

The Light



THE FOUNDRY
A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

Volume 11, Issue 2

February 2015

Mark Your Calendar

February

- 18 Ash Wednesday
- 21 Men's Breakfast
(8:00 a.m.)
- 25 Prime Time
Luncheon (11:30
a.m.)

March

- 1 First Sunday Lunch
- 7 Men's Breakfast
(8:00 a.m.)
- 8 Daylight Saving
Time Begins
- 9 CFISD Spring Break
(9—13)
- 21 Men's Breakfast
(8:00 a.m.)
- 29 Palm Sunday

April

- 2 Maundy Thursday
- 3 Good Friday

The Gift of Love

By Linda Hinzie

In 2012, Mark and I were invited to eight weddings, and I think we attended six.

Each wedding had something unique. At the first wedding, all the guests were ushered outside during the reception to watch fireworks. I'm not talking about firecrackers and sparklers. No, we saw a spectacular fireworks exhibition. At another wedding, the bride and groom had each been previously married, and their children took part in the ceremony. In March, we went to a lovely wedding where the ceremony was held outside. On Labor Day weekend, we attended a wedding that was held in a suburb of New York City. The reception was held at a hotel located on the Hudson River, and the bridal party arrived there by boat.

While each wedding had its specific distinction, all had one thing in common. At the service, 1 Corinthians 13 was read.

When Paul wrote this epistle, chapter 13 was not intended as a rite of weddings. No, its purpose was to encourage members of the Corinthian congregation

to use their spiritual gifts with love. Some members had become arrogant thinking their gifts were more important than those of others.

Let's look at some of the characteristics. *Love is patient. Love is kind. Love does not envy and does not boast. Nor is love rude. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.*

Jesus Christ personified all these traits of love. We could paraphrase the passage this way:

Jesus is patient and kind; Jesus is not jealous or boastful; Jesus is not arrogant or rude. Jesus does not insist on his own way; Jesus is not irritable or resentful. Jesus does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Jesus bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

One of the wonders of Paul's description of love is that it helps us comprehend what it is like to be loved by

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Why I Love Valentine's Day

By Kelly Long

If there's one reason to appreciate Valentine's Day, it's because it provides an excellent excuse for buying a heart-shaped box of chocolates. **I love** heart-shaped boxes of chocolate. I don't care if it comes to me from my husband or my kids or my mom. I just want one.

And when I have received this delicious treat, I leave it out on my kitchen counter until I have eaten every chocolate ... which usually takes about two days. I never really mean to eat the whole thing so quickly. I intend to ration it. But as it sits there, I grab a chocolate on my way to the laundry room. And then back to the living room. And then to the pantry. And the backyard and so on and so on until in the matter of a day or two, I have consumed the whole box.

Sin sort of works the same way. No one wakes up looking to make a huge mistake, but one misstep here, another there... One compromise leads to another and before we know it, the box is empty. Each small handful of actions has turned into a huge collection of problems and God seems very much left out.

Any nutrition expert will tell you that the key to eating healthier is to pay attention to all the little extras that by the end of the day really start to add up. The same concept applies to our spiritual health. Television shows and movies full of sex, murder, and deceit? How can we not be influenced by all that? Yes, it's a slippery slope to sin (or in this case a creamy, gooey, sweet chocolate-flavored slope), but rest assured, God will always be waiting at the bottom. He is the ultimate Alka-Seltzer for your box of chocolates. (I may have just taken this analogy too far...)

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is

Sonnet 43

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
 I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
 My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
 For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.
 I love thee to the level of every day's
 Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
 I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;
 I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.
 I love thee with a passion put to use
 In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
 I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
 With my lost saints, — I love thee with the breath,
 Smiles, tears, of all my life! — and, if God choose,
 I shall but love thee better after death.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Phil. 4:8).

Put your mind on all the very good and wonderful things Christ has put before us and work like an *oompa-loompa* in a chocolate factory to keep it there. But should you start to waver (and we always do), remember that there is no distance so far for you to travel that God will not and cannot pull you back to His side. It is the gift of grace and it is for each one of us.

