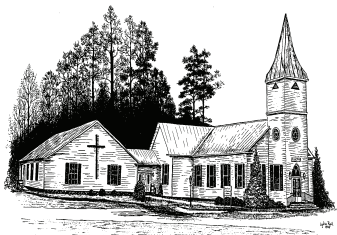


LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS



Philippi Christian Church

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philippichristianchurch.com

March 2010

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Attendance for

January 2010

January 3 = 82

January 10 = 107

January 17 = 91

January 24 = 86

January 31 = 14

Average attendance
for January 2009
was 76.

Average attendance
for January 2008
was 98.

MIKE'S MEANDERINGS

will not appear in this newsletter due to Pastor Mike's heart attack and recovery. His recovery is going well. Watch for his article in the next newsletter. We wish Pastor Mike a speedy recovery.

MUSINGS FROM MONTGOMERY COVE

Those incredible unexpected blessings!

Last week was a complete wide-angle spectrum of emotions and experiences for me. Our Heavenly Father reminded me how he can take our sorrow and grief, and turn it completely around! It all started one night with me telling Becky that I was going to visit our dear sister Joanne Hensley the next day. I wanted to spend some time with her and let her know what a blessing knowing her had been to my life. I have so loved her warm hugs and radiant smile for years and knew that there would always be an empty spot in my life and our church after her passing.

But this visit was not to be. Our loving God was tired of seeing her suffer and whisked her away to joy and comfort! Nevertheless, I was heart broken. I was inconsolable. I spent the day walking around just a heartbeat away from tears. I felt as if I had let both Joanne and myself down by not moving sooner. The warm, sincere things I wanted to say would never be spoken, forever left drifting in my heart and mind. Becky, in her quiet gentle way tried to sooth my aching heart and soul, but to no avail.

But then God in his wonderful mysterious way, put into motion a chain of events that I never would have expected. A call from Pastor Mike both amazed and scared me silly! He asked me to preside over Joanne's memorial service even though I had never done anything like that before. My first response was to simply tell him I did not think I could handle this. I have grown quite comfortable with preaching before my church family, but it is an awesome responsibility to help usher someone from this world into God's eternal care, and to try to find the words to comfort their loving family and friends. With great concern and a little fear, I accepted the challenge, hoping that God would help me do this task. After some wonderful encouragement from Becky and a good bit of time on my knees, I knew I would be all right. That afternoon I heard a song on the radio by Allen Jackson. It tells of a loved one who has passed away, and the words are "she flew up to heaven on the wings of angels, and she

(Continued on page 2)

walks with Jesus saying, don't worry 'bout me". I felt that if Joanne could send a message to her family and friends, it would sound just like that "don't worry 'bout me". I was suddenly at peace with myself, and found joy in knowing Joanne was with Jesus, and was just fine.

Then that morning, a little bit of apprehension crept back into my mind as I stood at the pulpit waiting to speak. But as I stood there looking out at the faces of Joanne's loving family and friends, I realized God had given me a second chance to say those things that lay on my heart, and I felt so blessed and honored to be able to serve in this manner.

Peace, joy and second chances, what an awesome God we serve!

Dennis Mann

Our Deepest Sympathy

We pray the comfort of the Holy Spirit
for the families and friends of
Mary Jo Anne Hensley
who passed away on February 17;

Missy Morris
and **Berkley Taylor**,
brother of Gladys Prince,
who passed away on February 19;

Robertine Taylor,
mother of Connie Deagle,
and **Bertha Sue Green**,
sister of Alvin Walden,
who passed away on February 24.



FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Your Fellowship Committee would like to thank everyone for participating in the funeral reception for Jo Anne Hensley's family on Saturday, February 20th. All of the food and kitchen help was greatly appreciated. Also, a special thanks for all of you who have provided food for our coffee hour each Sunday.

VALENTINE BREAKFAST

On Saturday morning, February 13, the men of Philippi were host to a valentine breakfast for the ladies. The tables were beautifully decorated with balloons and flowers. A delicious breakfast, French toast, sausage, eggs and coffee was served to the ladies. Good conversation and fellowship was enjoyed by men and women alike. We hope this will be an annual tradition.



www.philippichristianchurch.com

SAMANTHA

Vacations should be times for changes and relaxation. The change is easy to plan. The relaxation is a little harder.

One of the bridesmaids in our 1935 wedding had been married and lived in Massachusetts. For several years she had been inviting us to come visit her family there. So when Don was 14 and Kathy was six, we decided to visit her family for a few days of our week's vacation. We had never been to New York City, so we made plans to sight-see there as part of our trip. If we had known what was going to happen, we wouldn't have gone near the place!

When we tried to make reservations for a few nights, we found out there would be a Lion's Club convention going on that week in New York City. No rooms were available. So we finally got a reservation for a room in Brooklyn.

When our vacation time came, we traveled by car through the New York traffic to our room. Then after a night's rest, we took the subway to downtown New York City. We saw as many sights as possible that day - COUNTRY BUMPKINS in the Big City!

In the late afternoon, tired and looking forward to supper and rest, we went down the steps to the subway. Don and Kathy were just ahead of us. The train was waiting on the tracks; the children got on, the door slammed shut, and away they went!

Maybe you can imagine the panic we were in. We asked advice from the station master, who suggested we take the next car - maybe they had gotten off at the next station. But they weren't there. Thinking they might have gone back to our starting point, we went back, but they weren't there either.

