

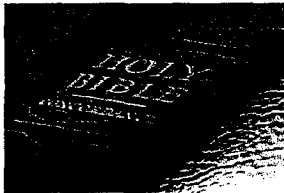
# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

## FEBRUARY, 2014

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### **A Month of Meditation – What does reconciliation mean to you?**

This year has gotten off to an extremely cold and bitter start. Most of us have decided that home is the best place to be when temperatures fall below zero. Watching bad television, indulging in comfort foods and reading novels have been high on our list of activities. Let me offer another alternative. Let's take the next month to meditate on God's word. *Smashing idea Pastor!* Thought you might agree.

Our focus will be on reconciliation. What does reconciliation mean to you? Below are four passages on reconciliation. Each week focus on one scripture. Read and meditate on it over and over again and allow God to reveal his light and wisdom through his word. You might also try reading each scripture in different translations of the Bible as well as reading the entire chapter. **Please share your revelations with me and others.**

#### **WEEK ONE: 2 Corinthians 5:17-19**

<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the **ministry of reconciliation**: <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

**WEEK TWO: 2 Corinthians 5:20** <sup>20</sup>We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be **reconciled** to God.

**WEEK THREE: Ephesians 2:13-17**

<sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup>by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup>and in this one body to **reconcile** both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. <sup>17</sup>He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

**WEEK FOUR: Colossians 1:15-20**

<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup>and through him to **reconcile** to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

You can do it!

Blessings,  
Pastor Lawson

**Updates from the Session**

- **December Presbytery Meeting:** Elder Commissioner, Waldo Bronson reported that at the December Presbytery meeting, the Board of Trustees recommended for approval the remainder of the Shelly Trust be designated as a loan to Trinity United, payable after current mortgage has been paid in full. These funds once received will be used to pay down the mortgage principle. Also the Moderator

of the Presbytery for 2014 is Rev. Teresa Peterson, pastor at Flushing Presbyterian Church.

- **Robbie Grier**: Many of you are aware that our music director, Robbie Grier, has been seriously ill since the Christmas holiday. She has been in Texas and is in good hands with her oldest daughter, Rhea. Robbie had a bad infection in her liver which required surgery. Thankfully, the infection was removed and she is undergoing an intense 4-week treatment of antibiotics. Please remember her in your prayers. In the meantime, Dr. Eleanor Goodman has graciously agreed to assist Jackie McClellan with playing and leading the choirs during Robbie's absence. We are grateful for their willing spirits and gifted leadership.
- **Lenten Season**: The season of Lent will kick off on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014 with worship beginning at 6pm. Our theme for this year is: ***The Cross***. For this Lenten season we are not having midweek services. Instead, Pastor Lawson will teach a 5-week Bible Study series during the Sunday school hour beginning Sunday, March 16, 2014 at 9:15am through, Sunday, April 13, 2014. Please look for more details soon.

**WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY**                      **Theme: MOVING FORWARD IN UNITY**

February 2, 2014	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	<i>Foolish Talk</i>
February 9, 2014	1 Corinthians 2:1-12	<i>What's really in your heart?</i>
February 16, 2014	Matthew 5:21-26	<i>What's the root cause of your anger ?</i>
February 23, 2014	1 Corinthians 1:10-17	Has Christ been divided?

**CALENDAR ITEMS**

***FEBRUARY***

- Friends Day – February 9, 2014

***MARCH***

- Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday – March 2, 2014 (Guest Speaker: Elder McClellan)

- Presbytery of Lake Huron Meeting – March 4, 2014, Kirkridge Presbyterian Church at 9am.
- Ash Wednesday Service – March 5, 2014 at 6pm
- Celebration of the Lord's Supper & First Sunday of Lent – March 9, 2014.

