

The Bridge

Seeking God  Serving Others

FEBRUARY 2015 Issue



Building Responsible Individuals Demonstrating Godliness to Everyone



Pastor's CORDER NOTE

When I think of February, like many of you, I think of LOVE!!! Some say Love is in the air. Where is Love to be found, is the question on many singles lips. Is Love sustainable, others of us have asked from time to time. It seems that everyone wants some of it but not many really know what true Love is, nor do they know where someone may receive it.

Love is one of those intrinsic things that everyone desires, because the simple fact is, we are born to have it. Yet you may not be able to define it or even recognize it if you see it. I just returned from Texas where I attended a wedding and yet I am already looking forward to another one soon. And there are even a few people who have informed me that they expect even more from me, than to just attend or perform their wedding ceremonies. They expect me to play a significant role in identifying their future life/Love partner.

Where would I look to find a Love for someone I think so highly of, someone who I wish joy and great satisfaction for, someone who has placed such trust in me, and a whole lot of weight on my shoulders as well? Where indeed but the Word of God, for the God of the Word is Love!!!!

There is a chapter in the scriptures that is most often referred to as the Love Chapter. Let's look there: **1 Cor. 13:4:**

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails.



If Love never fails, then I wish to choose that for those whom I take an active role in assisting in their life long choice. **Love is patient** : (able to remain calm and not become annoyed when waiting for a long time or when dealing with problems or even difficult people). **Love is kind**: (a group of people or things that belong together or have some shared quality: a particular type or variety of person or thing). Kindness is more than an attitude, it is a similarity they are of similar kind. Male and Female but both honoring of God, holding to the same priorities and values, not unequally put together. **It does not envy**: (painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another). Love rejoices in the other's accomplishments.

Since my article space is running out, I am going to challenge you to finish this exploration of Love. I know you will have opportunities to share with others what you have found out about, that which everyone wants and never fails to deliver.

I will conclude my article with one last point concerning Love: its origin. **1 John 4:10** *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

And **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Take up this challenge with me during the whole short month of February and let's give it our very best to love one another like God does.

Loving you,
Pastor Timothy

SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

MRS. CHARLENE BOWSER — A Pillar in Christian Education

By: Joseph O. Prewitt Diaz, PhD

“One day, about 35 years ago, I was on my way to Church and my car wouldn't start, so I decided to walk to Braddock Baptist, and here I am!” said Charlene Bowser, our star Sunday School teacher for this month. While she co-teaches with Carol the 1st to 3rd graders, she is also learning more about the Lord, the Church, and the works. She enrolled in the three-year program learning about the Old and New Testament. She decided to continue and complete her Bachelor's in Bible, and will be taking her final courses this spring and summer.

What does she do with the children in her class? Charlene wants her students to live the Christian life.

She is very impressed with children nowadays. The children are curious about the Bible stories and ask many questions that the lessons don't answer. She gave

me an example of the Christmas Season where she had just one lesson. Well, she had to adapt and improvise. She prepared three additional lessons to help the children better understand the story of Christmas. *“It is all about the children, and their needs. At times I've had to go to the Internet to get the answers to some of the questions the children bring to class.”* One activity that she enjoys is to make sure that the youth and college students who are away from our church receive gifts on special occasions.

While most of her life was dedicated to raising her own children and about 25 years working in a Doctor's office, her most rewarding experience is to see her students who are now young adults take part in various activities such as the choir, Sunday school (as teachers), and in discipleship.

Our Christian Education Department celebrates Charlene's life of service in His name. She is a champion, one of our very strong pillars, and an example for the younger folks. This is one dedicated Christian doing God's will. I asked: “Where do you get all the energy and time?” *“From my Lord Jesus”* she responded.

DEACONS

Dear Braddockians,

It is cold and naturally it makes you want to stay inside. Not at BBC! I can assure you that our deacons are busy supporting their assigned individuals and families when the unexpected come up. When I see (and hear) the deacons serving the body of Christ it reminds me of the goodness and faithfulness of God. It reminds me that His will is being accomplished on earth as it is in heaven. The House of God is where the will of God should be carried out. Are things perfect and always being taken care of...? Probably not! Is the desire among the deacons present...? Absolutely yes! Praise the Lord!

If you happen to notice any inevitable shortcomings within the diaconate; I encourage us all to handle it in a scriptural manner. We are not ignorant of the enemies whispering devices! Go speak with that person directly. Matthew 18:15–20 gives us the template on how to resolve conflict.

I cannot share with you enough stories in my life and in our home where I had such a “large” issue against someone in my mind. When I took the time to pray to find the will of God...inevitably when I spoke to the person directly I found out one of two things:

1) What I was thinking was way off track and the problem just existed in my mind and was not true. I allowed that person to respond to what was on my mind.

2) What I was thinking may have been accurate and by going to that person in private we were able to work out our differences. In many of the situations, the other person was not even aware of the way I was looking at the problem. In both situations, God worked it out.

If there is ever a situation that does not seem right to you or you feel your deacons are not handling something properly (wherever there are people, I find problems do come up... 😊) be sure to give your deacon an opportunity to respond and make things right.

I know just in my house employing these scriptural truths can make a big difference in resolving conflict with reality and in love. And the best part is you are set free from that “conflict”.

If the deacons can ever help please do not hesitate to call.

The Lord bless you.

Mitch Bennett
703.451.7784

Your year-end contribution statement will be mailed during the first week of February. If you do not receive a statement after an appropriate amount of time and need it, please contact Jody Dunning or Gary Moore.

