

The Tidings

Antioch Baptist Church

Serving God and our Community since 1776

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Make Time

February seems to have a little something for everyone. Groundhog Day, Super Bowl, start of NASCAR season, some baseball teams begin Spring Training, Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, President's Day, Valentine's Day, Ladies Tea, and so much more.

February is the shortest month of the year, yet there is so much that happens in February. It got me to thinking about the brevity of life. In the span of history and the scope of eternity, life is but a brief moment. Brief, but filled with joy, sorrow, plans, and possibilities.

Life for some might be reduced to a series of events or accomplishments. However, life shouldn't be reduced to a resume, scrap book, or obituary. Life is for the living. It involves relationships. Taking time, even though there isn't much to appreciate the world around us and the people we are blessed to know.

It isn't wrong to make plans and have goals, but also do not forget to allow life to change, shape, and mold our days. It may be in these "interruptions" of life that we see a little more Christ in the details, Christ in others, and are becoming more like him.

Life is short, and we try to pack so much into our lives, don't forget to enjoy the wonder of living, the blessings of friends and family, and the grace of Jesus Christ. This brief life is the beginning of our journey from brevity to eternity in our continuing relationship with Jesus, who is "the same yesterday, today, and forever." He is the "Great I Am."

Don't let the busyness of life distract you from the blessedness of relationships with Christ and others. See Jesus in others and Be Jesus to others. Stop, look, and listen as relationships will grow and strengthen through the years. In the years to come it is the relationships that will make the difference, in life and eternity.

Make time and take time for each other.

Blessings,
Pastor Greg

CHRONIC ILLNESS/CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Last month, we continued with the DVD and workbook series, *When Life is Hard: Turning Your Trials to Gold* by James MacDonald. First, we continued our discussion on *Session 1: What Are Trials?* with the in-depth readings done at home. Topics included: challenging our perceptions of discipline vs. punishment; determining the difference between denials, deflections, and excuses; examples of painful trials showing God's love; and examples of painful trials leading you to become obedient to God. Following the discussion, we moved onto the DVD and discussion of *Session 2: Why Trials?*, which focuses on James 1:2-8, which taught us that we should consider our trials with joy, defined as supernatural delight, not happiness, which is circumstantial, and that as a Christian, life is about displaying the superiority of a life lived by God. We learned that we should ask four questions when we face a trial: *What happened to me? Why am I here on Earth? How can this trial advance that life purpose? What can I do at this moment to display the superiority of a life lived by God?* We were also taught because of God we can go against our human nature and have endurance/steadfastness/perseverance/patience or the "ability to remain under" – "hupomene" in Hebrew - we don't fold, lash out, bail, or complain; we have the ability to be transformed as long as we don't become double-minded ["If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, without doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind..."].

Next month, on Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall, we are going to review Session 2 and then start the DVD and discussion on *Session 3: What to Do With Trials?*, which focuses on 1 Peter 4:1-19 (living for the will of God, grace in your relationships, entrusting in God, and so much more!). Anyone interested should contact me at 804-868-9032 or liltheatretdirector@yahoo.com by Sunday, Feb. 3, so I can make sure I can get you a workbook in time and get you and your book caught up for the meeting – no one will be left behind! The group is open to anyone with any diagnosed or undiagnosed chronic illness or symptoms, and caregivers. I'll see you on Feb. 7!

Amy Martin

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Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating in the month of FEBRUARY: Clyde Burgess(1), Jackie Dean(4), Brandon Moretz(4), Brenda Brown(5), Horace Williams, Jr.(5), David Jones, Jr.(6), Judy Knight(6), Pete Knight(6), Ashley Leonard(6), Lou Ann Love(6), Missy Carpenter(9), Sherry Burkett (10), Sarah Childress(11), Steve Moore(12), Charlotte Miller(19), Andy Vaughan(21), Bob Gordon(23), Bella Gordon(23), Marc Adams(24), Debbie Washington(25), Michael Snoddy(26), Jason Barlow(26)

(If your birthday has been inadvertently left off the birthday list or entered incorrectly, please contact the Church Office.)

WMU – WOMEN’S MISSIONARY UNION

WATCHWORD: “My dear friends, stand firm and don’t be shaken. Always keep busy working for the Lord. You know that everything you do for him is worthwhile” (1 Cor. 15:58, CEV)

OUR MISSION: TO INFORM AND INSPIRE Christians to influence their world for Christ.

Difficult Prayers – Pray through the hard times – “We all go through hard times. Sometimes these hard times are a result of our choices, the decisions of others, for correction, or to deepen our faith. Whatever the cause, the solution is to pray: Sometimes we may be overwhelmed sometimes afraid, confused and disobedient. Let’s focus on Christ and Strengthen our faith. Look for his mercy in our situation. Prayer helps us see our lives from God’s Perspective, one of purpose and His power! Be sure to read the article on PRAYER in the February Missions Mosaic. Christ is always working on our behalf because we are His children.

As a reminder – February 17th we will celebrate WMU Focus Week with our annual “TEA” at 2:00pm. The theme will be “Start Each Day with a Grateful Heart.” All ladies are invited, and you are encouraged to bring a guest.

Our Mission Project for March will be items for Hilliard House. Contact Pat Chalkley for a list of items. Our April project will be homemade cookies for the Raceway ministry. We wish to thank everyone who contributed to the Lottie Moon Offering. Our total was \$1,252.30. Week of Prayer Easter Offering for Annie Armstrong will be observed March 3-10.

“Prayer is not a duty or habit, but pouring forth of the heart in gratitude for every breath, every moment of life, every experience.”-Sue Sikking

Joyce Adams, Reporting for WMU

E.T.C. NEWS

E.T.C. Worship Children 2018 WMU Mission Donation Total \$177.44

Antioch family members donated during January 2018 collection drive. Money found. Best of all children gave from their own saving!

Thank you all for helping missionaries further God’s work.

Love in Christ,

Tina Parsons and Alicea Sanders

ANTIOCH SENIOR’S GROUP

Our next Senior’s Group will meet February 11 at 10:30am. Come, bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship, lunch and program.