

Maupin's Corner

Maupin Avenue ARP Church

Volume 5, Issue 3

Forgiveness: Not Sweating the Things You Can't Change

It was 1981 and Cathy and I had been married 3 years. She was fresh out of college, working at Bell South in Greensboro. I was continuing, from my college days, a 22 year career at Big Brown.

We had moved from our tiny apartment into our first home and now had a yard to mow. My company promoted from within back then and so I went from part-time supervisor to hourly union, delivering packages and then, in just over a year, back to supervision full-time.

My first assignment full-time was in the Winston Salem North Center working with a center manager who, unassumingly, was naturally gifted with great leadership skills.

The first and most important thing he taught me that I have never forgotten is this:

"Do not get frustrated or spend time on what you cannot control about yourself, your people, this company, and our customers. To do so is a waste of your time. Only be concerned about what you can effectively change and control. Work to solve that and we will turn this package center's poor performance of all drivers averaging working 1.7 hours over per driver per day (this package center was the least best performing center in NC at the time) into one of the best performing centers in the state."

We were a new management team in a new city, unknown by other management that worked

there, and certainly not trusted by our driver group.

To get angry about the difficult assignment we had been given, angry about what we were about to experience, frustrated to be in such a position because of my inexperience, angry about employees abusing the freedom they had to run their routes effectively, angry that the time our industrial engineering dept. may have given us to run our package delivery routes in were in some cases unrealistic, etc...to get frustrated over all we could not change and make right would have meant certain failure from the start.

However if we could be forgiving of how we arrived at our circumstance, forgiving of those who put us there, forgiving of the driver group that underperformed so miserably, if we could somehow learn to forgive all that, we

March 2010

Women's Ministries	3
Meetings	3
Worship Committee	3
Health Team	4
Calendar	5
Birthdays	6
Baby Shower	6

Maupin Avenue ARP Church

100 Maupin Ave.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Phone:
704-633-9101

E-mail: pastor-randy@carolina.rr.com

We're on the web!
www.maupinavenuepresbyterianchurch.org

Continued from page 1

would have an opportunity for real change. Forgiveness would allow us to move forward focusing on now, on the future goals we set and to work the plan we mapped out to achieve for them.

Focusing our time, talent and treasure on what we could change and forgiving the rest is really about faith.

I have found out the hard way as a parent too often that to dredge up the past faults of my children never changes anything they have done previously. And it is not a successful tool for future better behavior going forward.

Past keeps us just there, and it robs us of the redemptive future that God has for us all. It keeps us from seeing what can be done. The mantra "I don't get mad, I get even," does us more harm physically and emotionally than just getting mad alone. When we plot the hurt or downfall of another it makes certain our own downfall.

I might not be able to change someone I work closely with in some areas that hurt me personally. But I can choose not to let those actions hurt me personally and emotionally. To not let them ruin my day or control my feelings.

God does not want us to allow another to have that kind of influence or control over our lives. Rather, He wants us to trust His judgment so that when we take a hurt or concern in prayer to Him, that we have faith that the prayer we pray "begins in heaven and ends in heaven."

This is the best definition of how we are to trust God's sovereignty (His authority, power and control over all things) when we pray to Him that I know.

Forgiveness in areas of relationships that we have no control over says that we trust God to control them and frees us up to do the things we can do and move forward.

CS Lewis is best spoken in that if we live in the past or day dreaming about the future too often Satan is most satisfied with us and will leave us alone. It is when we live in the now, doing the work of God, letting Him deal with the past and the unknown of the future that Satan will take notice.

You might be wondering how things worked out in the Winston Salem North Center. The year that unfolded brought new challenges everyday. Gaining the trust of the driver group with integrity, fairness and consistency began to take hold one person at a time, until the very difficult personalities became less and less with time.

We were blessed with this result. The center was averaging running over by 1.7 hours a day per driver and within a year and two months we were running only an average of .25 hours over per driver each day.

As a Christian the Kingdom lesson I learned is that whatever happens in life, we first trust God in all things. For that which we can not undo let them be and then do rightly what can be done. This is the choice that we are held accountable to make and carry out daily.

