

THE *COMMUNICATOR*

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KEVIN'S KORNER

Preacher David H. C. Read once told about an episode that occurred shortly after he came to New York in 1956. He was riding in a taxi with the Methodist scholar and evangelist D. T. Niles. They got into a vigorous discussion about preaching and the theology behind it. In fact, Read wondered what their taxi driver must have thought about their intense debate. When they arrived at Grand Central Station, Niles got out to catch his train. As he did, he popped his head through the taxi window and said, "David, in the end there's only one thing to say: 'God loves you.' Good-bye."

Niles's statement takes us to the heart of every preacher's, and every church's, proclamation. God loves you. To be sure, we need to spell out the nature of God's love, and the goal of God's love. God's love for us is more than just an emotional sentiment. During Christmas and the first month of a new year, we've reflected on how and why God has come to us in the flesh, in human form, through Jesus. So we already sense that God's love isn't primarily an idea but a form of action. God speaks his love for us by sending his Son. God takes on our humanity in order to redeem our humanity.

We often look to John 3:16: "For God so loved the world...." The adverb usually translated as "so" or "so much," which conveys a sense of the degree of God's love, can also be rendered as

"in this way," which captures the manner of God's love. "For God expressed His love for the world in this way: He gave His only Son..." (*The Voice New Testament*). Or as it's summarized in 1 John 4: "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (vv. 9-11).

In *Strength to Love*, a collection of some of his most well-known sermons, Martin Luther King, Jr. said: "Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction."

But God's will is life. God's purpose is to overcome the death-dealing hatred that's in the world, in the church, and in our hearts and minds. And that requires love. Not just any love. God's love. God's love, revealed in Jesus Christ, and taking shape in the community of Christ's people, the family of God. "Dear children," says the elder, "let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" (v. 18). Or as Clarence Jordan puts it in his Cotton Patch Version, "My little ones, let's not

talk about love. Let's not *sing* about love. Let's put love into *action* and make it *real*."

As we make God's love real, both within the church and beyond its walls, hate gets overcome. Darkness gives way to light. Death gives way to life. Christ's self-giving sacrifice for us starts to show up in visible and tangible form. The forgiving love of God, for the world and for each of us, gets both enfolded and expressed.

Niles was right. In the end, there's only one thing to say: "God loves you." And through our preaching and our practice, we spell out the extent to which God has gone to rescue us from eternal death and bring us into the life of the Son, so that others may believe and join us in this love that has changed everything.

Faithfully,

Pastor Kevin

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNICATOR STAFF

By Jenny Boswell

The Deacon of the Month for February is Cathy Rozar.

Sunday, February 2 is Groundhog Day. Will he or won't he see his shadow?



On February 8th the Boy Scouts of America will be celebrating their 115th birthday. Worldwide the Boy Scouts are 118 years old.



Valentine's Day is on Friday, February 14th. Let the ones you love be told and honored with some expression of love.

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

President Lincoln's birthday is February 12 and President Washington's birthday is February 22. We celebrate both of their birthdays on Monday, February 17. The church office will be closed.



***Washington was president from 1789-1797
Lincoln was president from 1861-1865***

The newsletter articles for March/April will be due the first week in February. This issue will include: Lent, (starts on Ash Wednesday, March 5), St. Patrick's Day, Spring, and Easter. Don't forget to send in some of your favorite spring recipes.

THE SCRIPTURES SAY...

About God's Love

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved."
Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV)

(Jesus said), "I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." John 17:23 (NIV)

MINDY'S PEACE

By Mindy Adams

The following poem is from Mindy's Peace in the February 2009 issue.

To Love Like God Loves

By Mindy Adams

If we could love like God, our love would be unconditional.
If we could love like God, our love would be unfailing.
If we could love like God, our love would be never ending.
If we could love like God, our love would be all forgiving.
If we could love like God, there would be no hatred.
If we could love like God, there would be no wars.
If we could love like God, the world would be at peace.
 If only we could love like God.

May everyone have a lovely Valentine's Day.

MOVIE NIGHT

The second Saturday of each month is Movie Night. February 8 is this month's Movie.

GROUNDHOG DAY

Why do we have Groundhog Day?

The Groundhog Day celebration is rooted in a Celtic tradition that says if a hibernating animal casts a shadow on Feb. 2, the Pagan holiday of Imbolc, winter will last another six weeks. If no shadow was seen, legend says spring would come early.

