



It's A Wonderful Life!

Senior Adult Fellowship

November, December 2013

January 2014

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks he should believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord, he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. James 1:5-8

Recently there was an article in our local newspaper reporting on how Catholics differ on their feelings about the recent interview the pope gave to the Jesuit Press. In this interview he said that the church had been “obsessed” with hot-button issues such as abortion, gay marriage and contraceptives. Instead, he said, the church needs to be welcoming to all. When parishioners in a Catholic church in Paterson, N.J., were given the opportunity to express their thoughts on this, there was a lot of disagreement. One man said, “I was concerned that he was going to be a little too conservative, but he has turned out to be just the opposite. So we’ve been very pleased.” Another man, 33, said, “He is a New -Age pope. He’s going to make changes that make sense. I agree with it. It’s pretty common sense: basically, be nice to people.”

On the other side, a lady who described herself as a conservative Catholic, said, “We love the sinner and we hate the sin, but they’ve got to be reformed. These people say, ‘I want it my way, Lord, and I’ll keep you in the corner and you better change your ways to my ways’ ... They want their cake and eat it too.” Another lady said she was a little bit “shocked” by the pontiff’s comments and wanted more information. “I think what he was trying to say was we shouldn’t only focus on the sin: that we should try to be forgiving of the sinners.” She added, “Our faith has always taught that sin is sin, and you can’t just suddenly decide it’s not sin anymore because the majority of people want to do it.”

As I read this I thought back to something I heard in a worship service at Redeemer Church in New York City last May. The young pastor preached an excellent sermon and one of the points he made that has stuck with me was, “Our desires must be subservient to God’s laws – not the other way around.” James understood this when he talked about not being blown and tossed by the wind. Our culture is filled with those who want to confuse men and women of the faith by making sin seem right and God’s laws wrong. We hear things like, “that was just for Bible times, not for today. After all, no one sacrifices animals anymore.” Even our Christian young people might disagree with us on our “old-fashioned” doctrine. For example, many couples are living together now before they marry, if at all. “It is not a big deal,” many of them will say, and believe it.

Those of us who are of the older generation need to be examples of men and women of God who unwaveringly stand on the truth of God’s Word to those coming behind us. Our successors are bombarded every day with examples of those who bend God’s word to justify their lifestyles or beliefs. That means we need to engage the younger generation whenever possible. One Sunday recently we had a whole row of young couples seated behind us. Are we greeting them warmly and letting them know how glad we are they are in church with us? Are we praying for them? It also means we must DAILY, PRAYERFULLY examine ourselves and ask the Lord to show us any hypocrisy in our own lives. I know that I can easily fall prey to justifying something I want to do or don’t want to do, especially when it comes to giving my time when it is not convenient.

I thank God for those who have gone before ME and demonstrated unwavering faith. Dr. David McCallie, who recently went home to be with his Lord, was an excellent example of one who did not compromise the Word of God. How I pray that others will be thankful for and influenced by our witness when we are gone.

Keeping the Faith,
Carla Brown

Schedule for our next three months ...

NOVEMBER -- We live in such a beautiful city that has a rich history. How grateful I am for those who want to be sure our area's history is preserved and shared. On **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14**, Dr. Daryl Black, who is the executive director of the Chattanooga History Center, will be our speaker. The center is in the process of being moved to the old visitor center near the aquarium on Broad Street and is scheduled to open in the spring of 2014. It will bring a fresh approach for connecting its visitors with Chattanooga's past. We hope you will join us.

DECEMBER -- Is December really just a month away!? That means we will want to hear Christmas music and that is just what will happen when **BRASSWORKS**, the outreach ensemble of the Jericho Brass Band will be our guests. Each member of the Ensemble and Band is a volunteer. They put on several free concerts during the year and each concert is such a treat. We actually have two members of our church who are also members of the Band. You will love hearing this group play many of the Christmas songs and hymns we love. So join us for our Christmas meeting on **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**.

JANUARY -- On **THURSDAY, JANUARY 9**, we will begin the New Year hearing from our mayor, **ANDY BERKE**. I know you will want to be there to hear what he has to say about his vision for our city. He has been asked to allow time for your questions. We are excited and delighted that, barring any last minute changes in his busy schedule, the mayor has agreed to be our speaker for that day. Be sure to mark your calendar.

Christmas at The Cove



It's A Wonderful Life! is sponsoring a bus trip to the Billy Graham training center at The Cove in Asheville, N.C., on December 14-15.

