

# THE NEWSLETTER

*A Ministry of Cornerstone Fellowship of Coatesville Pennsylvania*

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## LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

*You have heard it was said, 'you shall love neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." - Matthew 5:43-44*

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a modern day martyr-prophet who took Jesus' words about loving your enemies seriously. This must have been a hard word for Dr. King to keep; even as it was for the first disciples, and for us, too. And many people did not understand Dr. King's call to love anymore than Christ's command.

These words were uttered in a context in which armed Jewish zealots advocated rebellion against the occupying Roman forces. In these words, our Lord expands the definition of neighbor beyond race and clan to include all whom God has created. No difference exists between fellow Jews and Roman soldiers; for God causes the sun to rise on the just and the unjust.

The problem for us is that such words are so impractical; so out of sync with the commonly held understanding of how things are in this world. That understanding says that only power and strength really speak to those who would be our enemies. Were a president of the United States to propose such counsel be official foreign policy, he or she would surely be impeached! Such advice is just not practical in such a world as we live in.

But let us be honest, such words, such advice were never practical; not in Jesus' time, nor in ours. Such advice is only practical in a world based on such an ethic; only in such a world would these words make any sense. It is to such an ethical dream that God calls the Christian and the Christian community to give witness, even in the midst of this unjust and flawed world. It is counter-cultural! But our Lord calls us to model His love, a love which reached out to all whom God had created and which can still reach out today in the love of His faithful followers.

The question of practicality and impracticality do not really enter in here; for God has called the Church to be the model, in its own life, for this other way — **THE WAY OF**

**LOVE!** It matters not what the world says about reality or practicality. It only matters that Christ's Church has been shown what kingdom life will be, and called on to live that life here and now.

Our prayer in 2016 is that Cornerstone will be such a beacon of LOVE that it will impact our members and friends, our community and reach out to the very world we are called to love!

## LENT BEGINS

**LENT begins on Wednesday, February 10**

Lent is the 40 days of preparation for EASTER. It begins with Ash Wednesday. On that day, in many religious traditions, people will go to church and have ashes placed on their foreheads; hence the name "Ash Wednesday." This is to remind them that they are sinners and need the forgiveness of God. In many traditions people will "give up" something for Lent. However, what God requires is our obedience. We do not bribe God to overlook our failure to surrender to Jesus Christ by giving up something for Lent. Lent comes from the Old English word, lengthen, which refers to the coming of springtime. The shortened form of the word - LENT - has come to stand for the days preceding Easter that should be used for growth in faith. In this day when many stop growing spiritually, shortly after they stop growing physically, may we at *Cornerstone* use these 40 days to grow deeper in the things of the Lord.

**Lent comes as a time to burn away all that wants to over-grow the fruit of our faith.** Lent encourages a new growth in the Spirit. It is a time to get back to basics, to burn away that which would choke off our spiritual development and the practical evidence of our faith.

**Lent is a time to remember.** Deuteronomy 8:2 says, *Remember all the ways in which the Lord our God has led us.* Remember His mercies have been new every morning and His compassion has never failed. We will remember our blessings and His providential care. It is a time to "count our blessings, naming them one by one."

Memory is a bridge of thought and life spanning our yesterdays to our todays in a spirit of oneness and continuity. Much of our spiritual life is remembering. Memory deepens our reverence and joy in our priceless heritage. But it is also selective. We must also know how to forget. How sad it is when the secret gift of memory is filled with old gripes, hurts and past defeats. Life is too precious to carry over into tomorrow excess baggage that we just do not need.

**Lent is a time for us to allow the Holy Spirit to burn away the 'weeds' of hate and anger, etc., and to fill us with His love.** Remembering what God has done, is doing, and will yet do, assures us of His fellowship and forgiveness, which will shatter our complaining and smugness. We are assured of His mercies as we sing: "There's a wideness in God's mercy." It is amazing how many of the terrible troubles which loom so large never materialize, for God is within us miraculously eliminating many of the obstacles in our way. The years testify as to how we were uplifted by His everlasting arms.

