



Thoughts From The Pastor

Perhaps because it involved Georgians, a segment on CBS Sunday Morning mentioned by my friend, Ed Culpepper in his weekly devotional blog caught my attention. Here is some of what Ed had to say.

In the segment, reporter Steve Hartman profiles 82 year old Dan Peterson, who early in 2016 buried his wife after many years of marriage. Hartman says that both Dan and his wife Mary were buried that day near Augusta, Georgia; Mary in the cemetery, Dan in a mound of grief. Dan sank into deep depression, isolation and loneliness.

One day in September, Dan was grocery shopping-his disdain for the task unmistakable on his face. That was when 4 year old Nora Wood reached out to Dan and said, "Hi, old person! It's my birthday today!" Nora asked Dan for a hug. Both Nora's mother and Dan were taken aback. But this unapproachable grieving man hugged the little girl who had approached him. Both were transformed by Nora's spontaneous gift of love. Nora's mother said that Nora simply wanted the man to feel loved and to have a hug. Dan said of the moment, "That's the first time in a long while that I've been this happy." Nora asked her Mom to take a picture of her with her new friend. Since that encounter in Publix, Nora has visited Dan at least once a week. He says of their developing bond, "She opened me to a love that I didn't know existed." He says further, "I know I made room in my heart for a lot more." Dan says that after Mary's death he was without purpose, just waiting to die. With Nora's gift of love, he feels that he now has a purpose: Nora.

One of the passages from Isaiah often read during the Advent season just past, speaks of God's redeeming servant coming to restore righteousness, peace, and justice. The Messiah will do this not by brute power but by his intrinsic goodness and service. The passage concludes, "A little child will lead them." (Isaiah 11:6) Might 4 year old Nora help to lead us to participate with God in restoring life-sustaining purpose through sharing simple, unpretentious acts of love? The power of love to transform all parties united in a pure expression of love is undeniable.

The story of Dan, Nora, and her mother presents 3 people who were transformed by pure, unbridled demonstrations of love. A little girl reached out to a miserable, withdrawn, lonely, depressed old man. The widower responded with renewed love and openness he shared with the girl. His own grandchildren were grown up and moved away, but he found purpose in loving Nora and giving part of his life to her. Nora's mother facilitated the sharing of love that enriched Dan and Nora by arranging their continuing visits and time to grow lovingly from one another.

...Continued on Page 2

The Community Worship

Sunday, January 29, 2017
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Disciples and the World
Rev. David E. Tew

Lord, who may dwell in Your sanctuary? Who may live on Your holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart.. Psalm 15:1-2

Wednesday, February 1
Prayer Meeting,
Fellowship Hall, 6:00 p.m.
Rev. David E. Tew

Pastor's Thoughts Continued....

The missing element that would make their actions toward one another ideal is linking their demonstrations of love to a reflection of God's love for us as our source of true life. When we follow their example, we can specify that "We love because God first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

The challenge is before us: transform lives by demonstrations of God's love. Reaching out to someone who is lonely and isolated may be your opportunity. Loving a child who is eager to share love and to learn about sharing life with others could be your chance. Helping people to draw together in love to enrich their common good might take small gifts of time and care but could offer purpose to everyone's life including your own. Who could use a hug, a smile, a kind word, a gentle touch, a tangible need fulfilled, a moment of your time genuinely focused on their need, or any other way you can share God's redeeming love? 2017 is your opportunity to meet the positive challenge of demonstrating God's love more bountifully. It will transform lives.

We welcome new member, **Diane Cook** to our FBC Morrow family. Please add her information to your church handbook. **332 Ridge Drive, Stockbridge, GA 30281. 404.293.1407.**



We are so fortunate to have so many strong, beautiful, capable women in our church. (Pictured - three of many)

Let's Shower the Bride

Grace Teachout

January 29, 2017

1-3 p.m.

FBC Morrow
Fellowship Hall

Save the Date!

Yee-haw! You will not want to miss the 2017 Western theme Valentine Banquet, Sunday, February 12, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. Grab your cowboy hat, boots, and bandana & enjoy a BBQ meal. Famous local Bluegrass Quartet, Faculty Grass, will provide the entertainment. Tickets are available on Wednesdays and after church on Sundays.

