

Maupin's Corner

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Maupin Avenue ARP Church

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April 2010

Congratulations	3
Worship Team	3
Youth Night	3
Women's Ministries	3
Birthdays	3
Health Team	4
Calendar	5

Forgiven That We Might Be Forgiving

What better time to be reminded of grace than at Easter. Easter is the supreme example of grace: the sheer, nothing but grace given, that puts us back into relationship with God.

When I think of being forgiven by another, I realize forgiveness is to be shown grace when we don't deserve it, from the person we have wronged.

To say I'm sorry is a first step in realizing you have done harm to another, but does nothing to repay the wrong.

When we were children we always used, "I'm sorry mom. I didn't mean to do it." But that never fixed the wrong we had done.

Good parents know this, and depending on the severity of the child's behavior, give different levels of pun-

ishment, like being confined to one's room, or different chores that give the child time to reflect and learn from mistakes.

Occasionally we children would wise up, hoping to avoid more drastic punishment and "came clean", admitting the wrong, and after saying "sorry" we would tell our parents "how" we were going to make amends.

If this is done truly with a sorrowful heart that wants to make things right, not concerned about the personal cost to us so we can have back the love of the parent, then that is called repentance. Where we want to be forgiven so that mom and dad aren't mad and we are welcomed back into the good graces of our family.

Most of the time this is exactly the way we approach God. We

seek God's favor. We think if we are good morally then all will be well and that bad stuff won't happen to us. And most importantly God will be happy with us. So much that when we die we will hear Him say "welcome home my good and faithful child."

This is so where Satan wants us good Christians to live our lives. Why?

First the morally right are just that, right. But they are right only in their minds. They then judge all others by their relative legalistic standards. When they fall they repent but nothing changes. They continue to believe in the "works that makes God happy religion" so they can continue to have the favor of God in their lives.

When their son or daughter behaves

Continued from page 1



poorly or when they get a terminal illness then they become confused because they have never done anything to deserve this except live a very good life.

The “works that makes God happy religion” Jesus said is no religion at all. It is totally unacceptable to God. In the parable of the “Two Lost Sons” in Luke Jesus teaches the most radical Gospel ever.

The lost sinful son returns, and like we children he has a plan to pay his father back for all the father’s wealth he has squandered.

But how does the father react. He will hear none of the son’s payback plan. He “graces” him with a fire hose and immediately says you’re back in the family as my son, paid in full.

That’s sheer, nothing but grace forgiveness we don’t deserve.

But the “lost good son” will have nothing to do with that grace, because he believes it is not what his father has done for him but all about what he has done for his father.

The good son does not do good because he loves the father, but because he loves the stuff the father will one day give to him when he dies. He does good to keep his father distant and happy with him so he can be in control of his life. **And he is quite unrepentant for all the selfish good he does.**

The Gospel of Jesus says repent of the selfish bad you do and the selfish good you do.

Jesus wants us to love Him for who He is not for what we can get from Him. And then He wants us to take this kind of love into our relationships with each other.

We find forgiveness through the sacrificial shed blood of Calvary by which our Creator sacrificed His all that we might be forgiven, our debt paid fully, and reconciliation with Him made complete.

When Cathy and I hike in the mountains of Sedona, Arizona I feel close to God, but undeserving of the majesty of His creation all around me, as far as the eye can see. But the majesty of God’s creation pales in comparison to the majesty of Calvary.

It is when we see the

majesty of God’s redemptive plan fully that our hearts are fully His and He will be most happy with us. Then for the first time we, no matter the circumstance of life, will love Him as most simply only for who He is, our Father God.

John Newton writes:

Then our pleasure and our duty,

*Those opposite before,
Since we have seen His beauty,*

Are joined to part no more;

It is our highest pleasure,

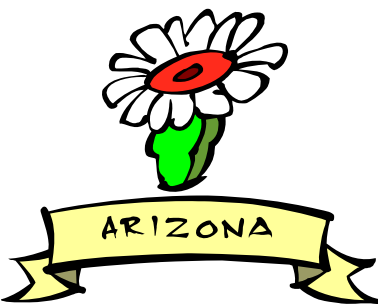
*No less than duty’s call,
To love Him beyond measure,*

And serve Him with our all.

As a parent I do not first seek my child’s obedience; I seek their heart that they might give it first to God their Father, so that they might know love, be able to love, and living in God’s grace forgive others simply because they have first been forgiven themselves.

Forgiven That We Might Be Forgiving, All because He Is Risen!

Easter Blessings,
Pastor Randy



Congratulations

Alexis Grace Calder was born March 26, 2010 to Heather and Alan Calder. She was born at 10:27am; she weighed 6 lbs 8 oz and was 18 inches long. The proud grandparents are Bob and Dana Crawford.



