



The Vine & the Branches

January 2014

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won’t become weary and give up. After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.”

Hebrews 12:1-4

Hebrews 12 is an amazing chapter. I can relate to it from my running/walking training. Running with endurance is not a sprint, it’s running (or run/walking, or walking, moving) at a pace that you can keep putting one foot in front of the other.

Jesus is the best life coach – our success is watching and listening to the coach. He’s a patient coach, when we run the wrong direction or choose to not even try to run; he will keep urging us and use our choices as part of our life training, always pointing us to his goal for us – finishing the race to heaven! And we’re not racing against each other, we are a team effort.

My prayer is that 2014 brings us all closer to Jesus and the finish line!

Happy New Year, my special church family!

Karen Maas, 2013-14 editor



PRAYING TOGETHER

Every Sabbath morning, 8:45am, join us in the Prayer Room before Sabbath School and church. It provides us with a time to come together in praise and thanksgiving, and present the needs of members in prayer each week. The Prayer Room is the classroom across from the Mothers’ Room, in the back of the church foyer. – Donna Schacher

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The Happiness Formula

(donated by someone to my box at church, with only from Mountain Wings written on it – please share where Mountain Wings is from, KM)

Happiness equals Satisfaction divided by Desires.

“So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.” 1 Timothy 6:8 NLT

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From the Pastor's Keyboard:

Dear Church Family,

Balance! I remember as a child I loved to try to walk on train tracks, curbs, retaining walls, or anything that I could be challenged with the ability to balance. I usually did pretty well, but one time I put on a back pack and tried to walk down a train track. I found that balance was much more difficult to achieve. Why, because the weight of the backpack along with the shifting of my back from side to side caused a shift in my balance. In time I learned to adjust and again I had balance, but I still had the added weight on my back.

As we enter a New Year it is traditional to make New Year's resolutions. Seems that most Christian people make spiritual resolutions that say something like, I need to spend more time with God, or read my Bible more, or I need to go to church more regular, or I need to make a prayer list, or something like that. These resolutions are not always balanced and many times it is like putting on a backpack full of weight. If your spiritual life is already unbalanced, or you add something to your spiritual life that has adds to your unbalanced life, you are most destined to be even more unbalanced. But I would like to suggest that it might be of some value to evaluate your spiritual life. Ask yourself these following questions: Do I really know my Bible? Do I love God or am I just acquainted with him? Do I have a ministry? Am I growing in the Lord? Do I love God's People? Is my prayer life powerful? Do I want to do evangelism? Do I really want Jesus to return soon? These kinds of questions, depending on the answer, might bring you to make a more reasonable New Year's resolution. My only wish for everyone is that God be in you and you be in God. Best wishes for a New Year.

Love and Prayers,
Pastor Ballard

Sweet Potato Oatmeal Breakfast Casserole

Here's a yummy breakfast I found from http://ohsheglows.com/recipe/?recipe_id=600207 a couple of years ago:

Oatmeal Ingredients

½ c regular oats
2 c soy milk
1 sm sweet potato, peeled and chopped (2 cups raw)
1 ripe large banana
1 Tb chia seeds (if omitted, may need to reduce milk)
1-2 tsp pure vanilla extract
1 tsp ground cinnamon
Pinch nutmeg
¼ t salt (or to taste, I usually don't cook with salt)
2 Tb maple syrup

Crunchy Pecan Topping

1/3 c chopped pecans
2 Tb vegan margarine (I cheated with butter)
2 Tb flour (can use gluten free)
¼ c brown sugar

Preheat oven to 350F. Bring several cups of water to boil in a medium pot; add the peeled, chopped sweet potato and cook till mashable. Test – doesn't take very long, drain and set aside.

Rinse the pot then add the oats, milk, and chia seeds. Whisk and bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer 5-7 minutes, stirring frequently.

Mash the potato and banana into the pot, then stir in the vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg, maple syrup, and salt. Cook on low a few more minutes.

Mix the topping ingredients with a fork until clumpy. Pour the oatmeal mixture in an 8" baking dish, top with the topping, and bake uncovered about 20 minutes. Next, broil, watching carefully for a few minutes, oven-dependent, to toast the topping.

Makes 3-4 servings. ☺

January Anniversaries

10 Steve & Vicki Clevenger
27 Dennis & Bonnie Lampley



January Birthdays

1 Bob Little
1 Leland Wilson
1 Trenton Wilson
2 Jennifer DeLeon
4 Sherrilynn Henley
5 Rich Hines
10 Christy Mayne
12 Jacob Edgy
16 Troy Nielson
17 Ruthie Auvil
18 Erica Edgerly
19 Dave McEwen
20 Sun Kim
20 Carissa Mahurin
20 Marcia Vilorio
21 Francois Rendon
22 Sherrie Mahurin
23 Laurie Dean
23 Troy Miller
23 Jaden Otte
28 Abigail Auvil
28 Marilyn Beecher
29 Francisca Black
29 Alexa Escamilla
30 Kyle Bynum
30 Oiy Hawke



Newberg Pathfinders!!!

The Pathfinders have committed themselves to participating in activities and Pathfinder classwork to be able to go to Oshkosh. They are working hard! Other ways to support the Newberg Pathfinders are:

Direct donations – on the tithe envelope, direct donations can be taken by designating Pathfinders Oshkosh on the donation line.

Bottles/Cans – bottles and cans that get the deposit can be donated in the Fellowship Hall. Please be sure they are bottles that get the deposit, for many of the water bottles and sports drinks do NOT get the deposit, and instead should be recycled with your garbage procedures. Please don't crush the cans/bottles, for the machines need to read the bar codes to count for the deposit.

Printer cartridges – used printer cartridges can be donated to Pathfinders. We have access to recycling and getting funds for them.

Yard/garden/household projects – if you have projects that you'd like help with, please contact a Pathfinder leader to work out how we can help you for Oshkosh donations!



THE THEATER

From "Mountain Wings" - a parable

A villager came to the big city for the first time in his life. He was amazed at the many wonders in that big city. He wanted to buy something to bring back to his village. Most of the items needed electrical connection and his village didn't even have electricity. He was delighted when he found a flashlight. He bought the flashlight, which fascinated him every time he pushed the switch and a bright light came on.

As he continued on his way, he noticed people waiting in line. He inquired what this line was for, and was told they were waiting to enter a theater where there was a moving playing. He had no idea what a movie was, but decided to wait in line, too. He paid for a ticket and was ushered into a dark room. After a little while, a picture started playing. He was fascinated to see the beautiful scenery and all the action on the screen.

Then he remembered the flashlight in his pocket. "I will shine the flashlight on the picture, so I will see it even better." He took out the flashlight and shone it straight at the screen, but to his amazement the picture became faded. From all sides, people started shouting that he should turn off the light!

"But I only wanted to get a better view of the picture," he said to the one sitting next to him.

"Don't you know? Here, we only see in the dark!" replied his neighbor.

The moral of the parable: the same is in the theater of this world. Many of the pleasures and values which people pursue have value only because we find ourselves in spiritual darkness. When we bring spiritual light into our lives, these values and pleasures fade, for they are only imaginary and temporary.

-Author unknown