Congratulations!

On February 1, **Judy Conway** will celebrate **18 years** as the Minister of Congregational Care for our Family of Faith. When you see Judy, let her know how much you appreciate all she does for our church and the way she shows us the love of Christ.

The family of

LARRY WELCH

Invites you to celebrate his

90TH BIRTHDAY!!

February 4, 2017

From 2 to 4 p.m. (Drop-In)

At

376 Watering Hole Drive
Williamson, GA 30292

No gifts please

What's Going On In the Food Pantry?

The Food Pantry just ended a productive year during 2016. Here's why!
How many people have we served? 556 families, made up of 2,124 people.
How many food items were given to these families?

Canned Greens	3,394
Corn	1,697
Canned Beans	2,096
Tomatoes	1,298
Soup	1,507
Fruit	1,697
Rice	744
Dried Beans	554
Pasta	1,298
Cereal	554
Peanut Butter	554
Mixed Vegetables	1,298
Candy	Thousands

Where did all this food come from?

Sunday School classes, individuals, Woodward Academy, Midwest Georgia Food Bank, Merry Hearts, RA's, Mission Seekers, Boy Scouts, Morrow Civic Woman's Club, St. Paul DaVinci Society, Morrow Masonic Lodge, and the VFW.

Who gives out all of this good food?

Bert Watkins, Nancye Ballew, Trudie Barnes, Aubrey & Nita Hunt, Bob & Nell Brewer, Butch Wright, Charles & Kris Slay, Georgia Gee, Jane, Caleb, Jeremy & Micah Bailey, The Boy Scouts, and Richard Whitton.

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16

Jack's Journeys

GOD CARES FOR YOU

Do you occasionally feel alone or helpless or forgotten? Well, just read these reassuring words from God's Holy Bible, and take new heart. REMEMBER: YOU ARE A CHILD OF THE KING OF ALL CREATION!

I PETER 5:6-7: "Humble yourselves therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."

MATTHEW 10:29-31: "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of the Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

MATTHEW 6:28-34: "Why do you worry about clothes? See the lilies of the field. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you, oh you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat? What shall we wear? For the pagans run after all these things, and your Heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

LUKE 12:32-34: "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the Kingdom. Sell all your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in Heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

PSALM 31: 7-8, 14-16, 19-20, 22-24: "I will be glad and rejoice in Your love. For You saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul. You have not handed me over to the enemy, but you have set my feet in a spacious place...I trust in You, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in Your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. Let Your face shine on Your servant; save Me in Your unfailing love...In my alarm I said, 'I am cut off from Your sight.' You heard my cry for mercy when I called to You for help. Love the Lord, all His saints! The Lord preserves the faithful, but the proud He pays back in full. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."
... Jack Harwell

Kenya Donations for Medical Missions Trip

Donations will need to be ready for pickup on Wednesday, February 15.

For pain and fever: Adult & Children

Tylenol/acetaminophen

Advil/ibuprofen

For Upset stomach/acid/cramps & gas

Fomotidine/zantac/pepcid

Chewable antacid tabs

Cough/congestion & cold meds

Vitamins:Adult & children (chewable)

For antifungal: Clotrimazole & Baza

For Lice: Lindane & shampoos (Head & Shoulders-small 4 oz or less)

For itch & antibiotics: 1 oz tube Triple antibiotic hydrocortisone & Benadryl creams

For Burns: Bacitran and Zinc & Aloe

Pregnancy Tests (\$1 at Dollar Tree)

Allergy & Asthma Meds

Prednisone & Benadryl

Prescription Drugs you have that are not out of date

Also needed: Toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, old glasses-(prescription & sun) Men's Ties, Scrubs, small soaps, pencils & very small paper packs, (very small) toys, frisbees, small balls

NO GUMMIES OF ANY KIND

Cash donations are also welcomed.

Donations can be taken to Judy Conway's office.

Thank You!

Janet Turner

770.389.3518

Calendar of Events

Office open from 8 am - 4:30 pm

Sunday, January 29

Morning Fellowship	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Grace Teachout Wedding Shower	1-3 p.m.