**Lent is also a time of rejoicing.** Philippians 4:4 tells us to *Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.* As Christians we are to be full of joy. And what's more, it is the kind of joy which strengthens us in the time of adversity. Difficulties do not mysteriously disappear, but the joy of the Lord sustains us in the midst of our difficulties. Why has there grown up in the thinking of many that paganism is a kind of spontaneous happening, while Christianity is dour and grim? The joy of the Lord is our strength. And it is joy that is found in the midst of terrible circumstances and adversity. Just look at the people of faith from the Bible.

We look back on those people and marvel that they had so little which we believe necessary for happiness. There were so many things in their lives to spell defeat and failure. The New Testament would urge us to remember that they were surrounded by a cloud of witnesses; that they should run with their eyes *looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross* (Hebrews 12:2). The Apostle Paul tells us to *Rejoice always* as he sits in a Roman prison cell shackled. His joy was certainly not merely in escape from his heavy burdens and grievous sufferings – His joy was in the Lord.

We come now to the real and significant meaning of Lent. **For it is the time for us to rededicate ourselves to the Lord.** In the light of the completeness of Christ's self-giving, how marginal our devotion seems. We need to take time for an honest look at ourselves instead of drifting along in the old ruts of our everyday routine.

We often despair about the world, but we need to take heart, for the future belongs to God. Our part is to be faithful to Him, daily. Our span of life is brief. The hour is struck to take a step in commitment. Our real commitment will be seen in our personal lives. The real rededication or


devotion will shine through. Our Christian witness will be a spontaneous expression of the reality of Christ in our lives. The real witness is not the witness of words, but deeds.

**Lent is a reminder as we contemplate the cross, that "love so amazing, so divine, demands my life, my soul, my all" (Cavert).**

**Lent is a time for us to beseech the Holy Spirit to fill us so full of His love, that we will be willing through His power to follow Him every step of our way.**

### MOVIE NIGHT

Come to the church on Saturday, February 13 at 6:30pm to



see the film **WOODLAWN**, the true story of what happened at Woodlawn High School in Birmingham, Alabama in 1973. As riots erupt in the city, the football coach struggles to ease tensions between his players. It's only when the coach allows an outsider to speak to his team that real change begins. Nearly the entire team give their lives over to Jesus Christ and the spiritual change has a profound effect on the coach, the school and the community. The movie is being shown **FREE OF CHARGE**. Please come,

and invite your friends. Refreshments will be available.

### TRY THIS LENTEN TRADITION

Pretzels are a traditional Lenten treat because they are shaped the way people used to fold their arms over their chests in prayer. To make 20 soft pretzels:

Preheat oven to 425°.

Combine in a large mixing bowl:

1-1/2 cups lukewarm water

1 tbsp yeast

Let sit for 5 minutes until bubbly

Mix dry ingredients together:

3 cups flour

1 tbsp sugar

1 tsp salt

Add dry ingredients to yeast mixture and mix well. Place dough on a lightly floured surface. Slowly knead in 1/4 cup flour. Knead for about 5 minutes until smooth and not sticky. Pull dough into 20 pieces. Roll each into a long snake about 1/2 inch thick and 15 inches long. Shape into pretzel shapes. Place on greased cookie sheets, allowing a few inches of space between pretzels.

In a small bowl combine:

1 egg

1 tbsp water

Brush this mixture on all the pretzels and sprinkle with coarse salt.

Bake about 20 minutes (Eat warm. They are best when fresh.)

