

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD



INFO

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 3 MARCH, 2009

WORDS FROM THE PATH.

BY PASTOR BEN MURPHY

Do you remember last month? (Most of you are probably like me: **“Are you kidding? I don’t remember yesterday!”**) Well, last month I began *‘Words’* by talking about my interpretation, or description of the month of February. I called it the ‘Blah’ month! Not much goes on (with the exception of Valentines Day, MLK Jr. Day, Presidents Day and a few personal birthdays and anniversary’s and a vacation thrown in for good measure.) We are basically all settled into the doldrums of winter. Now again, assisting with your recollection, I vaguely alluded to the month of March and said, and I quote me, “March usually roars in like a lion. I can remember a fellow worker at General Motors saying to me 30 years ago, ‘When I think of March, I always think of wind!’” Again, quoting me, I stated that his words were a pretty accurate description of March. Windy!

Well, here we are already marching into the month of March, 2009. It’s so hard for me to believe that just a few, short months ago, four to be exact, the mainstream media was obsessed with coverage of the elections that had seemed to go on forever. This morning (2/19/09) on the 6:00 o’clock news, I see where some politicians are already “gearing up” for the 2010 elections. I can hardly wait. Maybe, just maybe, I can have some root canal surgery or watch a good documentary on a lion chewing up a

wildebeest to entertain me until the elections begin again. For some reason, I feel less than “stimulated!” (Funny how that word used to be so normal. Now it almost seems ‘dirty’ to use!)

Well, speaking of being “windy,” I really do not have any sort of theme to adhere to this month in **Words From the Path**. Instead, I just want to be “windy!” I want to tell you about a few things that have happened over the past month. None of these items may be earth shaking or even newsworthy, let alone humorous or challenging. Let’s just call them, “aimless meandering!” (Windyness!)

First, I have to tell you a story that happened to us back in October. Diania and I were on a week’s leave to attend a retreat down in the mountains of Tennessee. On one afternoon, we had some free time. We drove over into North Carolina. We went down to the town of Boone. For some reason, we didn’t realize that earlier in the year, back in February, we had driven to Boone while on vacation. Now I am a collector of a lot of “stuff!” One of the “stuffs” that I collect is NASCAR collectibles. While in an antique store in Boone, I came across an item that I am noted for collecting. It was a nice piece and the price was really a good price. However, for some unexplained reason, (this was February of ’08 and I was probably

concentrating on the upcoming elections in November) I chose not to purchase the item. However, after leaving the establishment, some 40 miles down the road, I began to whine and cry that I should have indeed purchased it. Diania explained to me that it was “too late and that by the next time, if ever, we visited Boone, the item would be long gone; get over it; stop crying over spilled milk and concentrate on the road. You’re going to wreck the car and kill us all!” Well, I have proven her wrong before, but never in the way that I accomplished it this time.

Go back with me now to the second trip to Boone. It was October. (Elections just a month away.) We left the retreat for some free time. When we got to Boone, we realized that this was where we were in February. And we suddenly found ourselves in front of that same antique store. I said to Diania something to the effect ‘Do you think that item is still here?’ We went in. We walked to the far back of the store. Got into this really small room where I knew the item had been, and low and behold, there it was. It still had the same price, same musty smell, same dust, and I got the same look from Diania that said, “Now ask yourself this question. Do you really need this?” (pause) It is sitting on my shelf at home right now, collecting my dust

“Words” cont’d on pg. 3

Newsletter

Articles or information to be published in the Newsletter are due by the third Sunday of the month. Please submit to the church office.

Singers and Musicians

If you are on the monthly music schedule to sing and find you cannot do so, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Please notify the church office of such a change. Our thanks to each of you who serve.

—The Ministries & Programming Council

When There Is A Death In The Family

If there is a death in your immediate family, (Parent, Sibling, Spouse, Child,) or in the family of a church member, please notify a member of the Benevolence Committee (listed below) so the church may send flowers and for food preparation when applicable.

—The Benevolence Committee

- Mona Orr—Chair
- Phyllis Belcher
- Sue Ellen Fleming
- Diania Murphy
- Charlotte Rice

AND THE WINNER IS...



The Sunday School winner for the month of December was Shirley Wolfe.

Congratulations Shirley!

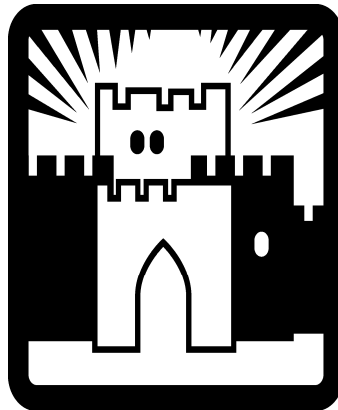


The Sunday School winner for the month of January was Dennis Orr.

Congratulations Dennis!

(Shown with Sunday School Superintendent Betty Carter)

BIBLE QUIZ



In the 8th century B.C., a prophet of God condemned the sinfulness of many of Jerusalem's citizens. On behalf of God, he chastised anyone who abused power, was unjust toward the poor and used bribes and position to gain money and status. He even condemned prideful women who walked "with outstretched necks, glancing wantonly with their eyes, mincing along as they go,

tinkling with their feet." (He was referring to little bells attached to women's ankles.)

Who was that prophet?

- A. Isaiah
- B. Amos
- C. Hosea
- D. Jeremiah

Answer: (See 3:16 ff, NRSV, of the book with the prophet's name.)



"I think it's time we all pitched in and bought the choir some classier-looking robes."

Quarterly Business Meeting

The quarterly business meeting will be held on Wed. March 25th at 7:00 p.m.

Daylight-Savings Time Begins

Sunday, March 8th.