## **FIVE WAYS TO BE UNSATISFIED WITH YOUR CHURCH**

**by Shane Blackshear**

*[http://www.shaneblackshear.com/5-ways-to-be-unsatisfied-with-your-church/?utm\\_source=BWB+for+1-15-14&utm\\_campaign=BWB+1-15-14&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.shaneblackshear.com/5-ways-to-be-unsatisfied-with-your-church/?utm_source=BWB+for+1-15-14&utm_campaign=BWB+1-15-14&utm_medium=email)*

### **1. Don't participate, merely consume.**

If I had to say the one thing holding the American church back today, it would be a consumeristic culture. We've come to expect that the latest technology comes standard in our cars. Our movie theaters should have wide rows with extra padded seats and that lean way back.

Unfortunately, we think our church should be no different. Just like the movie theater, we come when the production starts, sit in our seats, are entertained, and think we should leave satisfied when it's over.

When I was a pastor, those most unsatisfied in our body, were those who just showed up on Sunday's (sometimes). There was little to no participation in small groups, service projects or teaching and serving within the church.

Obviously there are those in most churches who are seekers, or young in the faith that just need to be taken care of for a season, but that should be a temporary state.

### **2. Criticize your leadership.**

I once heard about a couple who didn't like their pastor because he told stories about his family in the pulpit before beginning his sermons. Quirky? Yeah, kinda. Unbiblical, sinful, illegal, harmful?! Definitely not. We've really got understand the difference.

It's also not fair to compare your pastor to the celebrity pastor on the other side of the country whose book we just read and now believe that every church everywhere should be run like that celebrity pastors church. Remember that celebrity pastor is in a completely different context. He doesn't know your church, and he also doesn't come to your home when you have a tragedy or celebrate with you when you have a baby or other joyous life event.

We're hard on our pastors. Their job is a very public job. One that's performed in front of an audience (*by 'performed' & 'audience' I just mean that the duties of the job are undertaken in front of a crowd of people*). We would do well to remember that our pastors/church leaders are human beings like us, full of quirks and wrestling with sin and struggles just like we do. Instead of seeing our pastors with targets on their backs, we should see them with love and compassion and as people who have dedicated their time to serve the body.

If you have a legitimate concern, approach your leader about it, and don't talk about them behind their back. Be kind, be loving.

### **3. Don't spend time with your church outside of the church building.**

Most of our churches corporate gatherings serve a great purpose. We worship together and we learn together. But most aren't very conducive to getting to know each other on a deeper level. This isn't a failure on the part of our leadership; it's just the nature of a larger gathering. We need these small group gatherings (not just official 'small groups', but parties, coffee dates, men's/women's nights, etc.). I've found that I learn more about a person over 30 minutes of sharing coffee or a beer, than I did attending liturgy with them for several months.

### **4. Believe that everything should be *about* you and *for* you, all the time.**

Not long after Kate and I started attending our current church, they undertook a 'season of kids'. There was additional time in liturgy given to teaching the children in the church. The kids participated in the service in various ways. Even the sermons were about child-like faith and other themes centered around children.

Kate and I didn't have children (we now have one on the way if you're not keeping up), and we were not ourselves children. We had to understand – not everything is about/for us all the time.

That's not to say that we didn't get anything from the season of kids, it just wasn't aimed directly at us, but even that taught us something important, because the church that teaches you that everything *is* about you, *all* the time, is preaching a very different message than – lay down your lives for each other.

We were also appreciative to be a part of a church that found value in children and went to great lengths to show it to them.

### **5. Be unhappy with the fact that it isn't perfect.**

*"There is no perfect church, and if you find one, don't join it because you'll ruin it."* I don't know who first said that, but it's true. All churches are strong in some areas and weak in others. Hopefully churches are always working on those weaknesses, but if we can't settle for anything less than perfection, then we're in real trouble.

In his book "Under the Unpredictable Tree," Eugene Peterson helps pastors be content in the church they are in. Maybe there needs to be a version for church members. In the book Peterson coined the term "Ecclesiastical Pornography." That is the perfect term to describe the problem that so many people have. We look at the church down the street, or the church in town that's "doing really well," or the celebrity pastor's church and think – "*they* have it all together" or "*they're* doing church *right*."