### **TRY THIS RECIPE FOR EASTER STORY COOKIES**

To be made the evening before Easter Sunday

You will need:

1 cup whole pecans	1 teaspoon vinegar
3 egg whites	pinch of salt
1 cup sugar	zipper baggie
wooden spoon	tape
waxed paper	mixer

Holy Bible

Preheat oven to 300°F (very important)

Place pecans in zipper baggie and beat them with the wooden spoon to break them into small pieces. Keep for later. *(Reflect that after Jesus was arrested he was beaten by Roman soldiers - Read John 19:1-3.)*

Smell the vinegar. Put 1 teaspoon into large mixing bowl. *(When Jesus was thirsty, they gave him vinegar - Read John 19:28-30.)*

Add egg whites to vinegar. *(Eggs are symbolic of life. Jesus died that we might have eternal life - Read John 10:10-11.)*

Sprinkle a pinch of salt. *(This represents the tears shed by Jesus' followers and the bitterness of our own sins - Read Luke 23:27.)*

So far, I admit the ingredients are not very appetizing.

Add 1 cup sugar. *(The sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because he loves us - Read John 3:16 and Psalm 34:8.)*

Beat with a mixer at high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until very stiff peaks are formed. *(The color white represents purity. Our sins have been cleansed by Jesus - Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.)*

Fold in broken pecans. Drop by teaspoon onto waxed paper covered cookie sheet. *(Each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid - Read Matthew 27:57-60.)*

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF! Take the tape and seal the door. *(Jesus' tomb was sealed - Read Matthew 27:65-66.)*

GO TO BED! You may feel sad leaving your cookies in the oven overnight. *(Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed - Read John 16:20-22.)*

On EASTER morning, open the oven and get a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookie will

be hollow. *(On the first Easter, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb - open and empty - Read Matthew 28:1-9.)*

### **READING THROUGH THE BIBLE**

I trust that you are excited to continue our journey through the Bible. Here are the readings for **February**.

- 1 Exodus 13 & 14; Psalm 22; Matthew 22
- 2 Exodus 15 & 16; Psalm 23; Matthew 23
- 3 Exodus 17 & 18; Psalm 24; Matthew 24
- 4 Exodus 19 & 20; Psalm 25; Matthew 25
- 5 Exodus 21 & 22; Psalm 26; Matthew 26
- 6 Exodus 23 & 24
- 7 Exodus 25 & 26
- 8 Exodus 27 & 28; Psalm 27; Matthew 27
- 9 Exodus 29 & 30; Psalm 28; Matthew 28
- 10 Exodus 31 & 32; Psalm 29; Mark 1
- 11 Exodus 33 & 34; Psalm 30; Mark 2
- 12 Exodus 34 & 36; Psalm 31; Mark 3
- 13 Exodus 37 & 38
- 14 Exodus 39 & 40
- 15 Leviticus 1 & 2; Psalm 32; Mark 4
- 16 Leviticus 3 & 4; Psalm 33; Mark 5
- 17 Leviticus 5 & 6; Psalm 34; Mark 6
- 18 Leviticus 7 & 8; Psalm 35; Mark 7
- 19 Leviticus 9 & 10; Psalm 36; Mark 8
- 20 Leviticus 11 & 12
- 21 Leviticus 13 & 14
- 22 Leviticus 15 & 16; Psalm 37; Mark 9
- 23 Leviticus 17 & 18; Psalm 38; Mark 10
- 24 Leviticus 19 & 20; Psalm 39; Mark 11
- 25 Leviticus 21 & 22; Psalm 40; Mark 12
- 26 Leviticus 23 & 24; Psalm 41; Mark 13
- 27 Leviticus 25 & 26
- 28 Leviticus 27

29 LEAP DAY – This day read one verse - 2 Timothy 2:15 - *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.* And then use this day as a day of prayer!

### **GOD IS GOOD**

God writes with a pen that never blots, speaks with a tongue that never slips, and acts with a hand that never fails.

God can heal a broken heart, but He has to have all the pieces.

God has a history of using the insignificant to accomplish the impossible.

God never asks about our ability or inability – just our availability.

Without God the world would be a maze without a clue.