We'll celebrate the birth of the Savior during a memorable Saturday evening of warm fellowship with a festive Christmas dinner and the program featuring the music of female contemporary Christian trio, Point of Grace. Cliff Barrows is host. View the Billy Graham photo arcade and peruse the bookstore, Ruth's Attic. After a delicious Sunday breakfast, we'll have a service in The Cove's chapel. On the trip over to Asheville, we'll drive through Lake Junaluska. On the return, we'll stop at the cheese plant at Sweetwater Valley Farm for take-home goodies.

The per-person price (double occupancy only) is \$175, which covers lodging, program, 2 meals, transportation and tips. This memorable trip is open to all adults. There are 20 seats remaining. Contact David Cooper at 892-5550.

Birthdays ...

November

1 Cullen Davis
 2 Wallace Mantooth
 3 Jean Kinser
 7 Jackie Myers
 Ed Durham
 11 Ginny Flatt
 12 Bashie Evans
 Gerry Gratigny
 13 Carla Brown
 16 Therese Van Wickler
 17 Betty Jones
 Herman Weaver
 18 Margie Richardson
 21 Harriet Bond
 28 Mary Ferguson
 25 Ray Hall
 30 Jean Bruewer
 Joe Lanham
 Teeny Lassiter

December

2 Ginger Spears
 5 Madeleine Garner
 8 Christine Cooper
 Jeanne Evans
 Bobbie Meadows
 9 Lenette Glass
 10 James Garner
 11 Mary Katherine Pace
 12 Wilma Dietzen
 Bea Hicks
 13 Doris Mantooth
 15 Lee Anderson
 14 Gene Campbell
 16 Eva Setliffe
 19 Clara McFall
 21 Ann Maddox
 23 Benora Holder

January

5 Pam Craven
 George Grant
 6 Peggy Nabors
 10 Martha Whaley
 11 Sally Koehn
 12 Judy Smith
 Sherry Tucker
 17 Peggy Bizzell
 20 Shirley Hardy
 Winnie Rose
 21 Wilma Fowler
 22 Jane Wythe
 23 Wally Henry
 26 Gayle Sorenson
 27 Raleigh Maddox
 Gloria Hartshorn
 31 Vivian McKinnon
 Jean Moss

Prayer & Praise ...

Gerry Allen
 Lee Anderson
 Betty Ball
 Lillian Barnett
 Tom & Bobbie Blackshear
 Sarah Camp
 Dot Carter
 Bill Dietzen
 Bruce Gibson
 Norma Knier
 Joe Lanham, Jr
 Lane Latimer
 Doris Mantooth

Ben & Velma Mason
 Ted & Mary Alice Mills
 Winnie Rose
 Eva Setliffe
 Ken Simonds
 Dean Styers
 Nancy Tatum
 Karen Tomshe
 Martha Whaley
 Suzy Weaver
 Mary Wright
 Paul & Joyce Ritch & Family

Linda Richardson, Margie's
 daughter
 Gayln Brown, Velma &
 Virginia's niece
 Ed & Sally Koehn, traveling
 safety to Brazil



In our
 thoughts
 & prayers

In Loving Memory ...

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family & friends of those who have passed away.

Roberta Chesnut, sister-in-law of Roberta Thomas
 Ted Franklin on the death of his brother Jim
 Jack Kennedy, brother of Shirley Hardy & Billye Ragsdale
 Randy Lane, son of Grady Lane
 Lane Latimer on the death of Lat
 Family and friends of David McCallie
 Family and friends of beloved Ben Haden

Pastor's Prayer Corner ...

Imagine that you are driving in the car with your father. Your father is a very good father. He has always provided for you. He has always protected you. He has always given you his undivided attention. He has taught you the truths of how to live on this earth as you prepare for your heavenly life. He is just an all-around wonderful earthly father. But as you are driving along he looks over and notices that you are nervously wringing your hands. He says, "Honey, are you okay? You seem to be worried about something." You respond, "Well Dad, to tell you the truth, I am worried. I am unsettled and nervous, actually I am afraid." The father says, "Do you think that I will not take care of you?"

