

The Tidings

Antioch Baptist Church

Serving God and our Community since 1776

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Living Gift and Living the Gift

In the last two months we have talked about the *Simple Gift* and the *Greatest Gift*, recognizing the *Living Gift* of Christ, compels us to *live out* that gift.

Job confesses, and we should acknowledge, ²⁵ *For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.* Job 19:25

He is the Living Gift! How shall we live the gift? ⁴ *the righteous shall live by his faith.* Habakkuk 2:4

Because Christ lives, so we should live for him. Paul makes his appeal to the believers.

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers,^[a] by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.^[b] ² Do not be conformed to this world,^[c] but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.^[d] Romans 12:1-2

How is this type of sacrifice possible?

²⁰ *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.* Galatians 2:20

This type of personal sacrificial living also has an impact on the community of faith and the community at large.

²¹ *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,* Philippians 1: 21-26

Paul shares with boldness...live for Christ, if we die, dying allows us to be with Christ, living in this moment should not be buying time, but a fruitful investment of our lives. Paul confesses it can be hard to choose, although we may not be ready to die, few would argue to be with Christ would be disappointing. Paul, shares that it is more necessary to remain, in a fruitful way for progress in the body and the joy of community.

Our Redeemer Lives!! Jesus is the *Living Gift*, the new life we are given in Christ is the Gift that we should be living each day! God bless you as we start 2019. May we be people who are *Living the Gift because of the Living Gift*. God Bless You in the year to come.

Blessings,
Pastor Greg

Dear Antioch Family,

We would like to thank each of you for all your cards, gifts, sweet treats, and Christmas prayers given to us as we Celebrate the giver of all good things, Jesus. We are grateful to be on this journey with each of you and look forward to God's working in our lives and church family in 2019.

Thanks Again & blessings for the year ahead,
The Soult Family (Greg, Maryanna, Josiah, & Hannah)



Warm up with Antioch Senior Group Fellowship! Monday, January 14, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

We are honored to have a presentation by Bill Lohmann, a veteran reporter, feature writer, and columnist for the Richmond Times-Dispatch. His keen eye and curious mind help him chronicle the scenic and cultural riches to be found in the Commonwealth. His new book offers 15 itineraries for inviting drives and day trips around the state. Copies of his book will be available for purchase and signing. As always, covered dish follows!

2019 dues (\$15) and renewal form due!

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Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating in the month of JANUARY: Daniele Adams (1), Michael Vaughan (1), Chris Gordon(2), Beverly Parady(4), Joyce Corey(5), Irene Powers(6), Aubrey Adams(7), Ashbey(Dickey)Lane(8), Doug Meador(8), Bud Sanders(9), David Parsons(11), Christina Fant(12), Patricia Chalkley(14), Travis Gouldin(14), Barbara Cottrell(14), Shirley Harwood(16), Arthur Eberhard(17), Kenneth Elgert(17), Marcie Gouldin(17), Bradley Bickerton(18), Richard Mosley(21), Amanda Brown (23), Sharon Carlton(24), Dominic Powers(26), Annell Crews(28), John Stillion(29), Randy Vaughan(29), James Hardee(30), Lynda Cooke(31)
(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.

“Buried Treasures” – “One ordinary woman is helping others discover extraordinary transition, transformation, and trust”. Clark and Valerie Rumpfelt never imagined living on site, working at a round-the-clock ministry with former inmates and addicts. Since 2014, they have been doing just that – as the directors of Buried Treasures Home (BTH) in Byram, Mississippi. This Home is a Christ centered residence for women coming out of prison or addiction. They say that they focus on transition from prison and addiction. Valerie says that “Leading is a spiritual journey. (It’s) not about the leader. It’s about the people one is leading.” This is a very interesting article, and everyone should read it. Borrow a copy of Missions Mosaic from someone who subscribes to it. Enjoy reading the entire magazine.

We are off to a new year and we hope you will join us for good fellowship and learning what our missionaries are doing on the field. We do not have a mission project for the month of January but remember we do have our annual “TEA” in February. We wish to invite all the ladies in the church and hope you will bring a guest with you.

We also wish each of you a very healthy, happy, and Christ centered New Year. HAPPY NEW YEAR –
Joyce Adams, Reporting for WMU

CHRONIC ILLNESS/CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Last month, we started digging into the DVD and workbook series, *When Life is Hard: Turning Your Trials to Gold* by James MacDonald. *Session 1: What Are Trials?* focused on Hebrews 12:5-11 and taught us that trials are a painful circumstance allowed by God to change our conduct and character, come in many forms (small, large, short, long, irritating, devastating, stretching, etc.), and are being experienced by everyone in the world. We also learned that the Bible uses the word various words for trials, including: “suffering,” “hardship,” “difficulty,” “chastening,” and “discipline”; “teaching” and “training” could also be substituted for “trial.” Then, we discussed *why* he disciplines his children (“The Lord disciplines the one he loves and chastises every son whom he receives’...God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?” – Hebrews 12:6-8). We were given the difficult task of asking ourselves, when we are going through a trial, “Is it really a trial or is it a consequence of something we have done?” We learned that we must first admit to God and submit to God to understand the true nature of our trial. Then, can we truly be closer to holiness (the reason for trials), or the absence of everything that causes turmoil, pain restlessness and fear.

Next month, on Thursday, Jan. 3 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall, we are going to continue to discuss Session 1 and then start the DVD and workbook session on *Session 2: Why Trials?* which focuses on James 1:2-8 testing faith, delighting in purpose, and so much more!

Anyone interested should contact me at 804-868-9032 or liltheatredirector@yahoo.com by Wednesday, Jan. 2 so I can make sure I have enough workbooks for everyone. I’ll see you on Jan. 3!

Amy Martin