Many millions search for God and find Him in their hearts.

Sometimes God calms the storm; sometimes He lets the

storm rage and calms His child.

God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him.

When God measures a man, He puts the tape around the heart instead of the head.

God does not wish us to remember what He is willing to forget.

God has two dwellings - one in heaven and the other in a grateful heart.

God is more interested in making us what He wants us to be than in giving us what we think we ought to have.

The man who walks with God always knows in what direction he is going. In order to receive the direction from God you must be able to receive the correction from God.

The measure of a man is not how great his faith is but how great his love to forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover the prisoner was YOU. Let us so live that when we die, even the undertaker will be sorry.

You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips.

Christianity is a religion of paradoxes:  
The way up is down;  
The way to get is to give;  
The way to be first is to be last;  
And the way to live is to die.

Most people wish to serve God - but only in an advisory capacity. Christianity helps us to face the music even when we don't like the tune.

A Christian is...  
a mind through which Christ thinks,  
a heart through which Christ lives,  
a voice through which Christ speaks,  
a hand through which Christ helps.

Most men forget God all day & ask Him to remember them at night. Some people complain because God put thorns on roses while others praise Him for putting roses on thorns.

#### **WATCH for the START DATES for ELECTIVE CLASSES**

Elective Class 101 - *Catching the Vision*, for those who want to know more about Cornerstone and for those interested in membership will soon begin. Watch for the start date and remember to sign up. The sign up sheet will be found on the table in front of the sound desk in the Worship Center.

AND REMEMBER – If you would like to follow the Lord

through the waters of **BAPTISM** – please speak to Dr. Jensen about your desire, filling out one of the blue baptism cards found on the table where the worship folders are found each Sunday.

#### **ALSO – BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!**

Watch for the start date for the **CREATION SCIENCE** elective class, a multi-week class that proclaims the TRUTH of Scripture regarding the origins of the earth, creation, evolution and more.

#### **THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

Here is what one of our greatest Presidents believed, in his own words:

*I believe in God, the Almighty Ruler of nations, our great and good and merciful Maker, our Father in heaven, who notes the fall of a sparrow, and numbers the hairs of our heads.*

*I believe in His eternal truth and justice.*

*I recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proved by all history that those nations only are blest whose God is the Lord.*

*I believe that it is the duty of nations as well as of man to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, and to invoke the influence of His Holy Spirit; to confess their sins and transgression in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon.*

*I believe that it is meet and right to recognize and confess the presence of the almighty Father equally in our triumphs and in those sorrows which we may justly fear are the punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins to the needful end of our reformation.*

*I believe that the Bible is the best gift that God has ever given to men. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book.*

*I believe the will of God prevails. Without Him all human reliance is vain. Without the assistance of that Divine Being, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail.*

*Being a humble instrument in the hands of our heavenly Father, I desire that all my words and acts may be according to His will; and that it may be so, I give thanks to the Almighty, and seek His aid.*

*I have a solemn oath registered in heaven to finish the work I am in, in full view of my responsibility to God, with malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right as God gives me to see the right. Commending those who love me to His care, as I hope in their prayers they will commend me, look through the help of God to a joyous meeting with many loved ones gone before.*

(If only all of our elected officials today shared President Lincoln's strong belief in the Almighty God, our nation would be blessed beyond blessing. Let's determine to pray for all those in office whether local or national and for all those who are running for election. – PRAYER CHANGES THINGS!)

### THE CHANGED HEART

Back in the mists of history, twin sons were born to a shepherd. Both of the children grew into strong men physically. However, in spiritual matters, they were both very weak. Esau, the older, was the favorite of his father, Isaac. Jacob was the favorite of his mother, Rebekah. By the right of birth, Esau should have had the greater inheritance and blessing from his father. Jacob knew this, but he allowed his mother to manipulate him so he could become the heir. Jacob bargained with Esau and gained his inheritance. He deceived his aged father to gain his last blessing. The name Jacob means "supplanter," or "schemer." Esau wailed that his twin brother was rightly named Jacob. "Didn't he supplant me these two times?" Esau asked. If we knew nothing else about Jacob, we would have to say that he was a weak, sinful young man.

