



THE TIE THAT BINDS

February 2018 Newsletter of the
First Baptist Church of Bordentown

DON'T JUST
PRETEND TO LOVE
OTHERS. REALLY
LOVE THEM. HATE
WHAT IS WRONG.
HOLD TIGHTLY TO
WHAT IS GOOD.
LOVE EACH OTHER
WITH GENUINE
AFFECTION, AND
TAKE DELIGHT IN
HONORING EACH
OTHER.

ROMANS 12: 9-10

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Won't You Be My Valentine?

How did Valentine's Day begin? Valentine's Day originated from the pagan festival Lupercalia which is a celebration of fertility and purification. Lupercalia is named after Lupercus, the god of fertility and hunter of wolves in Roman mythology back in 496 A.D. It is a 3-day event that runs from the 13th to 15th of February.

Lupercus was a person who gave love to the world and yes, we continue this tradition today. Our Valentine's Day is a day when we celebrate romantic love with many of us giving cards, letters, flowers or presents to our spouse or partner. It is believed that the first heart valentine note was sent by a Valentine who was in prison for a girl he loved.

It sometimes is a challenge for us to define this thing we call love. Here are some ideas from the mouths of children:

Rebekah, 8, said, "When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time—even when his hands got arthritis, too. That's love."

Billy, 4, said, "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth."

Bobby, 7, says, "Love is what's in the room at Christmas, if you stop opening presents and listen."

Nikka, 6, says, "If you want to learn to love better, you should start with someone you hate."

Tommy, 6, says, "Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well."

Cindy, 8, says, "During my piano recital, I was on a stage, and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me, and I saw

my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. And I wasn't scared anymore."

Jessica, 8, says, "You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot."

As we celebrate the day of love, we cannot forget God's love for us. Out of His great love for us, God created. He created a world for us to call our own. And, He created you and me in His overflowing of love. He loves us so much that He continues to bless us and give us all that we need. Most importantly, He gave us His son. "*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life*" (John 3:16), and out of that same love, Jesus died for our sins.

Bible scholar and Pastor N.T. Wright retells the following story about an archbishop who was hearing a confessions of sin from three hardened teenagers in the church. All three boys were trying to make a joke out of it so they met with the archbishop and confessed to a long list of ridiculous and grievous sins that they had not committed. It was all a joke. The archbishop, seeing through their bad practical joke, played along with the first two who ran out of the church laughing. But then he listened carefully to the third prankster, and before he got away told the young man, "Okay, you have confessed these sins. Now I want you to do something to show your repentance. I want you to walk up to the far end of the church and I want you to look at the picture of Jesus hanging on the cross, and I want you to look at his face and say, 'You did all that for me and I don't care that much.' And I want you to do that three times."

And so the boy went up to the front, looked at the picture of Jesus and said, "You did all that for me and I don't care that much." And then he said it again, but then he couldn't say it the third time because he broke down in tears. And the archbishop telling the story said, the reason I know that story is that I was that young man. There is something about the cross. Something about Jesus dying there for us which leaps over all the theoretical discussions, all the possibilities of how we explain it this way or that way and it grasps us. And when we are grasped by it, somehow we have a sense that what is grasping us is the love of God.

That is the love of God friends. The cross of Christ. On this Valentine's Day, I challenge you to find a cross, look at it and say, "You did all that for me and I don't care that much." See if you can do it without tears. *The love of God remains greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell, it goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell. The guilty pair, cowed down with care, God gave His Son to win; His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin. O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure – the saints and angel's song.*

Jesus, won't you be my valentine?

In the Name of Love,
Pastor Mark



The Board of Christian Education

Thank you to those who signed up to volunteer for the Nursery. If there are any youth in the congregation who would like to help out, please talk to Pastor Mark or Melanie de la Cruz. Each week we will need either 2 adults or 1 adult and 1 child to ensure the safety of the children in the room.

Sunday, March 18 at 5 p.m. will be our Trivia Night. First, join us for a delicious potluck dinner hosted by the Women's Society. Then, stay and play a few fun rounds of Q&A.



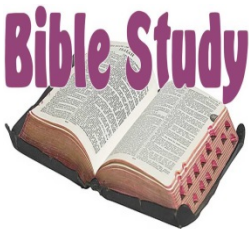
Women's Society

Thank you all for attending the Soup and Sandwich Luncheon before the Annual Meeting. As usual, the soup was delicious and everyone enjoyed an abundance of sandwiches and cookies. We owe a big thank you to the soup makers, Sharon, George, and Bill.

