



Newsletter

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Sunday, October 22, 2017

Our congregation contributes to care for the homeless by sponsoring a table at the annual Beans and Cornbread luncheon on Oct. 30 at the civic center. If you'd like to go, let Gene know.

Our little church also joins hands with Sharing Hope Ministry by cooking for their annual bake sale. The sale will be held at the Washington Avenue

Christian Church on the 28th and 29th. Melba will accept volunteers through the 25th. Baked goods must be wrapped in foil, labeled, with any nut content identified. Deliver them to the alley entrance of the Washington Avenue church between noon and 6 p.m. on the 26th. If you can't deliver yours, get it to our fellowship hall no later than 11 a.m. that day.

Missy Evans' long-awaited surgery has been postponed until Nov. 2. Jimmie Blessen's hernia surgery has been put on hold until his sodium level improves. Kenan Burk is slated to get a new hip at Quail Creek on Thursday, the 19th. Wasn't it good to see Jenelle Smith and Barbara Hugeley able to be at church with us last Lord's day?

We have calendared Mark Farr to come see us on Sunday, Dec. 3, so he can give us an update on his Bible translation work. He plans to be back in New Guinea early next month. More details on this as the day approaches.

Tell Mark Read thank you for working with the police to nail the young vandals who trashed several of our security cameras. He's also busy trying to solve the radio station bleed into our sound system.

Our Hurricane Harvey offering check for \$7,000 will be sent to the Houston church this week.

Gene will be in Robert Lee this week with his brothers. He expects to be back in his office on Monday, the 23rd.

Worship Assignments for This Lord's Day

In charge, Danny Sr.; Prayer, Dan; Reading, Wes (Acts 5:15-42); Bread, Gene Smith; Wine, Richard B.; Serve, Danny Jr., Cole.

Nuggets of Wisdom

By Dr. Joe Barnett

"If you want to know who is in control, try to change the weather."

"God is omnipotent. God is omniscient. But most of all God is love."

"His power and your faith are an unbeatable tag team."



Expensive Experience

A preacher friend of mine—a fellow for whom I have a lot of respect—got invited not long ago to preach a series of sermons on the dicey subject of divorce and remarriage.

In the large congregation that assigned him this topic, several people were struggling with it. And the leaders in that church were finding out what the Pharisees knew when they tried to embarrass Jesus with questions on this subject. They had learned that nobody's ideas about divorce will ever please everybody.

My preacher friend surmised that he got the invitation to address this hot topic because the inviters thought his own experience equipped him to know all about it. He had been preaching almost four decades, so he knew what the Scriptures say. But, perhaps more important in this case, this preacher has been married three times, buried one wife, and got divorced by another.

Instead of bragging or celebrating his hard-gained insights, my friend said he would much rather have been a novice on the topics at hand.

I understood what he was saying. A few of my buddies have thoughtlessly popped off about my handicap parking tag. They wish out loud that they had a permit to park as close to the door as I do. So far I've managed to bite my tongue, but instantly in my mind I yell, "I wish I didn't!" With all my heart I wish I didn't qualify for that permit. I wish that the stroke that stole the feeling in my foot and leg never had happened.

No sensible person wants to hurt. None of us welcomes the damage of a divorce or a stroke. But no amount of faith or righteousness makes any of us exempt from life's disasters. Even the best people lose jobs, bury children, get cancer, go broke.

Bad experiences never are entirely bad, though. My friend's hardest days prepared him to offer genuine pastoral guidance and solace to those who now are hurting just as he did.

Surely the apostle Paul wasn't elated that he got to spend multiple years in prison and in chains, but later he realized that this harsh experience taught him to trust more fully in God's grace.

Who knows? Your present pain may be drawing you closer to the Lord. Your breaking heart may be getting you ready today to repair someone else's heart tomorrow.

By Gene Shelburne