



_ Wintertime is usually a slow - cold - wanting it to hurry up sort of season. I sometimes wonder if it's just me or is it the same way for everyone else. It is dark early and after supper I have zero motivation to do anything. Not anything that requires any energy anyway.

This winter, here in DeRuyter, it has been fairly low key. I'm counting the number of Mondays until spring. As of the writing of this newsletter there are 7 Mondays till Spring (by the Calendar). Some people don't believe the calendar count is an accurate way to measure toward spring. They prefer to follow the ground hog story. Well, I'm going to continue my counting according to the calendar. You can't really trust those ground hogs.

Our calendar comes from the design by the Romans. And we actually use a calendar that gives a reasonable reflection of the seasons.

What season are you in? I'm shifting gears here. I'm thinking about seasons of growth - rest - harvest - or planting. I'm referring to spiritual and emotional seasons. Primarily I'm in the season of restful / planting. I'm putting it that way because I've participated in three separate webinars this past month. Plus I've been reading book after book. Each one is challenging me to feed myself spiritually and to do some inner purging. I'm being challenged to also get myself ready for the next season I will be entering into and that is the season of growing. You can't grow anything unless you've planted something.

So what am I planting? Well let me give you an example. About three or four months ago I read a book that just captured my attention and caused me to reconsider some of my already established ideas. The name of the book is "By Signs and Wonders". And it made me reconsider some of my ideas about evangelism.

That book's focus comes out of three bible verses that Paul wrote in his letter to the Christians in Rome. (Romans 15:17-19) says:

I have reason to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to God. ¹⁸Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them. ¹⁹They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God's Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum.

What convinced people to believe the good news of Christ through Paul was the power of the Holy Spirit producing signs and wonders. Signs and wonders were things such as miracles, healings, works that could only be explained by God's hand intervening in them. Plus the believers were always giving God the glory and they were refusing to take any credit for themselves.

This is the book that we will be going through each Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:15. Then at 7:15 we will have a prayer time until 8. All of you are invited to join us. And you could bring a friend with you. So here I go, planting seeds in others based on some seeds that have been planted within me.

What season are you in? Are you planting seeds within? Or are you planting seeds into others for the spiritual advancement of others? Or perhaps you're now resting. Or is it harvest time. I do hope you will take time to do some self-evaluation to determine where you are spiritually.

Don't let the weather keep you down. Spring is only seven Monday's away. While we're in the midst of the cold and the snow, you might consider planting seeds within yourself. Pick up a book - watch a dvd or two. Then you will be ready to grow and then you can plant spiritual seeds into the life of someone else.

In Christ's Service, ***Pastor Vern***



Mission Report February 2017

Last year we were forced to cut back giving to one of our long- term missionary projects with Pastor Bob Reed who lives and works in Missouri, mainly in Jail Centered ministries. Bob and wife Jeanetta were long- time residents of Central NY where Bob worked with a program called Teen Challenge as a rehabilitative God centered jail mission in the Cortland Jail and Jamesville Penitentiary. Bob has a wonderful singing voice and has used that to connect with inmates and in all other programs as he reaches out to those struggling with addictions and past mistakes that have landed them in prisons. You may remember that they had hopes a couple years ago of selling their home in Missouri and moving closer to their daughter and family in Florida, but God had other plans for them. Their house sale did not go through, and they redirected their efforts to remain where they are where Bob still works tirelessly in his 70's to still connect with young inmates and lead them to God. Finances are low as many of their supporters have passed away recently, but those of us who remember him fondly can still privately support him and his ministry at: Christ-Centered Ministries, Inc. Bob & Jeanetta Reed, 1002 April Drive, Ozark, MO 65721. (Bob and Jeanetta were here visiting in New Woodstock this past summer and still have many ties to our area.)

Recent news from Southeast Asia: Carlos & Caryn Benitez say thank you for our continued support of their Wycliffe Mission in Thailand. Their son AJ was able to visit them over the holidays and is now back in the states at Liberty University. Daughter, Rachele, is back in school after the break and very busy in her studies and sports. Carlos is not teaching at the University this semester, but is mentoring several students in addition to his translation work in Acts 21. Caryn administrates 6 students as they seek assignments within Mainland

South East Asia Group, but her main job now is coordinator for SOLEA (Scripture engagement, Orality, Literacy, Ethno-arts, Anthropology.) This entails anything a translation team does to aid the translation, other than translation itself. She is inventing this radical combination of things as she goes and many other Asia/Africa areas are watching to see how this works. It could lead to a revolution in the way Bible translation is done in MSEAG. Read more about their lives in their blog - (ccbenitezen.blogspot.com).