February 18 is Women's Sunday and Coffee Hour. Our guest preacher for the day will be Mrs. Virginia Holmstrom. Virginia is the Executive Director of American Baptist Women for the American Baptist Churches-USA.

The chili dinner is canceled but there will be a potluck dinner on March 18 before the church Trivia Night. Be sure to read your March newsletter to find out all of the details.

There will not be a meeting in February. Our next meeting is March 27 at 7:00 in the church lounge. Lynn McCabe has devotions with Ruth and Sharon as hostesses. Think about joining us for some wonderful fellowship and dessert.



For February...

Wed/Thurs, February 7th & 8th
Shining for Christ – Philippians 2:12-18

Wed/Thurs, February 14th & 15th
Role Models – Philippians 2:19-30

Wed/Thurs, February 21st & 22nd
Right Standing with God – Philippians 3:1-11

Wed/Thurs, February 28th & 1st
Eternal Focus – Philippians 3:12-21



**We welcome Virginia R. Holmstrom
Executive Director of American Baptist
Women's Ministries Sunday, February 18th**

Virginia R. Holmstrom has been executive director of American Baptist Women's Ministries, based in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, since August 2001. Previously she had directed communications for the American Baptist Board of Educational Ministries for eleven years. American Baptist

Women's Ministries is Christ-centered, with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God. Widely recognized for leader development of women and girls, AB Women's Ministries cultivates vital partnerships that advance mission and ministry locally and globally. In 2007, Virginia introduced American Baptist women to the "Break the Chains" initiative against human trafficking, which generated funding to begin 25 initiatives in the U.S. and other countries that brought hope and wholeness to trafficked women and girls. Since 2012, the Women and Girls Mission Fund is providing funding for partnerships and projects that empower women and girls worldwide.

Virginia received a bachelor's degree in Christian Education from Seattle (Washington) Pacific University and a Master of Theological Studies from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (now Palmer).

She is a member of Exton Community Baptist Church in Exton, Pennsylvania, which will continue to be her home congregation when she retires from her position with American Baptist Women's Ministries on March 1, 2018.



Worship for February



It's A Matter of the Heart!

Sunday, February 4th

Communion Served

Scripture: Luke 15: 1-3

Message: "A Selfish Heart"

Sunday, February 11th

Scout Sunday

Scripture: Luke 15

Message: "A Self-Righteous Heart"

Sunday, February 18th

Women's Sunday

Scripture: John 1:1-5

Message: "The Visitor"

Sunday, February 25th

Scripture: Luke 14:15-24

Message: "A Half-Heart"





The Board of Trustees held their first organizational meeting of the New Year on January 9. Newly elected officers are: Sharon McCormick, Chairperson; Tom Stuart, Vice-Chair; and Ken Blair, Secretary. Property, Finance, and Memorial Committees were also formed. Steve Rafferzeder was welcomed as a new member and, effective Jan 14, Warren Bell has joined the Board.

Church-wide first aid kits have been re-stocked and new oxygen canisters purchased. Other first aid equipment is being considered. Representatives of the Board plan to meet with City officials to discuss emergency planning procedures and how they relate to the development of our own church emergency planning procedures.

The Board discussed how the Trustees will try to more effectively communicate with all of the congregation members the status of the income and expenses of funds for which the Trustees are responsible. Use of the new church software for accounting and other church information and data should be of considerable help in these efforts.

A new sanctuary speaker system is being discussed with Paul Chapin and the music committee. We anticipate hearing from the music committee in the near future to see what options might be available, including cost considerations.

Our maintenance contractor for the sanctuary steam boiler has checked the system and found the operation to be satisfactory. This is the time of year for high fuel costs; please remember your "fuel envelopes" to help defray this cost.



The Season of Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday

Lent is a solemn religious observance in the Christian calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer through prayer, repentance of sins, and self-denial, among other things. In Lent, many Christians commit to fasting, as well as "giving up" certain luxuries in order to "replicate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's journey into the desert for 40 days" according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, before beginning his public ministry, during which he endured temptation by Satan. Many Christians also add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading a daily devotional or praying through a Lenten calendar, to draw themselves near to God.