Learning to forgive what has come before, and to live by grace through faith today for which God promised He would provide for us.

Most anger should be left in our Lord's care, and certainly all judgment is to be left to Him.

Our part is to "trust Him with all our hearts by not leaning on our understanding of things but in all circumstances of life, in all our ways we must faithfully acknowledge Him and He has promised to keep our paths straight."

May we continue to forgive for love that we might prosper in our faith and as the church, be known for the truth we speak because it comes from hearts that first love others more than self.

May our March season of Lent bring us an ever awareness of our sin and need of repentance, so that we may daily consider "ourselves dead to sin and alive in Jesus Christ. Forgiven that we might also forgive for love.

His Blessings,

Pastor Randy

Women's Ministries

The Day Circle will meet Monday, March the 1st at 2:00pm with Betty Sunding.

The Night Circle will meet Monday, March the 8th at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall with Marilyn Fisher hosting.

Both circles are asked to read Jonah 2:1-6 for the Bible Study.

We will need volunteers for the **Bake Sale Fundraiser, Saturday March 13th** at the Salisbury Mall. Set up time begins at 8:00am. The sale begins at 10:00am and runs till 4:00pm. The sign-up sheet is in the fellowship hall and if you have any questions please see Jean Phelps. Baked goods can be left in the kitchen the day before or taken to the mall on Saturday morning.

We thank all who participated in the **Haitian Relief Dinner**. We raised \$1027.00 and are still receiving donations.

VBS

We will have our first **Vacation Bible School** meeting Sunday, March 7th at 4:00pm.

Please be looking at all the VBS programs available so we can decide which is best for 2010.

The tentative dates for VBS this year is June 20-24th.

Synod

Please be in prayer for the **historic called meeting of Synod** that will take place this coming March 2nd and 3rd at Bonclarken as we meet to hear the results of the findings and recommendations of the special committee formed by Synod this past June concerning Erskine College and Seminary. Elder Bob Crawford will be attending along with Pastor Randy. Please pray for safe travel to and from.

Presbytery

Please be in prayer for the Stated Spring Meeting of First Presbytery March 9th at Concord ARP.

Worship Committee

The Session recently established a **Worship Committee** with Elder Bob Crawford appointed to lead the Committee. The purpose of the Worship Committee is to meet regularly to give input and suggestions to our worship such as:

*We currently have monies donated for new pew Bibles and a partial donation for new Hymnals. The committee will make recommendations to the session concerning this.

*We have recently added a fifth communion at our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and would like to discuss where a sixth communion service might best fit our calendar year.

*Would we like, as many do, to mark the beginning of Lenten Season with an Ash Wednesday Ser-

vice?

*We would discuss having a Sunday evening service of singing and prayer.

*We would want to discuss Children's Church and how we might better integrate it into more of our Sunday morning service, such as occasionally, instead of a children's sermon, have the kids lead us in the songs they learn during Children's church.

*We would discuss how we might get more people involved in scripture reading during different parts of worship.

*We will discuss planning the worship calendar for the year in conjunction with Women's Ministries and the Health Team. Such Sunday's as Missions, Gospel Sings,

Home Coming Sunday with a guest speaker.

*The possibility of having a weekend or Sunday thru Wednesday evening revival services.

*Planning for our Youth Led Worship Sunday after VBS.

The list of good ideas, and ideas made better, will only grow and be possible if we have good participation in the committee.

Please do not feel that if you attend one meeting you are obligated forever. The only permanent members of the committee are Bob Crawford, Gale Spry and the pastor. We would love if you can come and be a part for one time or as long as you would like. The first meeting will be March the 11th at 7:00pm in the church office.

Health Team Meeting February 23, 2010

The meeting was opened with a short devotional on laughter and it's importance to our good health, followed by prayer. Those present were Bob Crawford, Randy Foster, Connie Lesslie, Gale Spry, Betty Sunding, and Susan Triplett.