However, today we know Jacob as a patriarch of the Hebrew people. His name is always linked with those of Abraham and Isaac. His twelve sons gave their names to the tribes of Israel. From the tribe of Judah came Jesus Christ. Jacob is now known as a man of faith. His weakness became strength; his hatred became affection; his indifference became worship. Jacob, the supplanter and schemer, became Jacob the patriarch.

What changed the man of guile to a man of faith? The change came when he saw the Lord at Bethel. Jacob was on his way to his mother's old home to find a wife. At Bethel he saw the vision of the angels ascending and descending on a ladder reaching to heaven. God stood above the ladder, and He promised Jacob that his family would bless the entire earth. When Jacob awoke he was afraid. Yet he was well aware of the fact that God had spoken to him as He had to Abraham and Isaac. "Surely the LORD is in this place," he said.

Jacob had not known much about God before Bethel, but now he saw Him; he heard His promise; he caught a glimpse of God's power. He could never again be the same man. Jacob's heart was changed. He determined to give God a tenth of his future possessions, and throughout his life he served God. This does not mean that Jacob never sinned after the vision at Bethel. He made many mistakes. He was often lacking in faith. Yet Jacob improved enormously, and God blessed him.

Conversion today is much like Jacob's experiences. What is it that changes the sinner? Like Jacob, the individual sees God. He is converted. The heart is changed. The spirit is transformed because the Holy Spirit comes to dwell with it. God is the one who moves man to change the heart.

If your heart has not been changed, look for the Lord, for He can be found. He is heard through His Word and His people. See God in His power and love, and you will see yourself as sinful in His sight. Repent and turn to Christ, and He will see you as righteous.

If you belong to Christ, rejoice that you have had this change of heart. Cultivate this new way of life. Do not allow yourself to return to former evil ways. Instead, replace old habits with new ones. Replace the old life with a transformed life. Grow steadily in Christ day by day. Perfection cannot be reached in one easy move. The spiritual life is a race full of hurdles and obstacles. Perfection comes in heaven. Conversion is only the beginning. The heart must be kept pure by steady spiritual growth.

### THE MANAGER OF ALL TIMES

He is the First and Last, the Beginning and the End!  
He is the keeper of Creation and the Creator of all!  
He is the Architect of the universe and the Manager of all times.

He always was, He always is, and He always will be...

Unmoved, Unchanged, Undeclared, and never Undone!

***He was bruised and brought healing!***

***He was pierced and eased pain!***

***He was persecuted and brought freedom!***

***He was dead and brought life!***

***He is risen and brings power!***

***He reigns and brings Peace!***

The world can't understand Him, the armies can't defeat Him, the schools can't explain Him, and the leaders can't ignore Him.

Herod couldn't kill Him, the Pharisees couldn't confuse Him, and the people couldn't hold Him!

Nero couldn't crush Him, Hitler couldn't silence Him, the New Age can't replace Him, and all of the "talking heads" of this age can't explain Him away!

***He is light, love, longevity, and Lord.***

***He is Goodness, Kindness, Gentleness, and God.***

***He is Holy, Righteous, Mighty, Powerful and Pure.***

***His ways are right, His word is eternal, His will is unchanging, and His mind is on me.***

***He is my Redeemer, He is my Savior, He is my guide, and He is my peace!***

***He is my Joy, He is my comfort, He is my Lord, and He rules my life!***

I serve Him because His bond is love, His burden is Light, and His goal for me is abundant life.

I follow Him because He is the wisdom of the wise, the power of the powerful, the ancient of days, the ruler of rulers, the leader of leaders, the overseer of the overcomers, and the sovereign Lord of all that was and is and is to come.

