

THE NEWS
of
East Washington Heights Baptist Church

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World-wide Communion
October 2, 2016



In 1936, a group of pastors launched World-Wide Communion Day. Amid the Great Depression, they were looking for a way to meet people's spiritual needs and unite Christians in their dedication to Christ. The observance, now known as World Communion Sunday, is held on the first Sunday of October. For eight decades, it has served as a reminder that Christians around the globe share the same meal in remembrance of Jesus.

The Pastor's Message

A Call to "Get in Formation" and Vote!

Earlier this year, the artist Beyoncé, came out with a song and music video entitled "Formation." The song resonated well with the younger generation and had this message: We ought to love Black culture -- collard greens, cornbread and the afro; We're tired of police brutality; and we need to get in "formation."

Indeed, as we look to the fast approaching November, 2016 Presidential and general elections, it is imperative that we as people of faith, get in formation and exercise our right to vote. First of all, we need to vote in consideration of African American history. This past August marked the 52nd Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream Speech" and the four-year anniversary of the dedication of the Dr. King Memorial. Dr. King's movement achieved great strides for African Americans and others who had been left out of the American dream. But even as we celebrate the great achievements of the Civil Rights movement, a key accomplishment of the movement has been under attack: the right of every eligible citizen to vote.

The 2008 election was a hopeful one for African Americans in our democracy not just because Barack Obama, a Black man, was elected President, but also because for the first time in American history, Black Americans voted at a nearly identical rate as White Americans. However, since 2008, the right to vote has been under intense attack. Indeed, shortly after the election of Barack Obama, state legislatures across the country began trying to make it harder to register to vote. The most common form this takes place in is Voter ID laws, which under the guise of preventing "voter fraud," in fact keep millions of voters from the polls. These laws, which are on the books or being considered in 41 states, target voters who don't have certain types of government ID -- overwhelmingly the young, the elderly and persons of color.

The real goals of these laws were thrown into the light in Tennessee a couple of years ago, in the story of Dorothy Cooper. Mrs. Cooper, a 96-year-old black woman, was denied a voter ID because she couldn't produce a copy of her marriage license. Mrs. Cooper had voted nearly every year since she was of voting age, and had never before run into a problem registering -- even in the Jim Crow south.

While we must fight the enactment of Voter I.D. laws, we can't stop there. As people of faith, we must understand that God compels us to take part in the democratic process. We must get into formation and make certain that we are registered to vote, that our families and acquaintances are registered to vote, and on Tuesday, November 8, we must head to the polls and encourage others to do the same. In doing so, we will help to keep Dr. King's dream and legacy alive!

Elections matter, especially for people of faith. The Scriptures underscore the importance of good governance and also show that wise leaders uphold justice and the common good, especially for those who are poor and needy (Psalm 72:12-14). **(Continued on Page 3)**

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Our country was founded on the idea that "we the people" are responsible for selecting our own leaders. Evaluating candidates and then voting is essential to our democracy and faith.

The leaders we elect this year, both president and members of Congress, will make decisions that impact people who are poor and hungry here in the United States and around the world. Make history in 2016 by electing leaders who will make ending police brutality, criminal justice reform and educational equity priorities. Pledge to make your vote an "I vote to end police brutality" or to "increase educational equity" and "end poverty around the world."

Here are the top four reasons you should get into formation and exercise the right to vote:

1) One vote really does make a difference. This year's congressional and gubernatorial races are expected to be extremely close this year – some may even result in run-offs. Remember, your vote can determine the course of legislative and executive action.

2) It's your money. Your selection of representatives ultimately determines the allocation of resources for a range of public services, putting your tax dollars to work. Not only should you vote for the candidate you believe most effective, but it is your duty to make him or her accountable once in office.

3) Voting promotes change. It is our opportunity and responsibility to make a difference in our communities, lives, and our children's future. Our representatives play a vital role in determining the level of support for health care, college funding and small business financing, among other areas. It is their job to advocate on behalf of their constituency, including you.

4) It's your public duty. Your franchise is your voice; it is the basic role that you play in a democratic society. For African Americans, it should hold special significance since generations have fought and died for this right that was promised and protected by the Voting Rights Act of 1965. With voting rights under assault, it is more important than ever to exercise your franchises.

Peace, Power, and Progress,
Pastor Kip Banks, Sr.

