

We are a church with one mission: to grow followers of Jesus through grateful worship, genuine community, and generous service to each other and our world. We believe by loving God and loving people we can have an impact that really matters, and would like to tell you more about that. If you are interested in being a part of what God is doing with us, or just have some questions, **fill out the contact card** or ask the person next to you. **Please feel free to call or email too if you have any questions.**

FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

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GOD'S FAMILY TIMES

BIBLE CLASSES
Building—9:30 am Sunday

WORSHIP
Building—10:30 am Sunday

GROWTH GROUPS
Grose's -- 6 p.m. Sunday
Irwin's -- 6 p.m. Sunday

BIBLE CLASSES
Building—7 pm Wednesday

Someone is still needed to prepare communion for April, July, September, and December. Please sign up on bulletin board if you can serve the body in this way. Thanks to those who have volunteered to help the other months!

Dinner Before Class: This Wednesday February 22nd at 6 p.m. Last chance to sign up if you plan on coming and what you will bring to share.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner for March, April and May: This is an opportunity to have some great fellowship. When signing up you are committing to: 1) Being part of a group of one or, preferably, two other couples (or individuals) that would host dinner in your home one of the 3 months. 2) Host would be responsible for: a) setting the date of the dinner for the group that is agreeable to all anytime during the month, b) Determine menu and preparing, at least, the main dish for the entire group (other couple(s) in the group would assist by preparing sides and/or dessert), and c) inviting another couple (or individuals) as your "mystery" guest known only to you. They are guests and bring no food. Thus you end up with 6 or 8 people at your dinner.

Sign up on bulletin board if interested and your preference in hosting 6 or 8 people. The social committee will divide this list into groups. Please refer questions to Sally or Susan.

Congratulations to Mora Fasanya and Robert Anokye for attaining honor grades at the Junior High last semester.

Happy Birthday

2/23 Sally Duriez
2/25 Jason Canose

Announcements for family news can be written on the back of an attendance card and placed in the collection basket or a hand written note can be given to

Dona, Paula, or CJ.

FAMILY MATTERS

Indiana

Church of Christ

724.463.7240

February 19, 2017

Surviving your wilderness

By Daniel Kolenda

The wilderness does not have to be a lonely place for the person of faith. It's a journey that God means for us to travel in partnership with one another. Israel experienced Egypt, the Red Sea, and the Sinai deserts together as a very large family. "For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea...[into] the wilderness" (1 Cor. 10:1-5). It's the same for us today.

God did not intend that the members of Christ's body suffer hardship alone. We belong to one another and must feel one another's joys and pains. That is the nature of a body. "If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it" (1 Cor. 12:26). So during seasons of adversity, when pressure is unusually thick, emotions thin, and relief scarce, we need the strength of our spiritual family to help carry the weight of the burden. "Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2).

During his congregation's spiritual wilderness, the author of Hebrews said, "Encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called 'Today,' so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin" (Heb. 3:13). Once isolated in a spiritual desert, we become especially vulnerable to discouragement and deception.

Have you ever watched a wildlife documentary where lions are hunting? You will see how they wait for a poor creature on the fringes to separate itself from the herd. The predator will single out the one who strays away from the group because the hunter knows that there is safety in numbers – and the devil knows this too. The Bible says that the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Those who isolate themselves become easy prey. In times of pain and hardship, without the support of the body, he knows that we can easily succumb to his temptations and traps.

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Nathan Irwin and family as they are in Lyon, France for language training, and for the direction of the Lord in their search for new teammates, a place to settle and a purpose for their mission among the Muslim world.
- For Mary Fasanya's asylum request to be granted and for the girls as they are in the USA without their husband and father. Also for Ezekiel as he is in Nigeria without his wife and daughters.
- For Mayleen Niehenke's visa approval to come to the United States from the Philippines and for a sponsor so that the procedure can be quickly expedited.
- Bill Tonkin who is at Indiana Square Personal Care Home, 1703 Warren Road. Lois says cards and visits are always welcome.
- Wayne, Abbey Chi's uncle, who is in a Florida hospital with cardiac problems.
- Jason Canose for healing. Thanksgivings that he is now at home recuperating.
- Louanne Brown for healing of her vision in her right eye which has been impeded by at least 50%. Also for peace and acceptance that the eye may never get back to "normal" since it is no better or worse at this time.
- Nick Ruffner, John & Gail Gromley's step grandson, who had another round of chemo in his treatment for leukemia in January.
- Winifred Redinger, Vera Brown's sister-in-law, who is doing much better and is now at home. A caregiver enables her to be at home instead of at a nursing home.
- Kathrine, Lin & Jo Broadway's (former members) daughter-in-law, who has been diagnosed with cancer and anticipating surgery in February.
- Janet Anoyke's mother in Ghana who recently suffered a stroke.
- Jay Stenman, Louanne Brown's husband, who suffered a concussion the week of January 15th.
- Hailynn Magas has been diagnosed with Type1 Diabetes. Pray that the family's lives can learn and adjust to a new diet and insulin testing and injections.
- George Brown, Louanne Brown's brother, who has been released from the Veterans' Hospital in Pittsburgh after being treated for depression. He is seems better and is talking more.
- Emma Sesock for healing. She fell last week and injured herself.
- Doris Ruffner who has been hospitalized in Indiana with pancreatitis.
- Marilyn Magas who has been hospitalized in Kittanning for treatment of medication adjustments.

Consider this thought concerning the "Armor of God" in Ephesians 6. The passage tells us that God has provided armor for the head, the feet, the chest and the waist; He has also given us a shield and a sword. But then I saw something I had never noticed before - all the protection is facing forward – there is no armor protecting the back! At first this seemed very peculiar and then suddenly verse 18 jumped out at me, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance for all saints." This verse, mentioned in the context of the armor of God, says that we are supposed to be looking out for one another and defending. There is no back armor because we are supposed to have each other's backs. If God equipped us in such a way that we need others to watch our backs, then it is clear that He never intended that we go into battle alone. God created us to need one another. This is why if you are going through a trial, a battle or a barren season, you need to surround yourself with brothers and sisters who will pray for you and watch out for you with purpose and perseverance.

So when evaluating your resources, consider your spiritual family. Take stock of your closest comrades and harness the power of their presence and voice. Even the experts of physical survival emphasize this point. They encourage an appraisal of your team's gifts so everyone can contribute effectively to everyone else's survival. When we find ourselves in spiritual survival mode, we must do the same.

**Sermon for February 19, 2017:
"The Price Is...Right?"
2 Kings 5**

Prayer requests can be added to the family prayer book