Though this event is typically observed by higher church denominations, some evangelical Baptist churches also observe the Lenten season. Its institutional purpose is heightened in the annual commemoration of Holy Week, marking the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, which recalls the tradition and events of the New Testament beginning on Palm Sunday, further climaxing on Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday, which ultimately culminates in the joyful celebration on Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Motel Ministry

Our Motel Ministry needs you! How can you help? You can help pack cars on the fourth Monday of each month between 3-5pm. You can help with canned soups or meat with pop-tops. You can help with boxes of granola bars. You can always help with a designated financial gift. The hungry and homeless need your help. What can you do?

Ash Wednesday Wednesday, February 14th



Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Its official name is “Day of Ashes,” so called because of the practice of rubbing ashes on one’s forehead in the sign of a cross. Since it is exactly 40 days (excluding Sundays) before Easter Sunday, it will always fall on a Wednesday—there cannot be an “Ash Thursday” or “Ash Monday.” The Bible never mentions Ash Wednesday—for that matter, it also never mentions Lent.



**Lenten Lunches Return
Wednesdays - February 21st –
March 21st
12 Noon to 1:00 p.m.**

Won't you join us for a time of worship and lunch beginning at noon in the sanctuary and ending with homemade soup and sandwiches in the Upper Fellowship Hall. A freewill offering will be received during lunch.

Luncheon Messages:

Wednesday, February 21st – “What Jesus Says About Mercy” (Luke 14:1-24)
Wednesday, February 28th – “What Jesus Says About Death” (Luke 16:1-31)
Wednesday, March 7th – “What Jesus Says About Our Lives” (Luke 17:32-33)
Wednesday, March 14th – “What Jesus Says About Humility” (Luke 18:9-14)
Wednesday, March 21st – “What Jesus Says About Faithfulness” (Luke 19:11-27)

Scout Sunday February 11th

Come on out on Sunday, February 11th and help to honor the service of our own Boy Scout Troop 13 on Scout Sunday.





| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Charlie Palmucci, Jr. | 1 |
| Cameron Foster | 5 |
| Eugene Zaiss | 8 |
| Hilary Moore | 9 |
| Phil Heitzenroeder | 14 |
| Joan Grucca | 15 |
| Ginni Rambo | 16 |
| Cheryl Danley | 17 |
| Forrest Harrison | 20 |
| Rich Scassero | 20 |
| Anne Kettner | 22 |
| Cooper Erbes | 22 |
| Rachel Lease | 28 |
| Robin Caruso | 29 |

Keep Praying For

Barry Carlson
Phil Heitzenroeder
Mary Lou Hengeli
Mike Immordino
Michael McCormick
Terry Zahorchak

Betty Nelson
Madeline Strusz
Truck Stop Ministry
Dorothy Wilbert
Paige Inman





February

2018



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|--|---|---|--|---|--------|--|---|
| | | | | 1 Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Bells 6:00 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. | 2 | 3 Daughters of the King 4:30 p.m. Drop-In Center 6-9 p.m. | |
| 4 9:00 a.m. S.S. 10:15 a.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Youth Gr. | 5 | 6 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. Chr. Ed. 7:00 p.m. | 7 Bible Study 7:15 p.m. | 8 Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Bells 6:00 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. | 9 | 10 Crafty Ladies 1-3 p.m. | |
| 11 Scout Sunday 9:00 a.m. S.S. 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Ad.Coun. 7:00 p.m. Youth Gr. | 12 | 13 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. Trustees 7:00 p.m. | 14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Singles Dinner 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:15p.m. Happy Valentine's Day! | 15 Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Bells 6:00 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. | 16 | 17 Daughters of the King 4:30 p.m. Drop-In Center 6-9 p.m. | |
| 18 Women's Sunday 9:00 a.m. S.S. 10:15 a.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Youth Gr. | 19  Presidents' Day | 20 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. | 21 Lenten Lunch 12 Noon Bible Study 7:15 p.m. | 22 Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Bells 6:00 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. | 23 | 24 | |
| 25 9:00 a.m. S.S. 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Diaconate 7:00 p.m. Youth Gr. | 26 Motel Ministry 3:00 p.m. | 27 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. | 28 Lenten Lunch 12 Noon Singles Dinner 6:00p.m. Bible Study 7:15 p.m. | Notes: | | |  |