

Visit Your House of Worship

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

By Jeff Nielsen, Minister, Norton Christian Church

Acts 4:8-13: Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Leaders and elders of our nation... Jesus... 'The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them."

The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men who had had no special training. **They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.**

Over the next several weeks, tens of millions of people around the world will go see the movie, *The Passion of The Christ*. This movie will offer believers a rare opportunity to share the grace of God based on the powerful demonstration of God's love demonstrated in Jesus' sacrificial death for us on the Cross—often called "The Passion." You may or may not be a part of a group making plans to share this powerful, but horribly difficult, demonstration of God's grace with others. If not, please prayerfully consider what you believe God is calling you to do at this rare moment in our times and find some way to be ready to communicate your hope in Jesus to others.

My bigger concern, however, is that we will fail to demonstrate Jesus' message in our lives as his Body—his physical presence in the world as the Church. One of the things that captured people's attention about the earliest followers of Jesus was their lifestyle—cowards were now courageous and sinners were now righteous, people could tell that knowing Jesus had truly changed them.

So much of what passes for modern Christianity is a lifestyle that is almost indistinguishable from the culture that surrounds it. Rather than being salt and light bringing light into darkness and righteousness into what is rotting with decay, we have been co-opted by the darkness and decay around us. We want Jesus to be our Savior, but we back away from him being our Lord. We make Jesus our buddy on Sunday, but our forgotten friend as we pursue lives out of step with his character the rest of the week.

Once we grasp what Jesus did in dying for our sins, we must be brought to a moment of watershed importance: are we going to follow him and let him be our Lord? Anything less is to rob "The Passion" of its transforming power. Early Christian leaders were known because people saw that being a follower of Jesus brought huge lifestyle changes. Can that same power be seen in us?

The Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk—or movie theater emotion—it is a matter of God's power transforming our lives to become like his Son who gave up everything to bring us life. Can we claim to passion for this Savior without letting his lordship be seen in our lives? Let's combine The Passion of The Christ with a passion to live for Christ before a watching world in need of a real, life-transforming Savior.

1 Corinthians 4:20, 2 Corinthians 3:18: For the Kingdom of God is not just fancy talk; it is living by God's power. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.

SUNDAY
2 John

MONDAY
3 John

TUESDAY
John 15:1-17

WEDNESDAY
Joel 2:1-17

THURSDAY
Psalm 48

FRIDAY
Psalm 52

SATURDAY
Psalm 63



At the Mercy of the Storm

*"G*oodness, the winds and rain are increasing by the moment. Oh no! There goes my old umbrella. I guess it couldn't make it through another gale. I shall be at the mercy of the storm unless I can find a shelter."

We all need a dependable shelter when the tragedies of life rain down upon us. Yet, like the pedestrian who didn't replace his battered umbrella with a stronger one, many of us wait until our situation is desperate, then scramble for shelter.

Don't wait until the pelting storms of life turn your spirit inside out. Come to know the love of the Creator of the universe. In Psalm 57:1, the psalmist proclaims, "In the shadow of Thy wings will I make my refuge." You can meet God in His sanctuary as you worship each week. He will shelter you from your fear of the storms in your life.

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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WILSONVILLE

By VELMA HOLTZE

The Cambridge United Methodist Men's Group held their annual February meal and dessert auction on Sunday noon. Kenneth Holtze served as their auctioneer.

Feb. 1, nine volunteers of the Wilsonville-Hendley Rural Fire Department attended the 12th annual mid-winter Fire School at Holdrege. These were classes for firefighter and EMS continuing education. Members attending were firefighters Brent Ballou, Nick Brown, Dave Denton, Dale Cramer, Richard Shaw and Mike Tracy. Ambulance personnel attending were Kathie Francis, Tim Lomax and Sharon Tillotson.

Women's Club

Janet Trosper and Carolyn Park hosted the Woman's Club on Feb. 9. President Mary Wilson presided during the evening opening with her Happiness thought. Devotions were given by Connie Holliday. She used several scriptures concerning love as well as thoughts along that line. The music followed the same theme and a song was sung to Nadeane Haag for her birthday. The March meeting will begin at 7 p.m. to allow more time to view and judge the arts.

I Help Others Tea Party

The Feb. 11 I Help Others meeting, hosted by Carla Holtze, became an afternoon tea party. Following the short business meeting Carla invited the women to show and tell about tea pots and tea sets. Carla shared information about different kinds of tea as well as all about the serving and hosting of tea parties. Much of this information had been given to her by Jean Bucholz (a sister of the late Norman Hosea) of Silver Springs, Maryland who is an avid "go-er" of many historical teas in the Washington, D.C. area.

Death

Beverly Ankenman of Kearney passed away on Friday at her home after a long hard fight with cancer. Beverly came to Wilsonville as a young school teacher in the late 50s. She married Don Ankenman Jr. and continued to make this her home for a number of years. It was here they raised their son, Glen and daughter, Jill. Several years ago they left the farm and moved to Kearney. Beverly was one who was very interested in education all of her life encouraging her students and those around her to take advantage of their opportunities and make the very most of them. Funeral services are being held in Kearney on Tuesday.

