go camping with her family, especially at Chincoteague Island. They see the ponies, but have never been there when they swim the horses before the auction. She has read Misty of Chincoteague. She wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up. Chicken is her favorite food and she likes it fixed any way you can fix it.

Valerie is a junior at Grafton High School. Her favorite classes are math classes and she is currently taking Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus. Valerie wants to be a physical therapist. She also enjoys soccer, playing forward. Her team also had a winning season last year. She has been on the All State Soccer team for two years. She likes to go shopping, and she also enjoys doing

things on a computer, including Facebook and texting her friends. Her favorite food is tacos.

Teresa likes to travel and go camping. They all try to go camping a few times a year in the State Parks or at Chincoteague Island. Her favorite food is spaghetti.

Dave coaches soccer. He enjoys camping and playing the guitar which he taught himself to play. He doesn't have a favorite food; he likes everything.

The family's favorite memories are the times that they spend together. One of their favorite memories is going to watch the US Women's Soccer team play in Philadelphia. Another favorite memory is when Valerie challenged Paul Reneau to an ice cream eating contest when they were camping at Chincoteague. She had been thinking about this challenge for an entire year, but when the time finally arrived she took only about two bites and decided she really couldn't do it. Paul definitely won since he ate six scoops of ice cream with toppings.

The family also likes to play Wii games together. Their favorite is the Wii Sports Resort, which includes bowling, and sword fights. Valerie always wins the sword fights.

Kristen's favorite Bible verse is Ezra 10:4 "Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you; take courage and do it." Her favorite song at church is, He's Got the Whole World In His Hands that she sang in youth choir. Valerie's favorite song is Sanctuary. Teresa's favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 15:1 "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." She said that this verse helps her remember not to snap back harshly at other people. Dave's favorite Bible passage is Matthew 6:24-35. This passage tells us that we should not worry. His favorite hymn is Here I Am,

Lord.

At Good Shepherd, Kristen likes the different activities for the youth. Valerie likes the youth activities and really enjoyed seeing Godspell. Dave and Teresa like the way people are treated in the church. Everyone is welcome and there is a true concern for all of us. They also like the way the members support each other. When Teresa's mother was very sick everyone was supportive.

*"Valerie  
challenged Paul  
Reneau to an ice  
cream eating  
contest"*

Pastor Bert will be serving on a Kairos Prison Ministry Team March 18-21.

WOULD YOU BAKE COOKIES AND PRAY FOR A KAIROS WEEKEND?



Only Home Baked Cookies are Used

100 dozen cookies are needed by March 14.

- Cookie mixes, pre-mixed cookie dough (tubes or tubs) from your supermarket, or "frozen cookie balls" from food wholesalers are easy beginnings.
- Chocolate chip, oatmeal, cookies with M&Ms or butterscotch bits, plain sugar cookies are easy to make and popular. Rice Krispie bars and brownies are special.
- Allow cookies to cool before packaging; otherwise they may stick together.
- **No raisins, fruit, powdered sugar, or icing please.**
- Package them in one gallon zipper-lock bags (no metal ties), 1 dozen per bag. Mark each bag - "1 doz." So the dozens can be easily counted.
- **Pray** for the KAIROS inmate participants as you bake and package your cookies, asking God to use the "agape love" cookies and the team as instruments for his love, sharing, forgiveness, healing and Christian renewal.

Cookies are shared with the inmate participants during the weekend to help express Christian love and concern with these residents. Participants are given dozens of cookies to take back to their cells to share with fellow inmates while they discuss and answer questions about the weekend. Also, all inmates not participating will receive 1 dozen cookies to let them know something special is happening within the prison walls.

Contact Pastor Bert for information.



**Two of the  
greatest  
qualities in  
life are:  
Patience  
and Wisdom.**



Dear Friends! We wish a blessed Christmas- a joyful time with relatives and church family, a great opportunity for evangelism, a time, when it is better to give than to receive.

We thank you for your prayers for us. We are coming into the New 2010 Year with joy and thanksgiving for the last year. We have increase in numbers. Our church regularly attended about 70 people. Worship attendance is still around 30-35 - people work different shifts, families with small babies often miss church. But in general everyone attends the church from one to three times a month. The children's school works regularly, teachers take turns every week to teach kids. They have fun using flannel board and different craft materials to talk about Bible stories and a life of faith. This year we welcomed new babies in the church – Eva, David, Valenteen, Ivan.

Our yearly goal was that every person in the church will read Bible daily and will be a part of the group of the believers in the church on a week day, where they discuss scripture. We achieved much this year. We have more people attending groups than last year. We have Youth Bible study, 3 adult Bible studies and 2 prayer groups. Every meeting we start with the reading of the Scripture. We believe that it will keep us on track and show God's will.

This year we had people go to all church retreat, youth trips, Walk to Emmaus for men and women and Encounter with God. All these trips were beneficial for the people who went and for the church. Most of them came inspired and now serve in the church.