And if that seems impressive to you, try this for size.

**His goal is a relationship with me!**

**He will never leave me, never forsake me, never mislead me, never forget me, never overlook me, and never cancel my appointment in His appointment book!**

*When I fall, He lifts me up!*  
*When I fail, He forgives!*  
*When I am weak, He is strong!*  
*When I am lost, He is the way!*  
*When I am afraid, He is my courage!*  
*When I stumble, He steadies me!*  
*When I am hurt, He heals me!*  
*When I am broken, He mends me!*  
*When I am blind, He leads me!*  
*When I am hungry, He feeds me!*  
*When I face trials, He is with me!*  
*When I face persecution, He shields me!*  
*When I face problems, He comforts me!*  
*When I face loss, He provides for me!*  
*When I face Death, He carries me Home!*

He is everything for everybody, everywhere, every time and every way.

**He is God, He is faithful.**

**I am His and He is mine!**

My Father in heaven can whip the father of this world. So, if you're wondering why I feel so secure, understand this...

He said it and that settles it.

God is in control, I am on His side, and that means all is well with my soul.

Everyday is a blessing because **GOD IS!**

Here is a key breakthrough realization that has helped me see and keep my appointments for God: God's schedule for me is full of surprises. I have what I call "left field days" on a regular basis – those are the days when God's plan for me comes flying out of "left field" and takes me by surprise. In the first half of Acts, when the ways of the Holy Spirit seem so surprising to Jesus' disciples, they had to learn over and over to be ready for anything. Heal a lame man? Preach to thousands? Jump in a chariot with an Ethiopian? Eat pork with a Gentile seeker? Yes! It's all in a day's work in this awesome adventure of being part of God's movement on earth. HALLELUJAH!

### **BIBLE READINGS FOR LENT**

Jesus spent much of His time here on earth teaching people about Himself, about His Father, about themselves and about the plan of salvation that was about to come to completion in Him through His suffering, death and resurrection. Take a moment each day during Lent to learn something from our Savior, as recorded in Scripture.

