



Steve Jackson, Pastor

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Joy!

Every evening of creation, God stood back and admired the creation freshly made. With the angels, our triune God pronounced it was good. I used to keep an aquarium. I would be entranced with watching their beautiful colors and motion, even dare I say, personalities? As much as I enjoyed watching that little tank of fish, imagine how much joy our Heavenly Father has in watching the oceans of fish He created. I have a little hen house with seven chickens that have become pets. Pets with eggs! Ginger is the most friendly. Can you imagine our Heavenly Father enjoying the migratory patterns of millions of wild birds of every description? Yet He notices when even one sparrow falls to the ground. There is never a moment He can't admire the beauty of a sunset around His earth, or the mysteries of beautiful things in deep space or the sub-microscopic level of which we know not. He made them. They must be beautiful.

We have a joyful God who created a garden paradise for our first parents. We have a redeeming God who came to restore the joy that was lost when our parents, and we all in like fashion, have rebelled and lost that joy. The Christian who knows our Savior is called to a life of joy. (Not to be read life of uncomplicated ease.) But we are called to joy restored through knowing Jesus. We are called to joy in knowing these troubles are passing and our creative God works together with all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. We refuse to delight in evil as a substitute, but can always respond to His call to joy in Him regardless of our temporary circumstances.

Christians are called to live in joy, as Kay Warren says, "because happiness isn't enough." We forget the joy we all had when we came to know Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We have to be reminded again and again in Scripture and in life about what is most important. About what is most beautiful. About our Heavenly Father's great love for us to send His one and only Son to rescue us. We have now the beauty of His presence which one day we will see in its fullness with our eyes!

Again I say . . . Rejoice!

Steve

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Andy & June Nutt



Cheryl Sherley



Welcome Back

Lynnette, Victoria, Hannah,
Makayla Cortinas

Financial Update

Budget Requirements	Budget Receipts
\$68,937.68	\$68,576.31
Budget Receipts	Budget Expenses
\$68,576.31	\$56,252.81
Budget Deficit	Actual Surplus 1/31/15
\$ 361.37	\$12,323.50

Sunday School Attendance

Date	Members	Visitors	Total
Nov 30	155	3	158
Dec 7	163	9	172
Dec 14	173	8	181
Dec 21	172	1	173
Dec 28	115	7	122
Jan 4	159	5	164
Jan 11	152	1	153
Jan 18	152	3	155
Jan 25	167		167

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Paul Gwinn

Minister of Edu/Admin

Eric Lawrence

Minister of Music

Lynn Puryear

Minister to Children

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Paul Gwinn
Min of Educ/Admin



EDUCATION

For the equipping of the saints! Eph 4:11-12

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God's Box of Chocolates

I ran across this article, by Laura Lee Shaw, the other day and thought I would share it with you. I hope that is reminds you as much as it reminded me of how much God loves us.

Everywhere I look near Valentine's Day, there's chocolate: boxes of chocolate in all the stores, chocolate on tv promising to be the only love you need, chocolate girl scout cookies--CHOCOLATE! I even saw chocolate Altoid breath mints in the grocery checkout aisle the other day! I think that's what led me to remember the famous quote from Forrest Gump: "Life is like a box of chocolates...you never know what you're gonna get." (I even remembered it with his accent.)

In reality, that phrase can be true in many ways. We wake up every morning completely unsure of what the day may hold for us. We've made our plans. Sometimes they even happen the way we make them. But we never know for sure, do we?

The days that come with caramel in the middle are my favorite. The ones with the strawberry goo are just so so--but the ones with coconut--YUCK! I'd rather go back to bed. Then there's the days where tragedy or difficult times come out of nowhere, and the chocolate sits in the pantry untouched...there's no sweetness to be had in those moments, it seems. God knows that life as it pertains to circumstances is uncertain for us. That's why He comforts us and reminds us so many times that He is our constant companion, our steadfast friend, our consistently loving God and Savior. He doesn't keep promises the way we do:

"When people make promises, they guarantee them by appeal to some authority above them so that if there is any question that they'll make good on the promise, the authority will back them up. When God wanted to guarantee His promises, He gave His word, a rock-solid guarantee--God can't break His word. And because His word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable." (Heb. 6:16-18, the Message)

You see, no matter what chocolate we are "in the middle of" right now, He is there--with the certainty of His promise today as well as His hope of heaven in the future. Listen to how the verse above continues to encourage us: (vs.19-20)

"We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. It's an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God where Jesus, running on ahead of us, has taken up His permanent post as high priest for us, in the order of Melchizedek."