We rejoice for God's power revealed in our church. One sister was delivered from many years of smoking when she went to the Walk to Emmaus. One sister registered her marriage officially. We thank God that he saves people, delivers them from sins, and gives new life.

In spite of the crisis, the offerings increased this year. We continue to do humanitarian help to the orphans in prison 2, to the orphanages in Usalka and Uspenka, to the homeless shelter. We have a new wonderful ministry started this year. We formed a team with 2 other churches to go every week to the center were elderly and handicap people temporary kept. Most of them are left by their relatives and have no place to go. Most of them are bound to their beds. Church members go there to wash floors, to wash people, cut their hair, feed them, and also to tell about love of Jesus, to teach them to pray.

We just finished the Christmas fair for the construction. Members of the church made beautiful hand made things and food. Money from the fair went for the construction. We call our construction a miracle. It is hard to believe, but the walls are coming up. The sanctuary is covered with blocks! After it gets a little warmer (we had -25-30 for several weeks), the builders will finish bricks on the office area and cover it with the blocks too. We pray that the next year we have the last floor and a roof done. One of Tyumen pastors say that crisis time for Christians is a time to build. We thank everyone who donated for the construction, those who pray for our church and who believe in what God is doing here.

We are getting ready for the Christmas service- on Dec 26th (Saturday). We pray for 100 people to come. Please, pray with us too. We have new puppet show for children. We prepared 60 presents for the children in the church, 14 for the children in the orphanage in Usalka and 200 for handicap children in Uspenka orphanage and 65 presents for former orphans in prison 2. We are excited to begin this Christmas season!!!

We pray for you, for your ministry. We pray that you reach at this Christmas season as many lives for Jesus as possible. We pray that many of them make a commitment to stay with Christ. And we pray for miracles!

With Christ's love,

The Rev. Katya Zoubkova and

Tyumen United Methodist Church of the Salvation



## NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Nursery workers need to arrive at 10:30 to receive children. Guidelines are posted in the narthex and outside the nursery door. Weeks can be traded with other volunteers if a conflict arises.

February 7 - Bill & Cheryl Whitescarver

February 14 - Linda McBee

February 21 - Cheryl Lambert & Drake Toothman

February 28 - Judy & Dennis Dawson

## OUTER FLOCK

The Nurture Committee tries to send gifts several times a year to our Outer Flock. If you would like to bake something or make a donation please contact Leah Powell.

## So Why DO I Go To Church?

Dr. Abigail Elizabeth Reynolds

I was asked this question by a friend who had read my previous blog on the “Americanization of Jesus”. It is a legitimate question since I stated so much of what I don’t believe anymore and some issues surrounding Church was in those beliefs.

I go to Church most Sundays for two reasons. The first is God and the second is God’s people.

Let me explain.

I am so in love with God and, as a result, I love God’s people. I have from time to time declared that I am having a love affair with a Rabbi I know. His name is Jesus. He is the great Lover of My Soul.

And as a result of His love for me, I have grown to love His family, His brothers and sisters, His Father (God the Father) and Mother (The Holy Spirit).

I love to gather with His family one day a week for a time of celebration, singing, laughing, and eating. There is nothing more thrilling or rewarding than spending time with people you love and care about around the table, breaking bread and drinking wine together.

And the stories. I love to hear and listen to the stories from other family members of how Jesus and His family helped one another, played with one another, and encouraged one another through the week.

I love to hear one of His brothers or sisters stand in the midst of the family and tell another story of the adventures of Jesus and His family. It is always so exciting!

And while I may not believe some things as I once did, and still struggle with other things I may or may not believe, I refuse to give up being with the ones I love. And, in loving safely within the family, I learn to have the courage to love boldly outside the family, inviting others into the His family, just as He one day invited me in.

Because of His great love for me, I also have learned that I can ask questions. I can challenge my beliefs. I can still remain one of His family members. I can continue to be the love of His life, the apple of His eye, the joy of His Spirit, the object of His affection.

I hope you too, know this kind of love and desire for the Lover of Your Soul.

## Church Website

**www.cogswv.org**

Our new church website is up and running. We're experimenting with formats and content to make it easy to use and useful to read. We post the bulleting, newsletter, Abby Reynolds' blog, current events schedule and helpful links. Our goal is to add video of our worship services. Check it out and help us grow our presence in cyber-space!



A young minister was preaching his first sermon in a Kentucky church. He chose as his subject, "The Evils of Drinking." After the sermon, a member of the church called him aside and said, "I wouldn't use that subject anymore because half of your church members work in Kentucky distilleries."

The next Sunday he preached on "The evils of gambling." After the sermon, the same fellow called him aside and reminded him that about half of his church members raise race horses on which bettors bet.

The following Sunday the young preacher chose as his topic, "The evils of smoking." For the third time, the man called him aside and said, "That's not a good subject. About a fourth of your members grow tobacco for a living."

The fourth Sunday the preacher chose as his subject, "The hazards of fishing in the territorial waters of Somalia."