#### **Teachings on Mercy**

*Our Savior reveals what merciful means*

Ash Wednesday Matthew 9:9-13

*Merciful means sitting with "sinners"*

Thursday Matthew 18:32-35

*Forgive your brother from your heart*

Friday Luke 6:32-36

*Be merciful to EVERYONE*

Saturday Matthew 23:23-24

*Make mercy a priority*

#### **Teachings on Suffering**

*A cost-benefit analysis on suffering*

Sunday Mark 8:31-33  
*See God's plan at work in suffering*

Monday Mark 14:35-36

*Trust in God's will*

Tuesday John 9:1-5

*God is glorified in suffering*

Wednesday John 16:17-22

*Your grief will give way to joy*

Thursday John 16:29-33

*Take heart because I have overcome*

Friday Matthew 5:10-12

*Your reward in heaven will be great*

Saturday Luke 24:25-27

*The reason for suffering will be clear*

#### **Teachings on Loving Others**

*The Lord explains the depths of love*

Sunday John 15:9-15

*Love means laying down your life*

Monday Mark 12:28-34

*Love your neighbor*

Tuesday Matthew 5:43-48

*Love your enemies*

Wednesday Matthew 5:21-24

*Be reconciled to one another*

Thursday Matthew 5:38-40

*Show love even when met with hate*

Friday Luke 15:11-20

*Love unconditionally*

Saturday John 13:33-35

*Love connotes discipleship*

#### **Teachings on Prayer**

*Jesus tells how best to talk to God*

Sunday Matthew 6:5-13

*Pray in secret and as I taught you*

Monday Luke 18:1-8

*Be persistent in prayer*

Tuesday Luke 22:39-46

*Pray you won't fall into temptation*

Wednesday John 17:1-5

*Pray Christ might be glorified*

Thursday John 17:6-18

*Pray for those near and dear to you*

Friday John 17:19-26

*Pray for all believers*

Saturday Luke 11:9-13

*Ask and it will be given to you*

#### **Teachings on Sacrifice**

*Christ says what we must give up*

Sunday Mark 12:41-44

*Offer everything to God*

Monday Luke 14:25-27

*Discipleship trumps family*

Tuesday Matthew 19:16-26

*Put away your possessions to follow*

Wednesday Luke 6:38

*Give generously*

Thursday Matthew 6:16-20

*Fast without fanfare*

Friday Mark 10:28-30  
*The sacrifice will be worth it*  
 Saturday Matthew 24:9-14  
*Stand firm to the end in your sacrifice*  
**Teachings on Humility**  
*Jesus speaks about the humble reward*  
 Sunday Matthew 7:1-5  
*Acknowledge your faults*  
 Monday Luke 18:10-15  
*Be humble when you talk to God*  
 Tuesday Matthew 20:24-28  
*Be a servant to others*  
 Wednesday Luke 14:9-11  
*Take a backseat*  
 Thursday Matthew 8:5-13  
*Recognize Christ's authority*

Friday Mark 9:34-30  
*Don't try to be the greatest*  
 Saturday John 13:12-17  
*Wash one another's feet*  
**Teachings on Following Through**  
*Our Savior tells us to keep going*  
 Sunday Matthew 21:28-32  
*Do what you say*  
 Monday Luke 14:28-33  
*Finish what you start*  
 Tuesday Mark 14:12-25  
*Keep following me EVERY DAY*  
 Wednesday Luke 9:57-62  
*Don't look back*  
 Maundy Thursday Mark 14:32-42  
*Know when it is time to get going*  
 Good Friday John 19:28-30  
*It is finished*  
 Holy Saturday John 12:1-8  
*Prepare for my burial*  
**Teachings on the Life to Come**  
 EASTER John 14:1-4  
*A place is prepared for you*

### BLOOD DRIVE

Start ironing up NOW!

**CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP  
 WILL HOLD A BLOOD DRIVE  
 ON Tuesday, March 15, 2016**

**TIME: 2-7pm**

**PLACE: 101 KYLIES ROAD**

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE!!! When Barb Finley asks you to make an appointment, please do so, or sign the schedule sheet. Ask a friend to come with you. If you are not able to give, please ask a friend, relative, or family member to give a unit. OR - you can schedule an appointment by going to <http://www.redcrossblood.org/rcbmobile/drive/chooseDonationTime.jsp> (find the link to Cornerstone's schedule).

### YOUTH NEWS

#### **DON'T FORGET!!**

**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP** (grades 6-12) - WEDNESDAYS, 7-

8:30 pm weekly (following the Mid-Week Worship Celebration)! Come and experience it! Bring your friends!!  
**YOUTH SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP** - THURSDAYS at 7pm (EVERY YOUTH is invited!)

**YOUTH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP** - for Jr & Sr High - 9:30 am Sunday mornings

Worship Celebrations - Sundays at 8:15 and 10:45 am and Wednesdays at 6:30pm

#### **PLEASE HELP US OUT!**

#### **EMPTY INKJET PRINTER CARTRIDGES**

Please donate your empty inkjet printer cartridges to the youth group to be recycled. A container is placed in the **coat room** to receive your donations. **KEEP THOSE CARTRIDGES COMING!**

We appreciate every bit of help we receive.

### CHILDREN'S NEWS

**COOL KIDS** - Children, 4 years old up through grade 3 are invited to participate in COOL Kids on Sunday mornings at both the 8:15 and 10:45 celebration services. Following the praise time and the reading of scripture in the Worship Center, kids are dismissed to ROOM 108. COOL Kids (**C**hildren **O**f **O**ur **L**ord Kids) helps kids learn to celebrate Christ in a way they enjoy and become excited about.