Royal Neighbors of America

Royal Neighbors of America Met Feb. 2 at the home of Marilyn Wolzen, Cambridge, for their regular meeting with six members and one visitor, Caryn Wehrheim, present. The next meeting will be the St. Patrick's Dinner March 1 at noon at the Cambridge Senior Center.

Ken and Carla Holtze, Dick and Joan McLaughlin and Velma Holtze enjoyed hamburgers in Lebanon Tuesday evening. Joe and Alice Kasson, Bob and Connie Holliday and Pat Yost were also there. En-route home all stopped at the Kenneth Holtze home where they enjoyed cake and ice cream to remind Kenneth of another birthday.

Arlene Rice conducted funeral services for Ray Wederski at the Beaver City Manor on Feb. 17. Many years ago the Wederski family worked for Dale and Helen Stevenson southeast of Wilsonville for eighteen years.

Janene Holtze and her parents, Jim and Becky Holtze spent Thursday at Beatrice looking at Southeast College. They visited a little bit while there with Gordon Haag, one of the teachers at the College. He is the son of Charles and Nadeane Haag. On Friday they toured the Peru College Campus. They were Thursday overnight guests of Becky's sister, Sherrill and Jim Hayes in Lincoln.

A few local people followed the wrestlers to the state competition

on Friday and Saturday. This included Connie Wilson who always makes this an annual trek with Erma Johnson of Bridgeport Mr. Johnson, a former teacher at Beaver Valley is the wrestling coach at Bridgeport.

Dick and Joan McLaughlin spent the weekend in Denver making the acquaintance of a new grandson.

Darrell and Eula Brown of Beaver City, Dean and Margaret Brown and Margene Holtze were Sunday dinner guests in the home of Velma Holtze.

Justin Rice, son of Lonnie Rice of Grand Island who is in Australia studying with a group of medical students was injured this past week in a surfboard accident. He suffered some broken bones, including his neck. Justin is a nephew of Kendall and Warren Rice.

Beaver Valley Pickers with band members Danny and Mary Alice Cook, Connie Holliday, Delbert Laws and Mary Wilson played the Beaver City Manor on Saturday.

Library News

New Librarian Connie Holliday has added many new books in the last few weeks to the Library. Ms. Holliday donated many wonderful cookbooks. Winter hours for the library will be Monday, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.; and Friday mornings 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

This past week Laurie Laws met Connie Holliday at the McCook Public Library to help Connie pick out the McCook Large Print books.

Shower for the Snyders

Doug and Katy (Knutson) Snyder were honored at a shower in the Baptist-Christian Church on Feb. 15. Virginia Rice had charge of a fun game. Preceding the opening of the gifts Margene Holtze gave a short devotional on "Building a Happy Home". The Martha committee chaired by Margaret Ruf and Janet Trosper had charge of the refreshments. Kathy Lewis used the theme "Heavenly Blessings" for the decorations. Approximately 10 persons enjoyed the evening.

Baptist-Christian Women

Nine members and one guest were present for the Feb. 12 Baptist-Christian Women Fellowship at the church. President Avis Wolfe opened the business meeting with the thought, "Take time to take time as there may not be another time". Correspondence was read which included a thank you from the Gill family and a letter and thank you from the New Life Bible Church in Keems Canyon. Announcements concerning World Day of Prayer at Danbury on March 5, the Retreat at Lexington March 19 and 20 with the theme "Feasting on the Truths". The Wednesday Bible Study was also mentioned, inviting everyone to participate.

Arlene Rice will be speaking on her foreign ministry work at the March 4 meeting. Virginia Rice served a delicious lunch from a beautiful valentine decorated table to climax the afternoon.

United Methodist Women

Valentine plates were fixed for the elderly at the United Methodist Women's meeting on Feb. 19. They were delivered by members to several nursing homes after the regular meeting. Vice President Nadeane Haag opened the meeting with prayer and all repeating the "Purpose". A thank you letter was read from Epworth Village for the Christmas gift. Lelia Lang gave a spiritual Growth report and Nadeane gave a missionary minute from the Prayer Calendar. The World Day of Prayer will be held at Danbury on March 5.

Lelia gave the lesson "Health in a Changing World". Everyone presented their pledges at the altar during the Call to Worship emphasizing self-denial. The meeting was concluded with hostess Adeline Ballou serving a strawberry dessert.

ALMENA NEWS

By ESTHER MARBLE

Don and Carrie Malcolm visited Mabel Malcolm at the Norton County Hospital last Tuesday afternoon.

Alice Kuiper went to Manhattan with the Porters on Valentine's

weekend. They all enjoyed the visit with Stuart and Angie and little Jacob. They returned home Sunday.

Reva Smith called on Carrie Malcolm Monday afternoon.