Many people start attending those churches and after the honeymoon period wears off, they find that church has weaknesses of its own. Sadly many people go through life thinking the perfect church is just around the corner, or as many young evangelicals do, they decide that they don't need church at all and embark on solo-Christianity.

**Church is like marriage in a lot of ways. In the beginning it's fun, and exciting, but eventually the honeymoon comes to an end and it's work, real work, but we find that the work is rewarding and worthwhile, and it's work that God meant for us to be doing.**

## **Mission Team Update**

Our newly formed mission team is very excited to share with you what we have been doing and our plans for the future. Our current project is Help for the Homeless. We have been collecting personal care items to distribute to the soup kitchen and to keep in our cars to hand out when we spot people on corners in need. Last month we made 20 bags for distribution. This will be an ongoing project for us. We have a box set up in the Narthex and donations are appreciated. There is a list of suggested items on it. We are currently in need of hand towels, gloves and hand warmers for this cold winter season. We have some ideas for future projects including reading to people at nursing homes and getting involved in Habitat for Humanity. Our next mission meeting is February 4th at 5:30 pm and we will be putting more bags together February 18th at 5:30 pm. If anyone would like to

## **Property Team**

Many of you may have noticed that the big marble communion table is no longer at the front of the church. Since it was such a heavy marble table (it took about 10 people to move it), the property team looked into other means to a new table. Craig Hardy contacted a gentleman he knows, and the man said he would make a new table and he would only charge us for the labor. The old table was put up on the website, and another church called and picked it up. The church was very happy to get the table. When you get a chance, look over the table that is much easier to move.

## **ADDRESS FOR ROBBIE GRIER**

**MS. ROBBIE GRIER**

**c/o Rhea Grier**

**3124 Oakhill Rd.**

**Carrollton, TX, 75007**

## February Birthdays

Pat Rice-----1<sup>st</sup>  
Fred Tumer-----5<sup>th</sup>  
Joyce Pascal-----6<sup>th</sup>  
Helen Sanders-----8<sup>th</sup>

Eddie Barney-----12<sup>th</sup>  
Willie Lomax-----15<sup>th</sup>  
Ann Lomax-----16<sup>th</sup>  
Donna Jones-----24<sup>th</sup>

## February Anniversaries

Donald & Barbara Wesley

## Belated January Birthdays

Malvina Middleton-----8<sup>th</sup>  
Marie Barry-----9<sup>th</sup>  
Glenn Bronson III-----13<sup>th</sup>  
Joe Dixon-----16<sup>th</sup>

Gary Popovits-----16<sup>th</sup>  
Dakota Knowlton-----20<sup>th</sup>  
Matt Burton-----24<sup>th</sup>  
Joyce Topham-----28<sup>th</sup>

## Belated January Anniversaries

None



## Tribute to Tom Huver

- T** is for your temperament with its' tuneful timbre
- O** is for your obligatos which often turned into operettas
- M** is for being the Maestro of the Church's Musicology
- H** is for the harmonious hymns that flow from your feet and hands
- U** is for corralling our ubiquitous voices into a soulful unit in unison
- V** is for being a vibrant virtuoso
- E** is for the etudes you've played as we applauded for an encore
- R** is for the rhythm which the choir usually did not get until they repeated it many times

Put all the letters together and we have:

**Tom Huver**, the cornerstone in the foundation of Trinity's Music Department on which we will continue to build and grow into a powerful instrument of Praise to God. We thank you. We Love you and we will miss you.

Jacquelyn McClellan

# Special Care



Ron & Alice Shirley, Time Graham, Maxine Storey, Mary Krist,  
Kathy Henderson, Karen Fischer, Annie Lomax, Sharon and Denny  
Bonny, Richard Holland, Charles Atwater, Barbara & Donald Wesley,  
Larry Shoup, Sharon Thomason, Donna Jones, Michael Jackson,  
Katie Granberry, June Foltz, Larry Tilley, Connie Hutchins,  
Jean Lyttle, James Bonny, Arlene Gullett, Dr. Alfred Gwillim, Roy Olson,  
Margaret Pepler, Patricia Rice, Patricia Miller,  
and Robbie Grier.