### WILL SUFFERING EVER END?

While suffering is unfortunately the common denomination of life in this present world, pain and suffering will have no place in the world to come. This is, in part, what was accomplished with Jesus' death on the cross. The cross gives us a hope that helps us endure, by grace, when the long shadow of suffering passes over us. It is the cross that promises a time when wrongs are made right and suffering is brought to an end.

The apostle John, nearing the end of his life and exiled for his faith in Christ, glimpsed what the fulfillment of this promise looked like. He described his vision in vivid terms:

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and he will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."*

*And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son." (Revelation 21:3-7)*

Where is God when we suffer? **Right beside us!** He allowed His own Son to experience the same things we experience. He provided the cross, which pays for our suffering and offers restored relationship with Him. And He

is the God who promises that, in the life to come, all those things will be no more.

### Blessed be the Name of the Lord!

#### FAMOUS COUPLES

Draw a line to match the names of the couples, then find their names in the table below.

Abraham	Bathsheba
Adam	Delilah
Ahab	Elisabeth
Ananias	Eve
Aquila	Gomer
Boaz	Jezebel
David	Mary
Hosea	Priscilla
Isaac	Rachel
Jacob	Rebekah
Joseph	Ruth
Samson	Sapphira
Zacharias	Sarah

M	A	D	A	L	L	I	C	S	I	R	P	E	R
D	D	E	L	I	L	A	H	O	B	S	S	L	U
A	L	I	U	Q	A	B	R	A	H	A	M	I	T
V	O	R	A	C	H	E	L	A	I	I	H	S	H
I	J	S	A	P	P	H	I	R	A	N	O	A	N
D	A	R	E	M	I	S	A	A	C	A	S	B	O
B	C	S	A	R	A	H	L	E	M	N	E	E	S
G	O	M	E	R	C	T	C	V	O	A	A	T	M
J	B	A	C	A	H	A	K	E	B	E	R	H	A
E	B	E	Z	L	E	B	E	Z	E	J	A	Y	S

#### WHAT ARE UNALIENABLE RIGHTS AND DO THEY COME FROM GOD?

The United States' *Declaration of Independence* says,

*We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed **by their Creator** with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.*

In case there is any confusion about the intent behind the *Declaration of Independence's* unambiguous language that our unalienable rights come from God, consider the words of a few of those who created our government.

> **John Dickinson**, a signer of the Constitution, defined an unalienable right as one "which God gave to you and which no inferior power has a right to take away." He further explained that human governments:

"...could not give the rights essential to happiness. ...We claim them from a higher Source – from the King of kings and Lord of all the earth. They are not annexed to us by parchments and seals. They are created in us by the decrees of Providence, which establish the laws of our nature. They are born with us; exist with us; and cannot be taken from us by any human power, without taking our lives."

> **John Adams** said that unalienable rights are:

"...antecedent to all earthly government; rights that cannot be repealed or restrained by human laws; rights derived from the Great Legislator of the Universe."

> **Alexander Hamilton** explained that unalienable rights:

"...are not to be rummaged for among old parchments or musty records. They are written, as with a sunbeam, in the whole volume of human nature by the hand of the Divinity itself and can never be erased or obscured by mortal power."

> **Samuel Adams** avowed that:

"They are imprinted by the finger of God on the heart of man."

And **Thomas Jefferson** questions:

"Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis: a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? – that they are not to be violated but with His wrath?"

Understanding this, **John Jay**, an author of the *federalist Papers*, and the original Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, therefore, wisely urged:

"I... recommend a general and public return of praise and thanksgiving to Him from Whose goodness these blessings descend. The most effectual means of securing the continuance of our civil and religious liberties is always to remember with reverence and gratitude the Source from which they flow."

The Founding Fathers were clear about our rights coming from God! Why, then, aren't we?!? And why, is not our government?

# God is Good... All the Time!

# All the Time... God is Good!