Kelly Long

www.kellyinthemiddle.blogspot.com

Spotlight on Betty Kosley

"God doesn't promise a pain-free life, but God does promise to be there to love you, comfort you, and guide you. My faith gives me something that people without faith don't have--hope for the future."

A native of Colorado, Al Kosley graduated from The Colorado School of Mines with a degree in Chemical & Petroleum Refining. He aspired to work in the oil fields of Alaska upon graduation. However, God did not lead him to Alaska but rather to Oklahoma, a situation about which he was not too thrilled. "My mom," Al shares, "teased me that I would probably meet and fall in love with a Oklahoma rancher's daughter...she was spot on with her projection!" Betty and Al met when they were both working at the Ponca City Refinery for Conoco. They were married in 1987. Soon after their marriage, they moved to Houston where they both continued to work for Conoco. This month Al will be celebrating 32 years with Conoco (now ConocoPhillips). Betty continued to work at Conoco until the couple had children.

Twins Alex and Austin are now 21 years old. Alex goes to Baylor and is majoring in the business school pursuing a degree in Supply Chain Management. Austin attends Texas A & M majoring in History with aspirations of pursuing a law degree. Al and Betty's daughter, Grace, is 15 years old and is a freshman at Cy Ranch High School where she is a member of the band and plays the French horn.

The family has traveled the world with Al's job and as a family. For instance, Al and Betty honeymooned in Tahiti. With Al's job, they have lived in Houston, Lake Charles, and Denver. Betty says, "Our favorite trips are still going home to family in Colorado and Oklahoma, but we also loved our time in Alaska, Paris, Australia, and New Zealand."

When the Kosley family joined Foundry in 1995, Betty immediately joined the choir. As a soprano, she sang solos, duets, and was part of ensemble groups. Al played in the Foundry Band along with Austin for three years. Wanting to have the opportunity to play in a band with his son, Al knew that time was running out before Austin left for college. Although Al had played the trumpet all through his school years, he discovered that "it took forever to get my lip back!" But he finally did and

enjoyed playing alongside Austin.

In March 2004 Betty was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor. Over the years, she has had two major brain surgeries and countless chemotherapy and radiation treatments. "As you know," Al says, "she is a tremendous fighter and considered truly a miracle in brain cancer circles. Her doctors honestly believe her faith and positive outlook are credit for her success far more than the tremendous medical support she has received. We celebrate every day as a gift and just take it one day at a time. We do not begrudge what has happened and spend our energy looking forward tomorrow while enjoying today. We have never asked for statistics. If there is a 1 percent chance of survival, there is no reason to think Betty would not be in that 1 percent. That philosophy has served her well."

After the Christmas Concert, Al sent an email complimenting the band and choir.

"I wanted to share how much Betty and I enjoyed the concert last night. While Joe Castillo was creative and unique, the real stars of the program were the Foundry Choir and Band. We have been to countless concerts over the past years of attending the church, but I don't think there were as any as special as this one. You were absolutely wonderful.

I want to share what perhaps made it so special to me. Throughout the concert Betty was becoming increasingly immersed in the music. Then you began performing "Peace, Peace." That has always been Betty's favorite Christmas piece to sing. Suddenly, she leaned over to me and said, "Don't be mad, but I am going up there to sing with the choir now." She then proceeded to brace herself on the pew in front of her and attempted to stand. I gently braced her and leaned her back and whispered, "I don't think Betty would mind if you sing your part right here from the pew." She appeared irritated at first but then began to sing. And sing she did! With tears running down my face, I knew that I was experiencing what will most likely be one of the most special moments of the Christmas season. She was completely absorbed in the music, and to her, she was right up there in the choir. "Thank you for allowing one more voice to join you!"

UP!

Today's humor post deals with this word **UP**. It is the one English word that can be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb, and preposition. This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is '**UP**'. This is pretty long, and you might give up before the end comes up, but I think this might brighten up your day and end up being a worthwhile read!