## **Newsletter Announcement**

The Membership Team invites you all to

## **FRIENDS DAY**

on the

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, February 9, 2014.

Our theme is:

**"JESUS, OUR PERFECT FRIEND"**

# NEVER-ENDING GIFT

Seven days a week, remind someone special about God's love, the gift that truly keeps on giving.



## What you need:

- Large plastic pill box with a compartment for each day
- Construction paper
- Craft glue
- Black permanent marker
- Heart stickers
- Scissors
- Bible
- Pencil
- 7 small treats (fish-shaped crackers, small candies, trail mix, etc.)



## What you do:

1. Glue paper onto the container. Write "God's Love" in permanent marker. Decorate with heart stickers.
2. Cut seven slips of paper. On each slip, write out one Bible verse about God's love. (Examples include Psalm 63:3; Psalm 100:5; John 3:16; John 15:12; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9.)
3. Fill each compartment with a different treat. Then place a folded slip atop each treat.
4. Give away the present. Tell the recipient to open the correct day for a week — and then refill the treats and verses and "regift" God's love to someone else.



# PUZZLE

## God's Love

We can't measure God's love for us. It starts before we're born and continues for eternity.

Directions: Down the left-hand column, spell out the name of each number. Then write the circled letters on the blank lines in the right-hand column. Read the words on the right, from top to bottom, to see what Psalm 33:22 (NIV) says about God's love.

20	_____○	"M a _____
4	○○○○	y _____
99	○○_____ - ○○	u _ f a _ l _ _ _ g
7	_____○○	l o _____
1	_____○	b _____
28	○_____ - ○_____○	_____ h
60	○_____	u _____,
40	○○○○	L _____ d,
70	○○○○○○	_____
6	○_____	a _____
12	○_____○	_____
64	_____ - _____○	p _ t
14	○○○○	_____
81	_____○ - ○_____○	_____ p _____
9	○○_____	_____
24	_____○ - ○○○	_____ ."

PSALM 33:22, NIV

Fourteen ..... our  
 Eighty-one ..... hope  
 in  
 Nine .....  
 Twenty-four ..... you"

Sixty ..... us,  
 Forty ..... Lord,  
 Seventy ..... even  
 Six ..... as  
 Twelve ..... we  
 Sixty-four ..... put

Twenty .....  
 "May ..... your  
 Four ..... unfailing  
 Nine ..... love  
 Seven ..... be  
 One ..... with  
 Twenty-eight

# February 2014

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Literacy 9-4pm
9 S.S. 9:15am Worship Service 10:30a Rev. Desiree Lawson Liturgist: Waldo Bronson Friends Day Coffee Hour: Friends	10 Finance Team 9:30a	11	12 Victory Team Mtg. 11am	13 Men's Bible Study 10am Choir 5:30pm Praise Team 6:30pm	14 Treasurer returns  Valentine's Day	15
16 S.S. 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Rev. Desiree Lawson Liturgist: Funmi Adigun Praise Team Coffee Hour: Denise Dixon	17 Presidents' Day  Session 4pm	18 Mission Mtg. 5:30p	19 Pres. Women 9am Special Mtg. Grandparents 10:30am	20 Men's Bible Study 10am Choir 5:30pm	21	22
23 S.S. 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Rev. Desiree Lawson Liturgist: Funmi Adigun Coffee Hour: P. Scales Deacons after worship Worship Team after worship	24 NO PROPERTY MEETING	25 Pastor Out of town	26 Naomi Circle 10:30am	27 Men's Bible Study 10am Choir 5:30pm	28	

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*The Trinity Observer February 2014*

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Trinity United Presbyterian  
Church (U.S.A.)

All Ages Sunday School 9:15am

Sunday Worship Service 10:30am

Nursery Available

Office Hours 9am-2pm Mon-Fri.

Pastors Hours M-W-F 10am-3pm

Rev. Desiree Lawson

*Winter*

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If you receive this publication in error, or no longer wish to receive it, please call the church. 810-720-5152

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