Monday, January 30

Silvertones	11 a.m.
-------------	---------

Tuesday, January 31

Mission Seekers	6:00 p.m.
-----------------	-----------

Wednesday, February 1

Wednesday Night Dinner (Vegetable Soup with Beef, Cornbread, Salad, Pears, and Apple Pie)	5:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Young Musician's Choir	6:00 p.m.
RAs/GAs	6:45 p.m.
Crossings (Youth Group)	6:45 p.m.

Open House

You are cordially invited to join us in the unveiling of our Emergency Shelters' new addition which includes eight family rooms.

Thursday, February 16, 2017

3 p. m- 5 p.m.

Refreshments will be served.

Thank you for your continued support.

Calvary Refuge Center

Phone 404-361-5309

tawana@calvaryrefuge.org

A Unique Opportunity

In August 2016, a letter from Caleb O. Oladipo, Chair of CBF Missions Council and Mark Windfield, member of Council, stated, "We are delighted to send you this letter because we believe in the power of partnership for Global Missions. We have confidence that every church affiliated with CBF can seize the opportunity to transform the world for Christ." We invite you to join us between now and December to support the CBF national goal to raise \$4.2 million for Global Missions.

At Morrow First we have been supporting Global Missions for years. However, this year we want to whole-heartedly support efforts to raise \$4.2 million for Global Missions. Your generous gift supports 120 long term field personnel. Field personnel bear witness to Jesus Christ in 30 countries, meeting needs in three contexts:Global Poverty, Global Migration, and Global Church.

After more than two decades of Christian witness in 30 countries, CBF stands convinced that there are no shortcuts to making disciples of all nations. "Whether translating the Bible into a previously unwritten language, educating Chinese lay leaders and pastors to build the Church and to spread the Gospel, or resurrecting hope in rural America, the transformation we seek requires a patient, incarnational witness with others."

Sixty-nine percent of every dollar helps secure the long term presence of CBF field personnel (salaries, benefits, insurance, and housing.) Missions Programming will get 31% of total dollars to support ministries, special projects, and travel.

This bold new plan clarifies the vision for CBF. Gifts to the offering for Global Missions supports the transformative impact that long-term mission presence enables. Gifts may also be mailed to the church. Our church goal is **\$8,000.**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MORROW

1647 Lake Harbin Road. - Morrow, Georgia 30260
Phone: 770.961.9270 - Facsimile: 770.961.7532
Office@fbcmorrow.org * www.fbcmorrow.org

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID PERMIT
#2814

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 2 January 25, 2017

THE MESSENGER

Information to be considered for Messenger must be submitted in writing prior to the next Messenger (by Thursday, February 9). Forms are outside the secretary's office, or email your information to mhires@fbcmorrow.org.

Financial Report

Projected Weekly Needs	\$7,627.69
<u>Budget Income-Recent Weeks</u>	
January 1-6	\$6,151.00
January 8-13	\$6,961.07
January 15-20	\$7,708.00
<u>YTD Budget Income</u> (through 1/20/17)	
Budget Offerings	\$17,433.20
Reserve Fund Transfers	1,500.00
Other Budget Income	1,886.87
Total YTD Budget Income	\$20,820.07
<u>YTD Budget Expenses</u>	\$21,575.09
<u>YTD Overage/(Shortage)</u>	(\$755.02)
<u>YTD Overage/(Shortage) WITHOUT Transfers from Reserve Fund</u>	
	(\$2,255.02)

Memorial Contributions

Vernon Darley
Arie Swartz

January 29, 2017

<p><u>Deacons of the Week</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wes Moulder 2. Gene Conway 3. David Dawson* <p><u>Preschool Workers</u> <u>Extended Session</u></p> <p><u>Children's Worship</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Laura Jackson</p>	<p><u>Sunday Greeters</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>East Lobby</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gwen McQueen Pete McQueen Aubrey Hunt (East Door)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Backdoor Sanctuary</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nell Brewer</p> <p><u>Ushers of the Week</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bob Brewer* 2. Charles Slay 3. Al Karoffa 4. Bill Petty
--	--

Bible Study Attendance

January 22, 2017

Officers	8
Pre-School	5
Children	17
Youth	10
Adults	85
TOTAL	125

Homebound

Mrs. Delores Turpin
1781 Old Rex Morrow Road
Morrow, GA 30260