—Jim Reed

Cotter, AR

### What's in a Name?

#### Read Ephesians 5:1-10

**A good name is to be chosen rather great riches. -- Proverbs 22:1 (NRSV)**

I had gone to college and moved away from my tiny hometown of three hundred people. Once when I went back to visit, I went to a neighboring small town to shop. I was going to make a purchase and then remembered I had an out of state check.

"Will you accept a check from another state?" I asked the clerk. I already had my checkbook open.

She looked at my last name, Bothof, which is not an ordinary name. "Are you John's daughter?" she asked.

"No, I'm Henry's daughter, from Chandler. John is my uncle." "No problem," she said.

I wrote the check. Because my uncle had built a good reputation, I also was trusted. And my check was good; I did not shame my uncle or my father.

I have another name: Christian. I belong to the family of Christ. Christ built a reputation, and I am to follow in his steps. In my daily life, do I reflect his character? I want people to be drawn to Christ because of me.

Do my daily behavior and my character bring shame or honor to the name Christian?

**Prayer:** God, let our light shine so that when others see our good works, they will give glory to you. Amen.

#### *Thought for the day*

***If all Christians behaved as I do, would people want to follow Christ?***

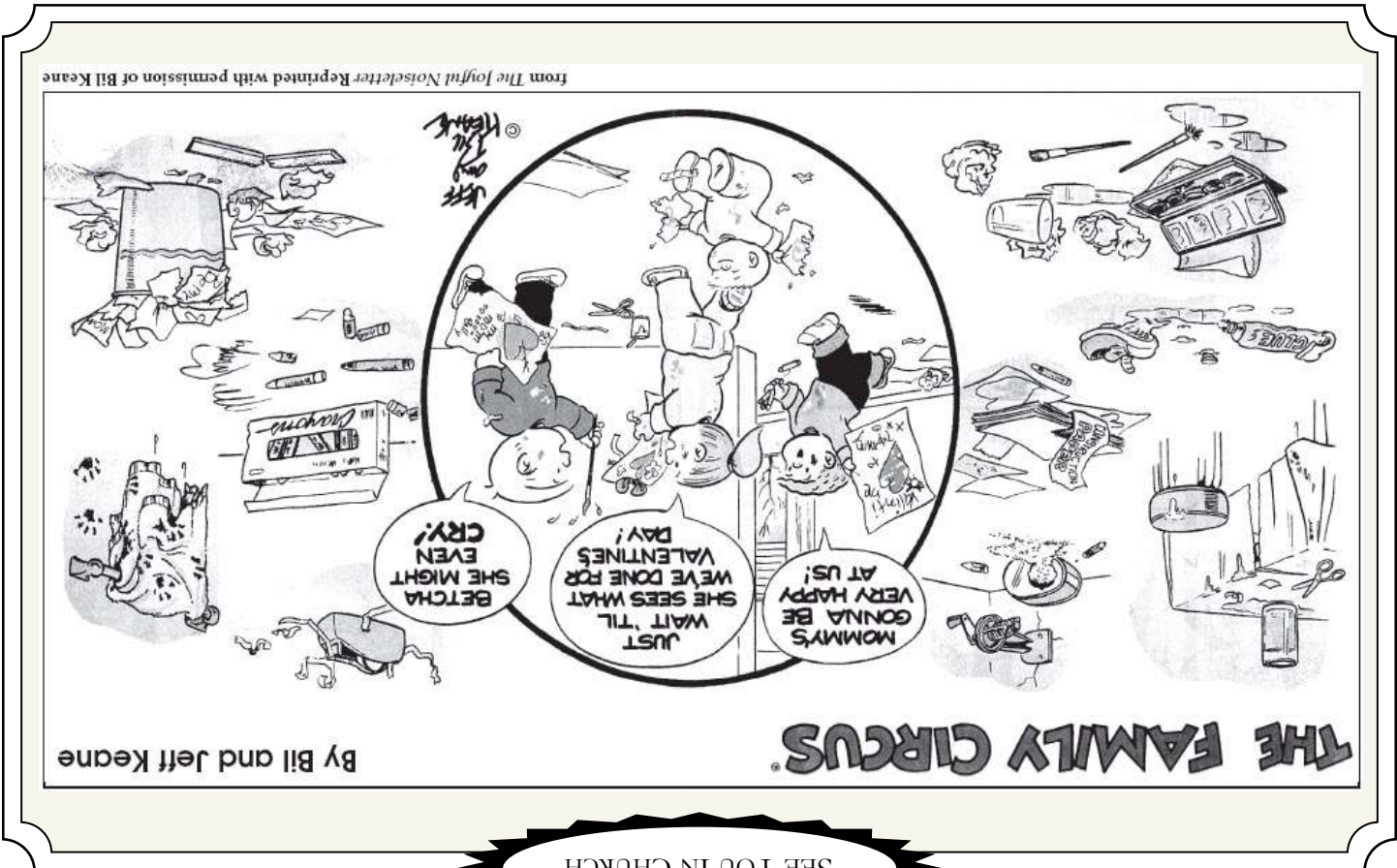
Diann Bothhof Lopez (Arizona) *reprinted from the Upper Room*

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