

# CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER — FEBRUARY 2015



We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ plus nothing. His precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. The salvation of the ill-deserving sinner is based on the finished work of Jesus Christ, who became the sinner's substitute before God and died a provisional sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

## THE PASTOR'S CORNER

With Valentines fast approaching everyone with a sweetheart is thinking of ways to show their love. While we should be sweet to our Valentines I would like to remind us that the greatest love story that has ever been is how God loved the world and gave His Son for the sins on the world. John speaks of this in 1 John 4 in verse 11 he adds, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." For those of us who claim the name of Christ we should show our love one to another and we should be intentional in showing this love. In other words we should make plans and effort to show other Christians our love for them that God may be glorified before men.

Peter picks up this same thought in 1 Peter 1:22 where we read that we should have a deep sincere love from the heart for our brethren. In order to cultivate that type of love we must spend time with people. Cedar Grove is really good at having events but I believe we need to just pop in on people from time to time. Peter continues in 4:8, "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins." When we really love someone we will forgive one another for our shortcomings understanding that we are all framed in weak flesh.

Peter continues in 4:9, "Show hospitality to one another without grumbling." Here again we see spending time with one another but I believe the next verse is the key, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." We should share what God has graciously given us with others which allows us to show God's gift of grace to us.

So as you prepare to show that special someone how much they mean to you think of others in our church family that could use a little shared grace.

Pastor Marty

## THE LOVE OF GOD

The refrain from this hymn were written by Frederick Lehman in 1917, but this third verse were found penciled on the wall of a patient's room in an insane asylum after his death—Perhaps he was not so crazy after all.

Could we with ink the ocean fill  
and were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill  
and every man a scribe by trade,  
To write the love of God above  
would drain the ocean dry  
nor could the scroll contain the whole  
though stretched from sky to sky.

O love of God, how rich and pure  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure  
The saints' and angels' song.

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## AND CAN IT BE

While you are contemplating that special object of your affection this Valentine's Day, do not forget the greatest love story of all time. In 1738, Charles Wesley expressed his joy at his conversion in this manner:

And can it be that I should gain  
an interest in the Savior's blood!  
Died he for me? who caused his pain!  
For me? who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left his Father's throne above  
(so free, so infinite his grace!),  
emptied himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in him, is mine;  
alive in him, my living Head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach th' eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ my  
own.

Bold I approach th' eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ my  
own.



### ANNIVERSARIES

Shawn & Ginger Carswell February 06

## MUSIC FOR A REVIVAL

The Evangelical Revival of the eighteenth century began in part in the Holy Club in Oxford. This Club was primarily a group of students who were concerned to bring their spiritual lives within a systematic and definable "Method"—hence the term "Methodists."

Those associated with this group were the brothers John and Charles Wesley, who would together create Methodist hymnody; James Hutton and John Gambold, who would be involved in editing and publishing Moravian hymnals; and George Whitefield, who would edit a collection of hymns that would have wide influence. ...

On their return from America, both Charles and John had their famous spiritual experiences in the spring of 1738. Charles responded within a matter of weeks by writing the hymn "And Can It Be." A year later he wrote a poem, "For the Anniversary Day of One's Conversion." Within the eighteen stanzas of this poem are found the lines:

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My dear Redeemer's praise!  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of his grace.



### BIRTHDAYS

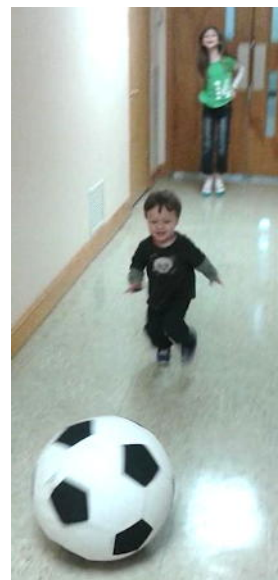
Sean Carswell	February 03
Doris McHenry	February 05
Andrea Cagle	February 20
Luke Owens	February 26
Ashley ***	February 27
Nathan Whitehead	February 27
Michelle Camp	March 03

# CGBC FUN NIGHT

January 17, 2015



Happy Birthday Makala



## DOMINOES TO THE DEATH



## WHAT IS FUN NIGHT WITHOUT DESSERT?

*Many legends surround the origin of Valentine's Day. This one is as good as any*

Flowers, candy, red hearts and romance. That's what Valentine's day is all about, right? Well, maybe not.

The origin of this holiday for the expression of love really isn't romantic at all -- at least not in the traditional sense. Father Frank O'Gara of Whitefriars Street Church in Dublin, Ireland, tells the real story of the man behind the holiday -- St. Valentine.

"He was a Roman Priest at a time when there was an emperor called Claudias who persecuted the church at that particular time," Father O'Gara explains. "He also had an edict that prohibited the marriage of young people. This was based on the hypothesis that unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers because married soldiers might be afraid of what might happen to them or their wives or families if they died."

"I think we must bear in mind that it was a very permissive society in which Valentine lived," says Father O'Gara. "Polygamy would have been much more popular than just one woman and one man living together. And yet some of them seemed to be attracted to Christian faith. But obviously the church thought that marriage was very sacred between one man and one woman for their life and that it was to be encouraged. And so it immediately presented the problem to the Christian church of what to do about this."

"The idea of encouraging them to marry within the Christian church was what Valentine was about. And he secretly married them because of the edict."

Valentine was eventually caught, imprisoned and tortured for performing marriage ceremonies against command of Emperor Claudius the second. There are legends surrounding Valentine's actions while in prison.

"One of the men who was to judge him in line with the Roman law at the time was a man called Asterius, whose daughter was blind. He



was supposed to have prayed with and healed the young girl with such astonishing effect that Asterius himself became Christian as a result."

In the year 269 AD, Valentine was sentenced to a three part execution of a beating, stoning, and finally decapitation all because of his stand for Christian marriage. The story goes that the last words he wrote were in a note to Asterius' daughter. He inspired today's romantic missives by signing it, "from your Valentine."

"What Valentine means to me as a priest," explains Father O'Gara, "is that there comes a time where you have to lay your life upon the line for what you believe. And with the power of the Holy Spirit we can do that -- even to the point of death."

...

"Valentine has come to be known as the patron saint of lovers. Before you enter into a Christian marriage you want some sense of God in your life -- some great need of God in your life. ...

"If Valentine were here today, he would say to married couples that there comes a time where you're going to have to suffer. It's not going to be easy to maintain your commitment and your vows in marriage. Don't be surprised if the 'gushing' love that you have for someone changes to something less "gushing" but maybe much more mature. And the question is, is that young person ready for that?"

Father O'Gara says. "Love -- human love and sexuality is wonderful, and blessed by God - - but also the shadow of the cross. That's what Valentine means to me."