The biggest project we had since our last meeting was the Haiti fund raiser last Sunday night. It was a very blessed and successful event, attended by a good crowd with healthy appetites and there was plenty of good nourishing food. A big "Thank you" to all who came and brought food so abundant and delicious and helped with serving, clean up, etc. "Many hands make light work" was a saying that was frequently used by a pastor's wife I knew in IL. She was so right. I'm sure all of you that were there and did help out were blessed by it. The Fulton Heights Neighborhood Association helped out by bringing some deserts and there was several of their families who came. The final count on the donations is not available since some are bringing checks on Sunday, but it will be well over \$1000.00!!! Pretty good for our first attempt at doing something like this.

It was suggested that we make this an annual event at about the same time of the year and designate a different charity each year. The Health Team agreed so next year we will plan to do another fund raiser and Rowan Helping Ministries will be the designated charity. This gives us all lots of time to plan ahead instead of being such a last minute, almost spur-of-the-moment event.

Other news: We are thinking of having an Ash Wednesday service in 2011. The children will sing some music for us on Easter Sunday this year. Daylight savings will begin March 14!! Palm Sunday is March 28, Maundy Thursday service April 1, Easter April 4. On Easter we will have a Sunrise Service at 7:30am followed by a breakfast at 8:00am, Sunday School at 9:00am and Worship Service at 10:00am.

In August we will have a missionary speak to us, followed by a covered dish dinner. The Woman's Ministry is having a bake sale at the Mall on March 13. Please help by bringing all your favorite yummy things to sell. The Women's Ministry is a great supporter of our church and many other charitable organizations. VBS is tentatively planned for June 20-24. Volunteers sign up soon. There will be a planning meeting March 7. The Youth will be doing a fundraiser for their annual mission trip. It will cost \$300.00 for each person attending. The date for this will be announced later. We have money designated for new pew Bibles and hymnals. Gale Spry will be doing the Week of Prayer program at the May Saturday morning breakfast and prayer meeting.

Next meeting of the Health Team will be Thursday, March 25. (Note the change of day of the week.)

Respectfully,

Betty Sunding

March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> Day Circle 2:00pm Pastor's day off	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 5:45pm Choir Practice 6:45pm	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> Breakfast 6:15am at Cracker Barrel	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 10:00am- Sunday School 11:00am- Worship 4:00pm-VBS meeting 5:00pm-Youth Night	<i>8</i> Night Circle 7:00pm Pastor's day off	<i>9</i> Deacons meet 5:30pm	<i>10</i> Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 5:45pm Choir Practice 6:45pm	<i>11</i> Worship Com- mittee meets 7:00pm	<i>12</i> Breakfast 6:15am at Cracker Barrel	<i>13</i> Prayer Break- fast 8:00am Bake Sale at Mall 10-4
<i>14</i> 10:00am- Sunday School 11:00am- Worship/ Children's Church 2-4-Shower	<i>15</i> Pastor's day off	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 5:45pm Choir Practice 6:45pm	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> Breakfast 6:15am at Cracker Barrel	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 10:00am- Sunday School 11:00am- Worship/ Children's Church	<i>22</i> Pastor's day off	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 5:45pm Choir Practice 6:45pm	<i>25</i> Health/Prayer teams meet 7:00pm	<i>26</i> Breakfast 6:15am at Cracker Barrel	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 10:00am- Sunday School 11:00am- Worship/ Children's Church	<i>29</i> Pastor's day off	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 5:45pm Choir Practice 6:45pm			



March Birthdays

March 1	Jessica Foster
March 2	Evelyn Cvechko
March 8	Renee Fortson
March 11	David Hunter
March 19	Molly Conner
March 25	Randy Foster

It's a Boy!

Everyone is invited to a Baby Shower for Carissa Dickert on Sunday, March 14 from 2-4pm in the Fellowship Hall. Carissa is registered at Wal-Mart and Babies-R-Us.



Breakfast

Everyone is welcome to come join us each Friday morning at Cracker Barrel (off Innes) for breakfast and prayer. Please bring a friend. We meet at 6:15am so you can leave as early as 7:00am and we are done no later than 7:15am. Come and join us for great food and fellowship.