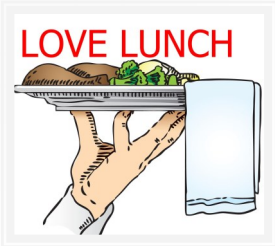
Also if you haven't picked up your new 2015 envelopes, they are located

outside the Church Office. To ensure that you receive your correct contributions, please use the envelopes that you are provided. These envelopes have your contribution number preprinted on them and will ensure your year-end statement is correct.

If you believe the church records are in error, or if you would like new envelopes, please contact Jody Dunning or Gary Moore.

MIHI YOUTH
MADE IN HIS IMAGE

Invites you to a



Sunday, February 15, 2015
In the fellowship hall
following the service.

Birthdays

- 2 Dallas Rodriguez
- 6 Patricia Lewis
- 7 Christopher Marshall
- 10 Brenda Carr
- 11 Janine Murphy
- 13 Valeria Owens
- 15 Wendy Perry
- Thomas Perry
- 16 Virginia Owens
- 21 Sandy Shifflett
- 22 Kay Abbott
- Diane Carr
- Benjamin Lewis
- 24 Charlene Bowser
- 27 Kevin Lazo

FEBRUARY
2015

BBC MEN

The BBC Men, WMU, and many other Braddockians continued in January to be busy serving and ministering to others.

Saturday morning the January 10th many Braddockians came together in the fellowship hall to partake of a delicious full course hot breakfast prepared by Chef Rodriguez, prior to taking down and putting away the Christmas decorations. Chef Rodriguez, as usual, prepared a marvelous breakfast with a Spanish flair including refried beans, Spanish sausage and eggs, fresh tortillas, along with some traditional potato tarts, sausage gravy and biscuits, scrambled eggs, fruit, and much more. Thanks Rick for another great breakfast.

Sunday January 25th was Baptist Men Day where the BBC men performed almost every aspects of the morning worship service. We had an all-male praise and worship team, an all-male choir including youth and children, Ian Lewis and Branson Rodriguez performing the prelude and offertory, testimonies by Dr. Joe Prewitt and Barrie Dunn, and an inspiring message brought by Reverend James Lewis. Immediately following the morning worship was a soup luncheon in the fellowship hall where you could choose from 15 various soups, chili, etc. We also had Korean noodles, freshly handmade and cooked spring rolls by Ceasar Qutoriano, and dessert was ice cream and cake. The admission to this mission outreach luncheon was to bring blankets, coats, sweaters, etc. We collected

so far 14 blankets and 18 coats and they will be delivered to the Women and Children's Shelter by Jim Hix. We will be accepting additional donations through February 8th and you can just drop them off at the church. Thanks Men and all Braddockians for your support and participation in the BBC Baptist Men Day and for your help to make this a successful in-reach/outreach event. Special thanks to Debbie D. for all of her efforts to prepare the all-male choir, praise team and instrumentalists to assure that it contributed toward a very meaningful worship experience.

Our next Baptist Men's planning meeting is February 2nd at 7:00 pm. We will begin planning the spring and summer mission projects. All men are welcomed to come and be a part of this meeting. We also have great fellowship and food.

We have a several ministry opportunities in February and we need your help. See the dates below:

FEBRUARY

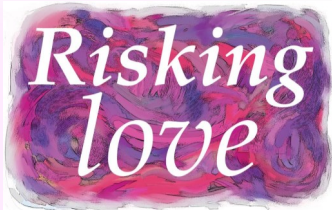
- Sun 1st Super Bowl Sunday Retreat Weekend
- Mon 2nd Men's Monthly Planning Meeting, 7:00 pm
- Mon 9th Leadership Meeting, 7:00 pm
- Wed 11th Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- Sun 15th Youth-sponsored LOVE LUNCH

God Loves You and So Do I!
Keep the Faith!
Dave Waters,
President, BBC Men

Relationships

To love is to risk not being loved in return. To hope is to risk pain. To try is to risk failure, but risk must be taken because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing. Love comes to those who still hope even though they've been disappointed, to those who still believe even though they've been betrayed, to those who still love even though they've been hurt before.

—Author unknown



Taken from the NEWSLETTER Newsletter

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Winter Fellowship Retreat in Massanutten	2 7:00 pm Baptist Men's Meeting	3 6:00 pm Seminary Classes 7:00 pm Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting	4 4:00pm Exercise 6:30 pm Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir &Praise Team Rehearsal	5 6:00 pm Seminary Classes	6 6:00 pm First Friday Fellowship	7 9:00 am Exercise 10:00 am ESL classes 12: 00 pm. GED class
8 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Morning Worship Service	9 4:00pm Exercise 7:00 pm Leadership Meeting	10 6:00 pm Seminary Classes	11 4:00pm Exercise 6:30 pm Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Business Meeting	12 6:00 pm Seminary Classes	13	14 9:00 am Exercise 10:00 am ESL classes 12: 00 pm. GED class
15 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service Youth Sponsored LOVE LUNCH	16 PRESIDENTS' DAY 4:00pm Exercise 7:00 pm Deacons' Meeting	17 6:00 pm Seminary Classes	18 4:00pm Exercise 6:30 pm Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir &Praise Team Rehearsal	19 6:00 pm Seminary Classes	20 6:30 pm Prayer and Evangelism Gathering	21 9:00 am Exercise 10:00 am ESL classes 12: 00 pm. GED class
22 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Morning Worship Service & Communion	23 4:00pm Exercise	24 6:00 pm Seminary Classes	25 4:00pm Exercise 6:30 pm Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir &Praise Team Rehearsal	26 6:00 pm Seminary Classes	27	28 9:00 am Exercise 10:00 am ESL classes 12: 00 pm. GED class