The ties in Pennsylvania may actually come from Germans. When clear skies on Candlemas Day (Feb.2) were said to herald cold weather ahead. In Germany, the tradition morphed into a myth that if the sun came out on Candlemas Day, a hedgehog would cast its shadow, predicting snow all the way into May. When German immigrants settled in Pennsylvania, they transferred the tradition onto local fauna, replacing hedgehogs with groundhogs.

(excerpts taken from Wikipedia®)

Let's hope "Punxsutawney Phil" does not see his shadow!

PRESIDENTS

Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, both of these great leaders realized the importance of God's written word:

Abraham Lincoln – "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given man. All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated to us through this book."

George Washington – “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.”

POETRY CORNER

Come, Be My Valentine

By Rachel A. Gold

(From the Glimpses of My Life)

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I saw a man who looked at me
The thought that thrilled my mind
I sensed one thing sincerely that
I knew that he was kind

Then he came to me and took
His hand enclosed in mine
And he said suddenly to me
“Will you be my valentine?”

I knew just one thing I could say
I didn't even guess
They only thing I could reply
Was simply saying “Yes”

Now we've been wed for many years
He's loving and he's kind
And still he tells me frequently
“Come, be my valentine.”

Love

By Rachel A. Gold

Love is a very odd word, for
It means so many things
It means the food I like to eat
And songs the bluebird sings

It means the lovely flowers
That I see everywhere
But now it is my favorite word
It tells me that you care

RECIPE BOX

Cherry Winks

By Darlene Luttrell

1/3 cup shortening
1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp. grated lemon peel
1 tsp vanilla
1 egg
2 T. milk
1 cup sifted all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. soda
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 cup seedless raisins
1/2 cup chopped California walnuts
1 1/2 cup wheat flakes, slightly crushed
Candied cherries

Thoroughly cream together the first 4 ingredients. Add egg and milk; beat thoroughly. Sift dry ingredients together; add to creamed mixture, mixing well. Stir in raisins and nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto crushed wheat flakes; toss lightly to coat. Place on greased cookie sheet about 2 inches apart. Top each with a candied cherry half. Bake at 400° about 12 minutes. Cool slightly; remove from pan. Makes about 3 dozen.

Church Window Cookies

By Elaine Register

1 (12-oz.) package chocolate chips
1 (10 1/2 -oz.) package colored mini marshmallows
1 stick margarine
1 cup nuts
1 (7-oz.) package coconut

Melt chocolate chips and margarine together. Cool. Add nuts, marshmallows and stir to incorporate. Divide mixture in half and form into two rolls. Roll in coconut and wrap in foil. Chill or freeze. Slice in 1/2 -inch cookies.

Do not bake



February

Tobias Coombs	02/09
Marlene Wedding	02/10
Melinda Adams (Mindy)	02/13
Dan Krivitsky	02/13
Hanna Zanakis	02/16
Sharon Farncomb	02/16
Dora Heinbuch	02/18
James Sams	02/20
Joan Posey	02/23
Cheyenne Toma	02/27
Tiffany Wedding	02/28



UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

- Feb. 1 Deacons Meeting at 8:00 a.m.
- Feb. 2 Lord's Supper
- Feb. 2 Groundhog Day
- Feb. 5 Business Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 8 Movie Night at 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb. 17 President's Day – Office Closed

Sunday School starts at 9:30 a.m.

Morning Service Starts at 11:00 a.m.

[The following article was copied from
Alice Dozier Brown's Hotmail in 2003]

WORKOUT FOR SENIORS

The doctor told me I should start an exercise program. Not wanting to harm this old body, I've devised the following:

Monday

Beat around the bush
Jump to conclusions
Climb the walls
Wade through the morning paper

Tuesday

Drag my heels
Push my luck
Make mountains out of mole hills
Hit the nail on the head

Wednesday

Bend over backwards
Jump on the Band Wagon
Run around in circles

Thursday

Advise the President on how to run the country
Toot my own horn
Pull out all the stops
Add fuel to the fire

Friday

Open up a can of worms
Put my foot in my mouth
Start the ball rolling
Go over the edge

Saturday

Pick up the pieces

Sunday

Kneel in prayer
Bow my head in thanksgiving
Uplift my hands in praise
Hug someone and encourage them