Last night (October 25), I taught at UTC CRU, one of the large campus ministries with which I have a meaningful ongoing relationship (i.e. I disciple their staff and speak at some of their events). They asked me to speak on Matthew 6:25-34 where Jesus says, "Do not be anxious." So this is what I taught them (in abbreviated form) Jesus gives three reasons for not being anxious. It is "needless" to be anxious because God will provide v. 26-27. It is "useless" to be anxious because it doesn't work v. 28-30. And third, it is "Godless" to be anxious in that non-believers are the ones who have no faith in our sovereign God v. 31-32. BUT or INSTEAD of being anxious, seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you v. 33-34. The university students were quite receptive to this teaching, and guess what? So was I. Pray for me that I will seek first His kingdom and righteousness, to pursue God and His Kingdom as the center of my life, not simply as a part of my life. And now, get back into the car and enjoy your ride with our loving, sovereign, powerful Heavenly Father.

In His grip,
Tim Tinsley, Senior Pastor



Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.

Ronald Reagan 40th president of U.S.A.

Christmas in The Trenches

To listen to this inspirational Christmas story in song:

http://www.personalgrowthcourses.net/audio/christmas_truce_in_the_trenches

Words & Music by John McCutcheon, c. 1984, [John McCutcheon / Appalsonq](#)

This song is based on a true story from the front lines of World War I that I've heard many times. Ian Calhoun, a Scot, was the commanding officer of the British forces involved in the story. He was subsequently court-martialed for "consorting with the enemy" and sentenced to death. Only George V spared him from that fate. -- John McCutcheon

My name is Francis Toliver, I come from Liverpool.
Two years ago the war was waiting for me after school.
To Belgium and to Flanders, to Germany to here,
I fought for King and country I love dear.

'Twas Christmas in the trenches, where the frost so bitter hung.
The frozen fields of France were still, no Christmas song was sung.
Our families back in England were toasting us that day,
Their brave and glorious lads so far away.

I was lying with my messmate on the cold and rocky ground,
When across the lines of battle came a most peculiar sound.
Says I, "Now listen up, me boys!" each soldier strained to hear,
As one young German voice sang out so clear.

"He's singing bloody well, you know!" my partner says to me.
Soon, one by one, each German voice joined in harmony.
The cannons rested silent, the gas clouds rolled no more,
As Christmas brought us respite from the war.

As soon as they were finished and a reverent pause was spent,
"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" struck up some lads from Kent.
The next they sang was "Stille Nacht," "'Tis 'Silent Night,'" says I,
And in two tongues one song filled up that sky.

"There's someone coming towards us!" the front line sentry cried.
All sights were fixed on one lone figure trudging from their side.
His truce flag, like a Christmas star, shone on that plain so bright,
As he bravely strode unarmed into the night.

Then one by one on either side walked into No Man's Land,
With neither gun nor bayonet we met their hand to hand.
We shared some secret brandy and wished each other well,
And in a flare lit soccer game we gave 'em h--- .

We traded chocolates, cigarettes, and photographs from home.
These sons and fathers far away from families of their own.
Young Sanders played his squeezebox and they had a violin,
This curious and unlikely band of men.

Soon daylight stole upon us and France was France once more.
With sad farewells we each began to settle back to war.
But the question haunted every heart that lived that wondrous night:
"Whose family have I fixed within my sights?"

'Twas Christmas in the trenches where the frost so bitter hung.
The frozen fields of France were warmed as songs of peace were sung.
For the walls they'd kept between us to exact the work of war,
Had been crumbled and were gone forevermore.

My name is Francis Toliver, in Liverpool I dwell,
Each Christmas come since World War I, I've learned its lessons well,
That the ones who call the shots won't be among the dead and lame,
And on each end of the rifle we're the same.

**It's A Wonderful Life! Senior Adult Fellowship
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This newsletter is prayerfully prepared for:

A Thanksgiving Prayer

For forests tall and oceans deep
For canyons wide and mountains steep
For sunset skies of pink and gold
For every sunrise we behold

For Winter's snow and Springtime's thaw
For Summer's warmth and Autumn's awe
For roofs that keep the rain away
For walls that hold it all at bay

For work that puts food on the table
For health and rest to keep us able
For friends and family around us
For years to come, may they surround us

For soldiers fighting for our peace
For days to come when wars may cease
For hope, so burdens won't enslave us
For thy forgiveness which will save us

For feast, and those with whom we share it
For loving hands that did prepare it
For all that makes this life worth living
We take this time on this Thanksgiving

To bow our heads and bend a knee
And pause to look around and see
For all that was, is, and shall be
We have none to thank, Oh Lord, but thee.
Amen.