



Maupin's Corner

Maupin Avenue ARP Church

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February 2010

Servants to One Another For Christ's Sake

This February I would like for us to continue to think about our relationships together and about how having a "forgiving spirit" makes each of us healthy.

Paul's words, "To proclaim not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and ourselves as servants to each other and the world for Jesus sake," always challenge us to that as Christ was the redemptive suffering servant to us. Then we might be in a restored relationship with God the Father, so are we to be in right relationship with one another as each other's servants.

Relationships get very involved at times and things said unintentionally are sometimes taken very personally. We become hurt and the ministry we do together breaks down.

Any relationship requires love, friendship, and commitment. All three are required but if the ability to forgive the things people do to you, especially those close, is not present you will find it very difficult to

stay in relationship.

Think of the young married couple that faithfully promises to love for better or worse. If their marriage is going to last then they had better be prepared to forgive.

Forgiveness heals and gives permission for the slate to be wiped clean with fresh eyes and open hearts.

Understanding what forgiveness is and is not allows us to forgive in a healthy way.

Forgiveness first allows us to leave the past behind, or as someone has said, "Giving up all hope of a better past."

When we speak of living in the past, what we are really doing is hoping for a better past.

A key part of forgiving is the want to look forward and plan for a better future, rather than too often digging up the past.

Forgiveness does more

than just help us to release ourselves from our past. Forgiveness at its core contains the nature of "accepting" and with that, peace.

If I have been neglected or mistreated in some way, then by acceptance I don't mean that we are to become a doormat. Simply that we would understand forgiveness by remaining calm when irritating things happen.

Remaining at peace when you don't get what you want or when you have been mistreated is the first step of forgiving and allows you to take time and responsibility for caring for your own emotions.

Forgiveness has to begin inside us and peace within is given as grace from God to us.

My peace I leave with you; My own peace I now give and bequeath to you...Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. John 14:27

In times of disappointment

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we need to accept the peace of Christ inside us. Accepting the grace of peace is the very thing that allows healing of our hearts and makes reconciliation possible.

But before any reconciliation can happen we need to forgive by letting go of anger, even despair that we feel because of what has happened to us.

Only by making peace with a bitter part of our past can we begin to heal. But that takes an appropriate time between when the offense happens and when we are able to accept what has happened to us.

The time it takes can be minutes or weeks depending on the offense. Grief allows us to cope with the loss, and gives us time and space we need to trust again.

But there comes the time when we must move on and forgive. In doing so we are never condoning the wrong, nor are we forgetting the pain we went through. Forgiving never excuses wrong behavior. Forgiveness is not forgetting what has happened to us. If you remember the bad then you will be better able to not let it happen again. Remembering allows us to be encouraged by the past times we have accepted, forgiven and moved forward. Remembering times past when we forgave allows us to help support those who are in similar circumstances of need. We become less judgmental and more compassionate.

Our forgiveness does not preclude

that justice is done when we have been wronged or that bad behavior is ignored so that we “go alone to get along.”

Jesus taught us correctly in Mathew 18 about conflict resolution and discipline in our church relationships.

What we learn is that forgiveness is our choice where we choose not to be a victim and to live forward and not in reverse.

Forgiveness is really mostly for our own edification rather than who we forgive.

What we find is that if we can't and don't forgive then we become powerless to allow our hearts to heal.

When I choose to forgive a hurt then I become responsible for my own feelings and emotions. Forgiving will always create a healthier environment for our relationships but will not always persuade the other person to act the way we would like.

Jesus said immediately upon teaching us the Lord's Prayer, “If you forgive those who sin against you...your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”

Forgiveness is for our own salvation. It always takes an appropriate amount of time for us to deal with the grief we have gone through, but when we accept what has happened and forgive the wrong then and only then will we have chosen a healthier way to live.

Having a forgiving spirit toward one another heals us and offers the oppor-

tunity for great relationships. It is good for our health and if we determine to practice it lifelong it will be the thing that keeps us together in relationship.

Jesus said, Mt 6: 37 “Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Just as Paul taught, “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you”. Col 3:13

I pray that as we move forward into 2010 that we will learn much more about how we are to forgive so we can love each other as Christ loves us being, “Servant's For His Sake.”

God's Blessings,
Pastor Randy



Poor Man's Supper

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 21: We will be having a "Poor Man's Supper" that evening at 5:00pm. The menu will be pinto beans, corn bread, slaw, greens, and dessert. This is a fundraiser for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The Fulton Heights Neighborhood Association is helping with the sup-

per, and will be providing the desserts. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board for the other items. A free will offering jar will be in place for contributions. The money will be sent through World Vision.



Women's Ministries

The Day Circle will meet Monday, February 8 at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Melba Hunter will host.

The Night Circle will meet Monday, February 8 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Jean Phelps will host.

Both circles are asked to read Jonah 11:17 for the Bible Study.

Youth Night

Youth Night is Sunday, February 7 starting at 5:00pm. We will be having a "Super Bowl" party. More details to come...

February Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| February 14: | Raven Dwyer |
| February 16: | Josh Spry |
| February 20: | Margaret Henderson |
| February 22: | Melba Hunter |



Health Team Meeting

The health team met at 7:00pm on Tuesday, January 26, 2010. The meeting was opened with a short devotional on the topic of not becoming weary in doing right (Gal 6:9) from the book "The Lighthouse of Hope" by Sue Falcon. This was followed with an opening prayer.

Those present were Randy Foster, Gale Spry, Betty Sunding and Susan Triplett.

We briefly discussed some of the things our church had done in the month of December and then went on to new ideas: Susan who cooked an absolutely delicious dinner last Wednesday asked that the money given for food be used as seed money for a fundraiser for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. She had asked the neighborhood association if they would be interested in being involved and they said they would help. It was decided to do an "Poor Man's Supper" on Sunday night February 21 at 5 pm. The menu will be pinto beans, corn bread, slaw, greens and dessert. The neighborhood association will be asked to do the desserts and a sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board. A free will offering jar will be in place for contributions. The money will be sent through World Vision. Susan volunteered to do flyers for the neighborhood; we would like to have it advertized on the free TV ads and in the Salisbury Post. It can also be posted on our WEB site.

Other ideas presented by Randy were an early morning weekly breakfast for people who work to get together and have a time of food, fellowship and prayer before going to work. Also a "Best Year's Club" for some of the "seasoned citizen" members of our church to meet perhaps on a monthly basis for lunch at K&W. Susan Triplett is interested in starting a book club for people who enjoy reading and discussing the books they read. She also told us about a couple in Winston-Salem who have a ministry they do called "Potter's House Rebirth". They moved into a depressed neighborhood in W/S and once a month they cook food and serve it to the people of the neighborhood. She was invited to join them recently and was impressed with what they were doing.

Susan also mentioned that Edie Lesslie who works as a secretary for 3 local combined Methodist churches told her that they were having to give up some of their outreach ministries due to lack of funding and the aging population of the churches. There are many ways we can reach out and help. We ask that all of our church family pray about what we as a church can do. With God anything is possible!!

The meeting was closed in prayer by Randy.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Sunding



February 2010

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 <i>Pastor's day off</i> | 2 | 3 <i>Dinner</i> 5:15pm <i>Bible Study</i> 6:00pm <i>Choir Practice</i> 7:00pm | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 10:00am- Sunday School 11:00am- Wor- ship 5:00pm-Youth Night/Super Bowl Party | 8 <i>Circles meet</i> 2:00pm and 7:00pm <i>Pastor's day off</i> | 9 <i>Deacons meet</i> 6:30pm | 10 <i>Dinner</i> 5:15pm <i>Bible Study</i> 6:00pm <i>Choir Practice</i> 7:00pm | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 10:00am-Sunday School 11:00am- Wor- ship/Children's Church | 15 <i>Pastor's day off</i> | 16 | 17 <i>Dinner</i> 5:15pm <i>Bible Study</i> 6:00pm <i>Choir Practice</i> 7:00pm | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 10:00am-Sunday School 11:00am- Wor- ship/Children's Church 5:00pm-Supper | 22 <i>Pastor's day off</i> | 23 <i>Health/Prayer</i> <i>teams meet</i> 7:00pm | 24 <i>Dinner</i> 5:15pm <i>Bible Study</i> 6:00pm <i>Choir Practice</i> 7:00pm | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 10:00am-Sunday School 11:00am- Wor- ship/Children's Church | | | | | | |

HANDY LITTLE CHART - GOD HAS A POSITIVE ANSWER:

| <u>YOU SAY</u> | <u>GOD SAYS</u> | <u>BIBLE VERSES</u> |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| You say: 'It's impossible' | God says: All things are possible | (Luke 18:27) |
| You say: 'I'm too tired' | God says: I will give you rest | (Matthew 11:28-30) |
| You say: 'Nobody really loves me' | God says: I love you | (John 3:1 6 & John 3:34) |
| You say: 'I can't go on' | God says: My grace is sufficient | (II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15) |
| You say: 'I'm always worried and frustrated' | God says: Cast all your cares on ME | (I Peter 5:7) |
| You say: 'I'm not able' | God says: I am able | (II Corinthians 9:8) |
| You say: 'I can't figure things out' | God says: I will direct your steps | (Proverbs 3:5- 6) |
| You say: 'It's not worth it' | God says: It will be worth it | (Roman 8:28) |
| You say: 'I can't do it' | God says: You can do all things | (Philippians 4:13) |
| You say: 'I can't forgive myself' | God says: I Forgive you | (I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1) |
| You say: 'I can't manage' | God says: I will supply all your needs | (Philippians 4:19) |
| You say: 'I'm afraid' | God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear | (II Timothy 1:7) |
| You say: 'I'm not smart enough' | God says: I give you wisdom | (I Corinthians 1:30) |
| You say: 'I feel all alone' | God says: I will never leave you or forsake you | (Hebrews 13:5) |