I love the visual picture of grabbing on to Him with both hands as He runs ahead of me to the Father. That makes me able to get up today and praise Him for whatever comes my way. This faith, this confidence, this hope is our unbreakable spiritual lifeline--HIS love for us no matter what, when, how or why. Let's binge on His priceless box of chocolates today...the sweetest and most satisfying of them all.

This article is by Laura Lee Shaw and can be found at <http://articles.faithwriters.com/reprint-article-details.php?article=5000>.

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Come Join Us

Sundays @ 9:30am

KEY MINISTRIES PRESENTS



SENIOR ADULT
VALENTINE'S BANQUET
CELEBRATION

Central Baptist Church, Activities Center Gym
Friday, February 13th @ 6pm, Cost \$15
Sign Up by Wednesday, February 11th

Key Ministries presents its annual

Senior Adult Valentine's Banquet Celebration

Activities Center Gym
Friday, Feb 13th @ 6pm, Cost \$15
Sign Up by Wednesday, Feb 11th

Speaker: Freddy Mason
Menu: Steak or Chicken with
Baked Potato, Green Beans,
Roll, Salad, and Dessert

For Questions contact Paul Gwinn
@ 903-693-7181 or 903-241-6502

A Trip to Kilgore



Tuesday, Feb 24th
Meet and Leave at 8:30am
Come join us for a great trip to Kilgore as we go to tour the East Texas Oil Museum. Afterwards we will kick back and enjoy a great lunch at The Back Porch. The cost is \$5 for the museum plus your lunch. Please Sign Up by Sunday, Feb 22nd. For questions contact Paul Gwinn.



FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday Schedule
9:30am: Connections Bible Study
10:45am: Morning Worship
4:45pm: Student's Music
6:00pm: Evening Worship Intersect
KiDs Missions

Wednesday Schedule
9:00am: K.E.Y. Game Time
11:30am: Prayer Time Luncheon
Bible Study
4:15pm: Handbell Choir
4:30pm: Student Hand Chimes
6:00pm: Adult Bible Study
DivorceCare Merge
Access 6.0
Wednesday Night Live
6:59pm: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Silver Sneakers
Monday: 9:00am
Wednesday: 1:00pm
Friday: 9:00am
Gym

Silver Tones
(Senior Adult Choir)
Monday: 10:00am

American Heritage Girls
Tuesday: 6:30pm
Gym

MOPS
(Moms of Pre-Schoolers)
10:00am February 5
Children's Area

B.A.L.L. Club
(Be Active, Live Longer)
5:00pm February 12
Gym

WOM
(Women on Mission)
February 26
6:00PM
Parlor

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:00am Deacons' Meeting	2	3	4	5	6 RUMMAGE SALE Early Shopping (with fee)	7
RUMMAGE SALE Friday 5pm Saturday 7am to 2:00pm						
8 5:00pm Youth Pre-Camp Meeting 6:45pm Regular Business Meeting	9	10	11	12	13 5:00pm KiDs Night Out 6:00pm K.E.Y. Ministries Friendship Banquet	14
15 6:00pm Texas Boys Choir 7:15pm Parents' Meeting	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 12:00pm VBS Volunteers' Lunch/ Mtg 7:00pm SNAC (Sunday Night After Church)	23	24 8:30am K.E.Y. to Kilgore for Oil Museum Tour then lunch	25	26	27 4:00pm Youth to Winter Jam	28

Deacon Greeter Schedule
Group 1: Feb 8
Group 2: Feb 15
Group 3: Feb 1, 22