Worship Team

The Worship Team will meet Tuesday, April 20 at 6:30pm at the church office. Everyone is invited to attend.

Youth Night

There will be no youth night in April. The next youth night will be May 2.

Mark Your Calendars

VBS will be June 20-24. The theme will be Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace.

Danny Funderburk will be in concert Saturday night, July 13 at 7:00pm.

Women's Ministries

The combined Circles will meet for breakfast at 8:00am on Saturday, April 10. Please read Jonah 2: 6-9 in preparation for the Bible Study.

<u>April Birthdays</u>	
April 10	H.S. Henderson
April 15	Jessica Lesslie
April 18	David Fortson



Health Team Summary

The Health Team met on Thursday, March 25, 2010. The meeting opened with a short devotional "Don't fear, Jesus is alive" from the book, "Lighthouse of Hope" by Sue Falcone, followed by prayer.

Those present: Bob Crawford, Randy Foster, Jill Rufty, Gale Spry and Betty Sunding.

Holy week services were discussed. There is a combined Women's Ministry meeting on April 10 at 8am. The future of the Health team was discussed and whether it was necessary to meet monthly. We will not meet in April or May with the next meeting being Tuesday, July 27, 2010 at 7 pm. We encourage anyone who is interested in our church and it's activities to come to these meetings. Even if you cannot attend for any reason, please make your needs and/or concerns made to any member of the team so they can be addressed.

Sunday School attendance was discussed and possible ways to encourage more members of the church to attend, especially those in leadership positions. Having SS start earlier and omitting the opening, with a time of coffee and fellowship between SS and the worship service were discussed. Please let the team know what you think of this idea. More outings for the church, cook outs, hiking, picnics, etc. Remember the fish fry's of days gone by??? Anything involving food is always good!!

The decline in attendance at the Wednesday night Bible Study was also discussed. Our pastor takes great pains to prepare these lessons on our church doctrine and they are very informative and interesting. Those who are not coming are really missing a good opportunity to have a great meal (\$3.00 cheap!!), learn and enjoy fellowship with their brothers and sisters in Christ.

New pew Bibles and Hymnals are being looked at. The money is in place for their purchase. Ideas will be brought to the Session for their approval.

Meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully,

Betty Sunding



April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> Maundy Thursday ser- vice at 7:00pm	<i>2</i> Breakfast 6:15am at Cracker Barrel	<i>3</i> Egg Hunt 11:00am
<i>4</i> 7:30Sunrise 8:00Breakfast 9:00Sunday School 10:00Worship	<i>5</i> <i>Pastor's day off</i>	<i>6</i> Session and Deaconate meet at 5:30pm	<i>7</i> Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 5:45pm Choir Practice 6:45pm	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> Breakfast 6:15am at Cracker Barrel	<i>10</i> Combined Cir- cles/Prayer Breakfast 8:00am
<i>11</i> 10:00am- Sunday School 11:00am- Worship/ Children's Church	<i>12</i> <i>Pastor's day off</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 5:45pm Choir Practice 6:45pm	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> Breakfast 6:15am at Cracker Barrel	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> 10:00am- Sunday School 11:00am- Worship/ Children's Church	<i>19</i> <i>Pastor's day off</i>	<i>20</i> Worship Team meets 6:30pm	<i>21</i> Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 5:45pm Choir Practice 6:45pm	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> Breakfast 6:15am at Cracker Barrel	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> 10:00am- Sunday School 11:00am- Worship/ Children's Church	<i>26</i> <i>Pastor's day off</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 5:45pm Choir Practice 6:45pm	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> Breakfast 6:15am at Cracker Barrel	

Put it in God's Hands



A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19. A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about \$33 million. It depends on whose hands it's in.



A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6. A baseball in Roger Clemens' hands is worth \$475 million. It depends on whose hands it's in.



A tennis racket is useless in my hands. A tennis racket in Andre Agassi's hands is worth millions. It depends on whose hands it's in.



A rod in my hands will keep away an angry dog. A rod in Moses' hand will part the mighty sea. It depends on whose hands it's in.



A slingshot in my hands is a kids toy. A slingshot in David's hand is a mighty weapon. It depends on whose hands it's in.



Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches. Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in Jesus' hands will feed thousands. It depends on whose hands it's in.



Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse. Nails in Jesus Christ's hands will produce salvation for the entire world. It depends on whose hands it's in.

As you see now, it depends on whose hands it's in. So put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams, your families and your relationships in God's hands because...it depends on whose hands it's in.



Egg hunt 2010