Trying not to panic, we got on the next car to Brooklyn, hoping we would see them at some point along the way, waiting for us to find them. We got all the way down to where our hotel was, and there they were, waiting for us, with a plain-clothes policeman in charge. He had seen what happened at the beginning and had taken charge of them. Luckily, Don had remembered the name of the hotel where we were staying.

They were well taken care of by the New York police. They even gave Kathy an ice-cream cone to calm her down. Don said all he got was his name on the day's police blotter. That was an experience I'll never want to repeat. I've always felt that as usual, the good Lord was looking out for us all.

The next day we left for Massachusetts where we had a happy time visiting Marie and her family.

I've never had any desire to go back to see the rest of the sights in the Big City. Although half of my growing-up years were in cities, give me a friendly little town like Deltaville any time!

Blessings,

Samantha

TIME CHANGE

**Don't forget to move your
clocks ahead on March 14.
Spring forward.**

LENT

We would like to commend you for your faithfulness in giving during the winter snows. The work of your church continues whether we miss a Sunday or not. So please remember your offerings. Deuteronomy 14:22-23 states, "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. And you shall eat before the Lord your God, in the place where He chose to make His name abide That you may learn to fear the Lord your God always." The Bible is the highest law of God. In it God sets forth His spiritual laws, His promises. He reveals the plan of redemption for the human race. We truly believe that the men who wrote the Bible were guided by the Holy Spirit, both in the thoughts they expressed and their choice of words. As Peter said, "For the prophecy came not in old times by the will of men: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit".

As the Lenten season is upon us, we see an altar draped in black. A silent procession, stark words, ashes on our forehead, reflecting the beauty of newness of life. We feel a closeness to Christ so that our true feelings can be expressed. Our pain and suffering are as real as were His. Our cry for help, our loneliness are lessened as we enter into His!

The love He gave us, showing what the true walk of love is!

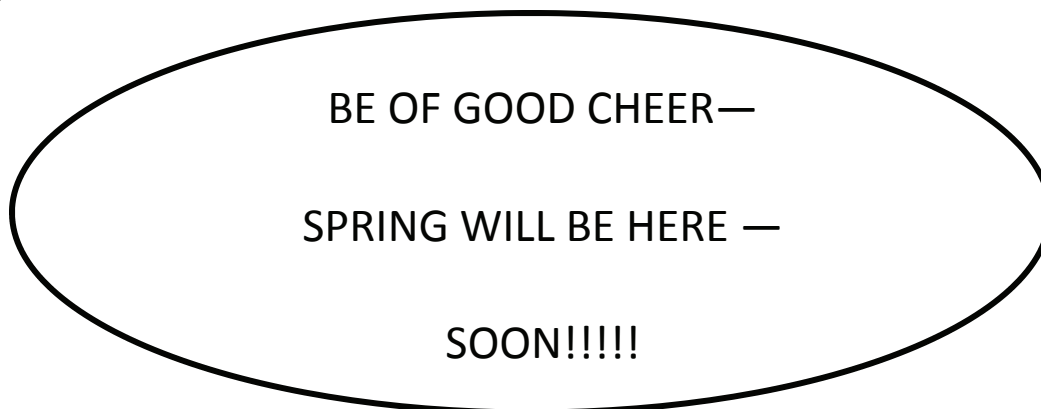
When human sins fell on Him and consumed Him, when friends He trusted failed Him, then can we feel the ruggedness of the cross He bore.

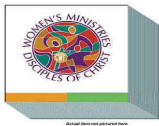
Lent is an honest season, a healing season, a season of darkness with a small glimpse of light greater than a thousand points. This is a time to repent, to reflect on our lives, and giving to God and His church for His work to be done. Leviticus 27:30; "and all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees is the Lord's." It is holy to the Lord. God says, "Give me what is mine; be obedient and I will bless you."

God does not need our money. He asks us to give so He can pour out a blessing to us. You can live better on your 90% than you can on 100%. When you take God's part and use it, God cannot bless you like He wants to. Are we afraid to trust God? Read Malachi 3:8-10.

Our prayers are with Pastor Mike and Liz for a speedy and blessed recovery.

Frances Ruark
Stewardship Ministries





DISCIPLE WOMEN

Don't forget to bring your blessing boxes
to church by March 22.

Join us for the March Disciples Women meetings. The day group meets the second Tuesday at 11:00 am, and the night group meets the third Thursday at 7:30 pm at the church in the Fellowship Hall.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Matthew Deagle
got promoted to SGT.

Way to go, Matthew!

BLANKET DRIVE

Thanks to the generosity of many people of Philippi 28 shivering recipients will be provided with blankets to keep them warm, and the knowledge that they are loved. It's heart-warming to take part in this sharing. Last year we sent \$400 all over the world to help keep people warm.

DID YOU KNOW?
The Disciples Men Retreat for 2010 will be at the W.E. Skelton 4-H Education and Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake, Wirtz, Virginia, April 9-11. Last year we had 100 men attend. The schedule is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. For More information contact Fred Dant, at 776-6975, our District IX Disciple Men Representative.

**LENTEN LUNCHEES
MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Clarksbury United Methodist Church invites all the community to partake in fellowship shared during these lunches. Lunch is on Wednesdays, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm and the cost is \$6.00. The schedule is as follows:

March 3, The Rev. Chauncey Mann, Grafton Baptist Church

March 10, The Rev. C. Simmons, 1st UMC of Fox Hill

March 17, The Rev. R. Collier, Harmony Grove Baptist Church

March 24, The Rev. D., Warren, All Saints Anglican Church, Saluda

March 31, The Rev. Mike Cook, Philippi Christian Church.

All proceeds will be donated to Hands Across Middlesex and the Society of St. Andrew.