Don't forget to set your clock on Saturday night.



“WORDS” CONT’D FROM PAGE 1

instead of the dust in a Boone, North Carolina Antique store.

Now I know that there is a message hidden in all of that stuff some where. Maybe, it is never too late, or never give up, or *don’t* shake the dust from your feet all the time. Maybe that is why they are called “antique shops.” Things never change, they just sit on the shelf and get older. Nevertheless, do anything you like with this little gust. I just thought it was a cool story to share. Remember: there is no such thing as coincidence!

My second gust of wind has to do with our nine or ten year old granddaughter Hannah, who is in the third or fourth grade in public school in Evansville, Indiana. (When you have as many grand children as I have, who can remember ages and grades and so on. I feel fortunate to remember their names.)

Yesterday, the phone rang and I answered. It was Hannah. She began to tell her Paw-Paw how she had tried out for a part in the school play. Then she told me about losing her first molar. After a few other tid-bits about school and life in general for a girl her age, I asked her a question. Now Hannah is a arduous reader for a nine or ten year old child. So I asked her, just off the cuff, what books she was reading at the time. I didn’t really expect much of a response because people ask me that question often and all I can render is a blank stare. She answered however with a “Well, actually right now Paw-Paw, I am reading a book called ‘Twilight!’ I have seen the movie already but I also wanted to read the book! **(Pause again; take a breath) ARE YOU KIDDING ME?** When I was Hannah’s age, nine or ten, or even fourteen or fifteen for that matter, the only book I had read was MAD Magazine, and then, I only read “Spy vs. Spy!” She must have taken her affinity for reading from her grand mother

‘cause it certainly didn’t come from me.

Again, I know there is a message here. A week or so ago, I heard a young entrepreneur on one of the news programs explain how the government should do away with classes in elementary schools that teach cursive writing and reading. After all, in this day and time, computers can do it for you. Why waste the time teaching these archaic methods to kids who will never use them? Well dude, I am proud that Hannah loves to write cards to her grand parents and loves to read avidly. The computer is a marvelous tool, but I find it hard to imagine a world where people will never have to write their name or read instructions on an Aspirin bottle.

Gust number three has to do with Diania’s brother Phil who lives in Henderson, Kentucky. Many of you know that Phil has recently had some very serious vision problems. He had surgery on the 16th of February and we are happy to report that his vision is much improved. We are of course thankful to the surgeon who performed the procedure, but we are much more thankful for all the prayers that ascended on Phil’s behalf, and we do give the glory – if not the credit to God for the miracle that Phil received. We all wish you continued good health Phil.

One last gust. Last week, Diania, her sister Joy, brother-in-law Phil Deemer and I went on vacation together. This is our fourth year to do so in the month of February. The vacation is to a little log cabin down in Greenville, Tennessee. It is owned by the First Church of God in Greenville. It sits on a camp ground there at a place called Locust Springs. We had such a wonderful time. In the past years, we have traveled down into North Carolina from Greenville, and to Cherokee and over into Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge. With only one exception, we basically stayed in the cabin and rested and played

board games. There is no TV and cell-phone service is minimal. It was a very relaxing time. Each morning we would awaken to a herd of deer and wild turkey feeding near by. On one particular morning, I went out on the back porch of the cabin at about 7:30 and to my right were two deer, about 40 yards from the door of the cabin. I turned and behind me were another four deer, again, about 40 yards or so. I eased back into the cabin so as not to disturb the deer from their breakfast, and as I looked through the front room window, there was another herd of about eight to ten deer feeding. Again, I’m just being windy. I don’t know that there is a message here, but if there is, it is certainly, “Ain’t God Good!” Every now and then it is good just to get out into nature and relax and enjoy His good earth, and we certainly did that. By the way, any one can go to this cabin and use it to R & R. The church there encourages its usage. If interested, just let Diania or I know and we can hook you up with info on Locust Springs.

I would also like to say a special word of thanks to all who took leadership roles while I was on vacation. All reports are that the services were wonderful. Special thanks to Brother Chuck for filling the pulpit.

Well, the wind is beginning to die down. You may feel less than challenged if you remained throughout the entire “gale” of my article. But as folk singer and song writer Bob Dylan said in *Subterranean Blues*, “You don’t need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows!”

Have a good month of March and as always, *stay on the path with Jesus!*



FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

P.O. Box 980

702 E. Main St.

Wise, VA 24293

Phone / Fax: (276) 328-8791

Parsonage: (276) 328-5749

Pastor's Cell: (276) 275-1171

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Email: bemurphy65@yahoo.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WISEFIRSTCHURCHOFGOD.ORG



March

This Month:

- 3 WCG
- 4 Ministry & Programming Council
- 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 10 Easter Production Comm.
- 10 Visitation & Outreach Comm.
- 11 Finance Council Meeting
- 14 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 15 Singspiration, pm
- 17 Easter Production Comm.
- 17 Visitation & Outreach Comm.
- 18 Christian Ed. Council
- 22 B-day / Anniversary Dinner
- 24 Easter Production Comm.
- 24 Visitation & Outreach Comm.
- 25 Quarterly Business Meeting
- 29 **Unity Service** at Heritage COG
- 31 Easter Production Comm.



April:

- 1 Ministry & Prog. Council
- 5 Palm Sunday
- 7 WCG
- 8 No Regular Servs.
- 9 Maundy Thurs. Servs. 6pm
- 11 Men's Breakfast
- 12 SUNRISE SERVICE
- 12 No PM Service

First Church of God

Sunday:

- Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
- Morning Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
- Evening Worship Service 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

- Youth Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- Adventure Club Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.
- Mid-Week Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- Adventure Club 7:00 p.m.