October Events

Homecoming, Sunday, October 2, 11:00 AM

World-wide Communion, Sunday October, 12:30PM

Fall Flea Market, Saturday, October 8, 8:30AM

Clothes Closet, Thursday, October 20, 10:00 - 12 Noon

Women's Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, October 22, 8:30AM

Women's Day Worship Service, Sunday, October 23, 11:00AM

Fall Festival, Saturday, October 29, 2:00PM - 4:00PM

Reformation Sunday, October 30, 2016

Reformation Day, Monday, October 31, 2016

A little child's sympathy

Houston pastor Jim Moore tells about seeing a smashed pumpkin in the church driveway. He picked up the pieces and put them in a trash container. Naturally, his hands became sticky and dirty.

With his arms and hands extended outwards to keep his suit from getting soiled, he went into the building and headed toward a sink.

A child from the daycare center saw him and, thinking the pastor had been hurt, ran to him, hugged his legs, and said with the utmost concern, "There, there, it will be all right." The actions of this young child remind us to be aware of the needs of others.

What it means to be a Christian

- ♥ Christians are slow to lose patience, but quick to be gracious.
 - ♥ Christians look for ways to be constructive, even when provoked.
 - ♥ Christians restrain from trying to impress others with their own importance.
 - ♥ Christians practice good manners.
 - ♥ Christians are not "touchy," even when insulted.
 - ♥ Christians think the best, not the worst, of others.
 - ♥ Christians do not gloat over the wickedness of other people.
 - ♥ Christians are pleased to reach out a hand to someone in need.
Above all else,
 - ♥ Christians exhibit the love of Christ in their hearts and in their lives.
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Another look at stewardship

A wealthy layman was talking with his pastor a few days after the minister had preached a sermon on tithing. The man said, "Pastor, if I gave only a tithe, I would have to cut back considerably on my giving." He was not boasting. He was just making the point that he believed Jesus' teaching found in Luke 12:48, which says, "*From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.*"

Another insightful Christian leader has said that while tithing is a marvelous goal, it is not a "shoe" that fits everyone. For example, the leader said, an elderly person with a yearly income of only \$10,000 probably should not give a full 10 percent. On the other hand, a person who has an income of \$1,000,000 annually should give considerably more than 10 percent to the church and other service institutions. It is a good idea to examine our own quality and quantity of stewardship from time to time

Tithing is a gift of love

It is important to remember that tithing is an attitude of giving. The amount you give or how it compares to the gifts of others doesn't matter.

What matters is that when you give, you give of yourself, all your loving concern, your affirmation of devotion to God, your good will to humankind, and your service to Christ. When you give with this spirit, then you are giving the fullest capacity of your spiritual, physical and mental resources.

A true gift is a portion of your self. When you give in this manner, you become an instrument of God. It is the gift of love.

An enduring influence

Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed and Napoleon; without science and learning, He shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and schools combined; without the eloquence of schools, He spoke words of life such as never were spoken before or since, and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of any orator or poet; without writing a single line, He has set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art and sweet songs of praise, than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times.

Born in a manger, and crucified as a malefactor, He now controls the destinies of the civilized world, and rules a spiritual empire which embraces one-third of the inhabitants of the globe. There never was in this world a life so unpretending, modest and lowly in its outward form and condition, and yet producing such extraordinary effects upon all ages, nations and classes of men. The annals of history produce no other example of such complete and astonishing success. __Philip Schaff

A leopard's spots

A Sunday school teacher was teaching a lesson based on Jeremiah 13:23. In that passage, the prophet is so disgusted with the unfaithfulness and idolatry of his people that he almost believes they cannot change. He wonders whether a leopard can change its spots. The Sunday school teacher asked her pupils, "What do you think? Can a leopard change its spots?"

Most of the children said, "No," but one little boy answered, "Yes." He continued by saying, "If he doesn't like the spot he's in, he can change it."

That was somewhat along the line of what Jeremiah believed. His people could change their evil ways, their "spots" if they truly chose to do so. The prophet said to his people, "You can do good who are accustomed to do evil." (Jeremiah 13:23, NRSV)

Why be a missionary?

Cynthia Sundman, a missionary to a rural village in Peru, had this to say during a talk before a church group in Snohomish, Washington:

“I have struggled to learn Spanish, spent countless weeks sleeping on dirt floors surrounded by rats and bats. In an effort to assimilate into the Peruvian culture, I have had to like and eat tons of rice, fried guinea pigs and roasted ants.

