

Upcoming Events...

1 Corinthians Class: Every Tuesday at 12:00 p.m.
Business Meeting: next Sunday, January 15 at 4:00 p.m.

Read through the Bible in 2016!

There were a couple of times during 2016 that the schedule was not published in this bulletin at the right time; if you need the Scriptures for days 347-365, just ask Jim; he will provide you the final schedule.

Strength for The Asking

A little boy was having a hard time lifting a heavy stone. His father asked, "Are you using all your strength?"

"Yes, I am," the boy replied. "No you're not," said the father. "I'm right here waiting, and you haven't asked me to help."

When we are faced with a problem that seems unsolvable or a burden that is too heavy, we might ask ourselves, "Are we using all our strength?" Our Father, too, is waiting to help.

January Birthdays

5 John Aguiar 14 Juanita Small

January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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Gifts We Can Give the Year Long

From the weekly bulletin of the Harrisburg church of Christ

There are certain times of the year that we plan on giving - and that is good. But there are some gifts that we can give all year long - gifts that don't cost much financially, but gifts that are of great value nonetheless. Make plans to give:

The Gift of Praise - Acknowledging someone else's qualities or just a job well done is always appropriate and appreciated. Make sure this is done right in front of their face and watch for the smile.

The Gift of Consideration - Try putting ourselves in the other fellow's shoes for a while. Make an effort to gain a genuine understanding of their side of the case. Let them know we understand and are truly concerned.

The Gift of Concession - Humble ourselves and just at the right time be sure to say, "Sorry, you're right and I'm wrong."

The Gift of Gratitude - Always remember to say, "Thank you very much" and never fail to mean it. People like to know that what they are doing is appreciated by others.

The Gift of Attention - When someone else speaks to us, listen attentively. If their words are directed to us personally, meet their eyes squarely. Undivided attention makes one feel important.

The Gift of Inspiration - Do our best to plant seeds of courage and action in the hearts of others. Do what we can to encourage others. Help others to strive for greater accomplishment and lasting satisfaction.

The Gift of our Personal Presence - Few things equal the value of our shoulder - given in a hug, offered to cry on, used to move the arm to pat another's back, or just to bring the rest of our body into the presence of others. In times of trouble or joy, our presence makes the difference on other's lives.

These are the gifts that all of us can bestow throughout the year and the great thing is that we will all be the richer for giving them.

And let's remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20:35)

The Beauty of the Cross

By David Ferguson (modified for 2017)

Paul wrote in Galatians 6:14, "*But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*" (NKJV)

It is an old common saying that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. The cross of Jesus was a rough and ugly instrument of torture. It had no beauty in itself. As we think of the cross in 2017, we see an ornament, a precious piece of jewelry, or a religious symbol.

Why is the cross so attractive to us? Why does it bring us such joy and peace when we see it? It is because of the special meaning that Jesus gave it by His sacrificial death that it has attained its beauty.

Jesus knew the price He had to pay for my soul and yours. He knew the incredible pain and suffering that was to come for Him as He underwent the excruciating agony of the cross. God the Father knew that our sin required that someone would die, "*for the wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6:23). Jesus obeyed the Father and went to His death in order that you and I could live, even knowing He had done no wrong, because He loved us so much.

God's reaction to the sacrifice of Jesus gives the cross eternal beauty. Because of what Jesus did, God can look at those of us who have accepted Christ as their Savior, and see us as no longer His enemy, but instead as new creatures who are pure and sinless. Jesus alone restored the fellowship between God the Father and mankind. Jesus has been glorified and He was, is and will always be worthy of praise and worship.

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:27-29, "*But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.*" (NKJV)

In a nutshell, it is the love of God the Father and Jesus His Son for the lost that has transformed the cross, an instrument devised for the purpose of eliciting extreme torture and death, into a thing of beauty. Let us who are God's children do no less than Paul, and "*boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ*".

A Tale of a Candle

By Tom Moore

Once upon a time a little candle stood in a room filled with other candles, most of them much larger and much more beautiful than she was. Some were ornate and some were rather simple, like herself. Some were white, some were blue, some were pink, and some were green. She had no idea why she was there, and the other candles made her feel rather small and insignificant.

When the sun went down and the room began to get dark, she noticed a large man walking toward her with a ball of fire on a stick. She suddenly realized that the man was going to set her on fire. "No, no!" she cried, "Aaaaagghhh! Don't burn me, please!" But she knew that she could not be heard and prepared for the pain that would surely follow.

To her surprise, the room filled with light. She wondered where it came from since the man had extinguished his fire stick. To her delight, she realized that the light came from herself.

Then the man struck another fire stick and, one by one, lit the other candles in the room. Each one gave out the same light that she did.

During the next few hours, she noticed that, slowly, her wax began to flow. She became aware that she would soon die. With this realization came a sense of why she had been created. "Perhaps my purpose on earth is to give out light until I die," she mused. And that's exactly what she did.

God created you and me to produce light in a dark world. Our purpose on this earth is to let our lights shine so that God may be glorified. Jesus said, "*Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven*" (Matthew 5:16).

Think About It!