

The Tidings

Antioch Baptist Church

Serving God and our Community since 1776

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Beauty for Ashes

This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. Ash Wednesday is the start to the season of Lent. The ashes are the burnt remains of the previous year's palm branches from Palm Sunday. Ashes and Dues are symbolic in the Bible of the temporary nature of life. "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return," Genesis 3:19. Figures like Abraham and Job both acknowledge their humanity and mortality before an eternal God. "There I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes," Job 42:6.

The Palms celebrated the Triumphal Entry of Jesus. The people who celebrated thought this was an establishment of an earthly kingdom and its leader would be Jesus. It seems appropriate that the ashes of those hopes of something lasting are the symbol of our temporary lives.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For GOD did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16-17

Life is temporary but there is something that is lasting, God and His love for us. On Valentine's Day we celebrate love, but how much do we really know about the man St. Valentine. St. Valentine was a Roman Priest during the reign of Emperor Claudius the Second. The Emperor persecuted the church. He also had an edict prohibiting the marriage of young people. His reasoning was that young men with attachments or families would be less likely to fight hard and risk in battle, making them a liability.

Many in the secular culture of the day would have been polygamous and Valentine encouraged young couples to pursue Christian marriage and monogamy. He would do so secretly because of the edict and still performed the marriage ceremonies.

He was eventually caught, imprisoned, and tortured for performing marriage ceremonies against the command of the Emperor. He was executed beheading on February 14, 270 A.D. for performing Christian marriage.

What is the value of your life? Although life here is temporary, love is eternal. We cannot hold on to our life here forever so how will we invest it in others in love for the sake of that which is eternal? Paul says, "so now faith, hope and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love," 1 Corinthians 13:13.

"to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified," Isaiah 61:3

To trust the eternal love of God for us and for others will help us to invest our lives in the things that will last. When we do, we trade the ashes of repentance and the dust of mortality for the beauty of righteousness and the light of His eternal glory. Are you ready to trade? Beauty awaits!!

God Bless, Greg

SENIOR'S MEETING

Seniors: Mark your calendar for Monday, February 12 at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see all the seniors from our church and the community for a presentation from Henrico's Advocate for the Aging, Jelisa Turner (originally scheduled for January).

February 12 is also Abraham Lincoln's birthday, so we have some shenanigans planned to help him celebrate! Invite your friends and neighbors as we start a new year of fun, fellowship and food. Covered dish luncheon follows the meeting

Mary Dick

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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

OUR MISSION: ... TO INFORM AND INSPIRE Christians to influence their world for Christ.
WATCHWORD: "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings".
(1 Cor. 9:22b-23 NIV)

There is an article in the January Mission Mosaic that everyone should read. "Today's Response to Violence" Families in Crisis: Why is the church silent? They were a family in crisis and no one noticed. Rosa's daughter tried to commit suicide. A month later at camp, she told the youth pastor why – she was raped. The family screamed out for help and support but was mostly ignored by the church. We can break the silence and extend a helping hand. Here's how: (1) PRAY, It all starts here. (2) LEARN THE FACTS ABOUT THE PROBLEM. (3) GET TRAINED IN CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (CSA) PREVENTION. (4) SPEAK ABOUT THE REALITY OF THIS PROBLEM AT CHURCH. (5) ACT ON REPORTS OF ABUSE. (6) SHOW RIGHTEOUS ANGER. Let's not stay quiet. Borrow a magazine and read this important article.

WMU Focus Week "TEA" will be held on February 11. We invite all the ladies to attend and enjoy the fellowship. There will be a jewelry display and Lynn Litchfield, Chaplain at GraceInside, women's prison, will be the guest speaker. You will not forget her message.

March 4-11, we will observe Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Week of Prayer. The scripture is 1 John 3:18. More information on this later.

Joyce Adams, Reporting for WMU

YOUTH

Greetings, we are working on some things with the youth that we would like for you to participate in. We are working with a young lady that collects items (like the shoe boxes), for women who are in shelters either from domestic abuse, or because they are homeless. She gives them these items in purses for Mother's Day. My plan is for Antioch's youth to help her collect as many purses as possible this year and make as many women smile as possible on Mother's Day! So, if any of you women have any purses that you don't use or don't want anymore, please donate them to us to fill with things like tissues, perfume, makeup, etc.

We are also in the late planning stages of having a fundraising dinner for Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 5:00pm before we go into the Sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday service. Details on that to follow!

Peace and blessings,

Amy Moretz
Antioch Baptist Church Youth Leader