“I get asked a lot about why I chose to be a missionary. I have only one answer, ‘God called me to serve there and so I must obey.’”

From her sermon, “Where Can I Serve You, Lord?”

The beauty of stewardship

Stewardship has to do with how we manage our time, talent, resources — basically our entire lives. It’s a beautiful concept when properly understood. Here are the basics of good stewardship:

God is the source of all creation, including our lives. God is the primary owner of all that exists.

We are blessed by being given the task of managing well all that we have influence over: our lives, our abilities, our minds and bodies, our time, our part of the earth, our finances, our children, our church buildings, our automobiles, etc.

Although we can make decisions regarding each of the above, ultimately we are responsible to God. Sooner or later, we must give an account of our management of God’s creation and of God’s gifts.

When we properly use the talents, resources and property that God allows us to manage, we find great joy. Think of planting a garden which soon overflows with colorful flowers, wonderful vegetables and flavorful herbs, etc. God gave us the plot of ground, God gave us the seed, God gave us the wisdom and strength to bring forth such beauty, such good things to see or eat, or smell. Yet we did the work, with God’s help, to make it a reality. Like Adam we tilled it and kept it. But God gave the increase. God’s provisions and our labor brought the garden to its fulfillment.

Good stewardship enables us to do something positive and wonderful with the money God has allowed us to have. What feels better than knowing one has managed money well? Our bank account, our checkbook and our portfolio tell the story. When money is handled well, we have enough for ourselves and are still able to give to God’s work. That is the beauty of stewardship.

Happy Birthday to all who were born in October!

Happy Anniversary to all who were married in October!

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Signs of joy

1. Eagerly greeting each new day as a generous gift from God.
 2. Frequent expressions of gratitude for the blessings and challenges which come throughout each day.
 3. Finding delight in everyday occurrences: things said by a small child, a cat playing with a ball of string, a dog trying to figure out what you're doing, a funny story in the newspaper, a joke told by a friend, etc.
 4. Discovering the taste of a familiar vegetable prepared in a new way.
 5. Visiting with a dear friend or family member instead of letting television create the dialogue or interrupt good fellowship.
 6. Eagerly looking forward to the next Sunday when you can join the family of God at worship.
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Get involved

A cartoon pictured a beggar on the streets of a big city. The beggar was holding a sign which read:

“Know the joy of giving without the slightest risk of involvement.” Sounds enticing, doesn't it? “Give money to a poor fellow like me,” implied the sign, “then go on your way with the warm satisfied feeling you get from giving without any involvement at all.”

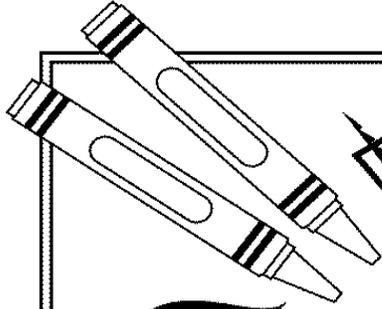
Think about it. There's nothing wrong with giving and moving on. But what if one did occasionally choose to become more involved? I think of a homeless man who came to our church for a shower. Some of our church members took time to get to know him, to hear his story, to befriend him and encourage him.

One day he told them that he was giving up his lifestyle. He said that he came from a family of means, but there had been an argument. He had walked away angry, without anything but the clothes he wore.

The friendship of the Christians, their acceptance and encouragement, made him want to be reconciled with his family, so he telephoned home. His father invited him back and even sent a plane ticket. He went home to be part of the family again. Sometimes involvement is as good as a monetary gift. Maybe better. **__Charles Ferrell**

Always needed

People are needed to serve as ministry leaders and members of new ministries. Become an active member of God's family here at the EWHBC. Start a ministry! Join a ministry!



PUZZLE

Friends in the Lord

Jesus offers a perfect example of friendship. What does he do for his friends?

Directions: Follow the clues to fill in the blanks. Then write the completed Bible verse below.

- Better than; rhymes with *crater*: _____
- Opposite of hate: _____
- Opposite of yes: _____
- Three minus two: _____
- Not _____ but that; rhymes with *hiss*: _____
- To place something down; rhymes with *say*: _____
- Opposite of up: _____
- Opposite of death: _____
- Best buds: _____

“ _____ has _____
 _____ than _____: to _____
 one’s _____ for one’s _____.”

JOHN 15:13, NIV

Answer: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13, NIV