DeRuyter Community Services News

Thank you again from all the volunteers, staff, and clients of the Food Pantry for your continued support before, during, and after the holidays! We are currently serving about 60 families per month and every single thing you donate is being turned into a blessing for someone local. We plan to continue having challenge drives throughout the year and at present we are in need of little boys and girls clothing as well as a continual need for laundry detergent. May God bless you for helping us in these difficult times for many local residents.

Jean Whalen





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday School continues at the Parish house for PK-6th grade and 7th to 12th grade at Linda Springers.

Spread the word to your friends, children and grandchildren. All children are welcome!

Sunday, January 29th the PK-6th had 6 visitors. One of the girls visiting was local, hopefully, she had a good time and will continue to come.

We are preparing for Superbowl Sunday and will let you know our prediction for the winner.

keep us in your prayers.

Maurine

Calendar of Events:

Thurs. Feb 2 - Spiritual Bd. meets @ 7 pm

Sun Feb 5 - Worship & *Communion*

Each Sunday - 11 am Worship

9:30 Am Sunday School

(not involved in a SS class? Consider joining one)

Mon Feb 6 - Admin. Bd. meets @ 7 pm

Each Tues. 7 am - Prayer in Pastor Vern's office

Each Tues 3pm 3 - 4 After School Program @ School Cafeteria

Each Wed. 6:30pm - 7:15: Study of book "By Signs & Wonders"

Each Wed. 7:15pm - 8: Prayer time

Sat. Feb. 11th & Feb 25th Men's Breakfast 8 am – 10 am.

Oh, don't forget Feb. 14th is Valentine's Day!

Women's Fellowship

The women's Fellowship met on Saturday January 21, 2017 at the Parish House, for our yearly organizational meeting. Officers for 2017 were elected. Co-chairs are Shelley Schneeberger and Margaret Wiltsey, treasurer is Jean Whalen and secretary is Janet Furlough. A new booklet will be printed with all officers and committees listed. The dates for the next year's meeting were set as were dates for the Mother's day Brunch and the Christmas Women's Gathering. A date for the fall dinner was set for October 28th, and a new event was added a benefit dinner for a new women's fellowship fund is planned for Saturday April 22nd. The fund is called The Medical Emergency Fund and is meant to help folks who need it with money for gas, parking, food when they have a loved one hospitalized or they or a family member are undergoing some specialized treatment like chemotherapy. We realized that we can't raise large sums of money and there are many folks in our community undergoing treatment for cancer alone. While we pray for them we also felt a need to reach out and do a bit more, and thus the idea for this fund was born. The next Women's Fellowship meeting is on Saturday, March 18 at 10 Pm at the Parish House, all women are welcome.

Birthdays & Anniversaries~~February

Feb 2~~Isabell McReynolds

Feb 4~~Betty Wood

Feb 4~~Tim & Ann Etter

Feb 6~~Amanda Sevier

Feb 6~~Beverly Petley

Feb 7~~Sue Braungardt

Feb 14~Linda Springer

Feb 14~Sylvia Hathaway

Feb 15~Robert Brock

Feb 15~Harold & Betty Wood

Feb 21~Steve Best

Feb 23~Fred Lawrence

Feb 24~Beverly Brown

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Birthdays (cont)

Feb 24~~Dorothy Warner

Feb 24~~Jean Coon

Feb 25~~Bob Petley

Feb 27~~Emma Downs



If Just One Soul

**If just one soul
Has been enriched
Because you trod this earth
Or if one doubting heart
Can trust
And realize it's worth
And turn to Christ
Because you shared
Your joy
To ease his pain;
You'll know, beyond
The slightest doubt
You'll not have lived
In vain.**

Alice Hansche Mortenson

M & M's

How does God see us? Are we just a dot on the map? Does He care and does prayer make a difference? This is what we have been studying in M and M Bible study. Why not join us and see if we can find answers? We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 10 am. You would be welcome! We meet at Joan Ball;s, have a time of refreshments and fellowship and then get into the Word. The next meeting is February 15th. We hope to see you there!

*Look to the Lord and His strength,
Seek His face always Psalm 105-4*

*Open my eyes that I may see
wonderful things in Your law
Psalm 119-18*

*Rejoice in the Lord always and again
I say rejoice Phil. 4-4*