It's easy to understand **UP**, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake **UP** or get **UP**?

At a meeting, why does a topic come **UP**? Why do we speak **UP**, and why are the candidates **UP** for election (if there is a tie, it is a toss **UP**) and why is it **UP** to the secretary to write **UP** a report? We call **UP** our friends, brighten **UP** a room, polish **UP** the silver, warm **UP** the leftovers and clean **UP** the kitchen. We lock **UP** the house and fix **UP** the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir **UP** trouble, line **UP** for tickets, work **UP** an appetite, and think **UP** excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed **UP** is special. And to get dolled **UP** even more so!

We get fed **UP** but do not call FEDEX

to make us better! Though that would be a neat trick?

And this **UP** is confusing: A drain must be opened **UP** because it is blocked **UP**.

We open **UP** a store in the morning but we close it **UP** at night. We seem to be pretty mixed **UP** about **UP**!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of **UP**, look **UP** the word **UP** in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes **UP** almost 1/4 of the page and can add **UP** to about thirty definitions.

If you are **UP** to it, you might try building **UP** a list of the many ways **UP** is used. It will take **UP** a lot of your time, but if you don't give **UP**, you may wind **UP** with (**UP** to) a hundred or more.

The one that confuses me is when you want to make the room cooler do you turn the A/C **UP** or down? I still cannot make **UP** my mind on that one! Oh, and what is **UP** with ketchup?

Now with digital media we hook **UP**, mash **UP**, meet **UP**, do start **UP**s, and round **UP** investors before we end **UP** broke! We seem to all be climbing **UP** the ladder to success and **UP** our social standing instead of focusing on being an upstanding person.

RESOLUTIONS (CONT'D)

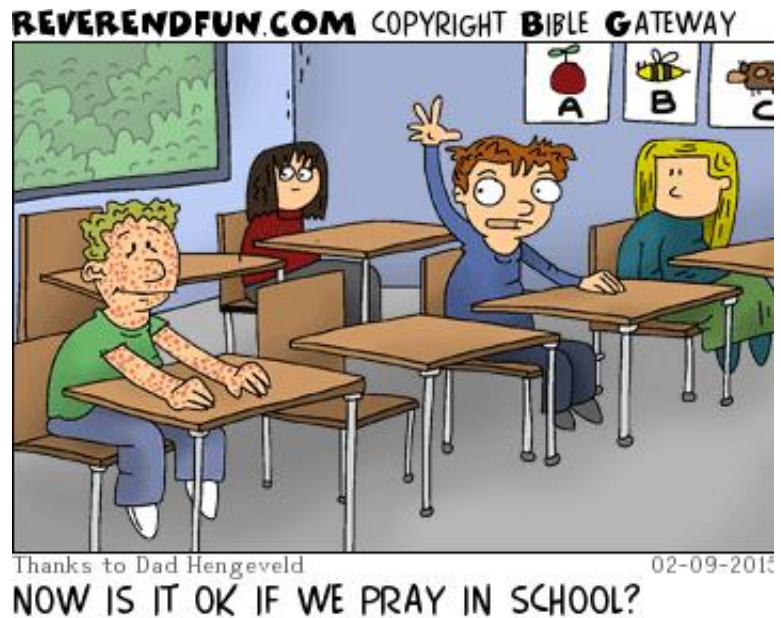
God.

In the paragraph below, fill in each blank with your name.

Jesus is patient and kind with ____; Jesus is not jealous or boastful when he relates with _____. Jesus is not arrogant or rude toward _____. Jesus is not irritable or resentful toward ____; Jesus does not rejoice at _____'s wrongdoing, but rejoices with _____ in the truth. Jesus bears all the wrong that _____ has ever done as well as all the wrong anyone has ever done toward _____. Jesus believes all things he says are true about _____, hopes all things he has in store for _____, and endures all things with _____.

God's highest desire for us and from us is not our service or our work on his behalf. It is that we love him and love the people around us.

[Excerpts taken from *Community Bible Study: 1 and 2 Corinthians*, pp. 161-167]



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