

the View from the Pew

Vol. 19, Issue 2
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For the people of Waleska United Methodist Church
A family of faith that worships God, grows in faith, and serves humanity

What About Love?

When my wife, Laura and I were dating there was a short portion of scripture that became the theme of our relationship with God and each other. That short sentence is found in 1 Corinthians 13:8 and simply says, “Love never fails.” We probably didn’t realize in those college years how important this scripture would be throughout our lives because we were young and hooked on a loving feeling. However, there have been ups and downs, triumphs and disappointments, and feelings in between during our marriage. I can remember times of happiness and excitement when we could look at each other and say, “See, love never fails.” I can also remember times with tears in our eyes and frustration in our hearts when we said to each other, “But love never fails.”

This short verse of scripture is placed right in the middle of 1 Corinthians 13 as many Christians have come to call this the “love chapter.” The Apostle Paul addresses the church in Corinth by telling them that you can do so many good things and yet it will all amount to nothing if you do not have love. Paul also says in verses 4 and 5, “Love is patient and kind. It does not envy, boast, and is not proud. It is not rude, self-seeking, or easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs.” Wow! Have I lived up to this in my marriage? What about in my relationship with Christ or my relationships with others? I could make some pretty good excuses here and there, but my memory tells me that I have not always lived this out. In fact, I have down right messed this up some times.

How am I to keep this kind of love that Paul talks about burning in my life? What about you too? We need to acknowledge that this kind of love is unconditional love that first comes from God to us. We cannot pass on God’s

unconditional love until we first receive it for ourselves from God. The greatest picture of God’s unconditional love is given to us in the person of God’s son, Jesus Christ. Jesus lived, died, and was raised from death to demonstrate God’s love for us. The price he paid for us is the gift of eternal life to us. Receiving the gift of Christ frees us to love and be loved. As we experience and give God’s love we can keep growing through study of God’s Word, prayer, and worship. As you grow you will realize that your capacity to love and serve will keep getting bigger because you are so grateful for what God has done.

The Pastor’s Message

Sure, Laura and I have had joys and challenges in our marriage. At times we have been reminded of this verse through the joys and at other times we have been driven back to this verse through the challenges. The truth is that God’s love is bigger than what we have done or left undone. Maybe that’s why the Apostle Paul follows these comments on love with verse 13 that says, “And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.” I hope you will let your love come to you from God so you can give the right kind of love to others.

Be Blessed,

Pastor Sam

Love As A Verb

Don’t you just love Valentine’s Day, the chocolate hearts, the flowers, the cards, and the expressions of love from one to another? Do you know that Valentines cards outnumber all other cards bought for special occasions and holidays? And that teachers receive more than anyone else, more than Mothers or sweethearts? It is a time when we can openly demonstrate our love for others and tell them how much they mean to us. That means that our love (a noun) that we take for granted so much of the time becomes an act of loving (a verb), a thing we do.

Do you know someone whom everyone just naturally seems to love? People gravitate to them and immediately feel close to them. I have known several people like that in my life, my mother being one. I have watched these people and tried to pinpoint what it is exactly that makes them so lovable. I think it is because they are love-able; they are able to not only love others unconditionally and openly but they also receive love in the same way. They are so busy loving others that they are often surprised at how much others love them. To them, loving is a natural response to others.

And one of the natural responses is to demonstrate that love, to love actively (as a verb). We demonstrate our love for another by being sensitive to that person, listening to that person, cultivating a relationship with that person.

Where does this love come from? We know nothing of love except from God. GOD IS LOVE! And His is an active love; He made us as an expression of His love to have a relationship with Him. He woos and pursues us in that relationship and every time we stray from that relationship He intervenes. In the Old Testament He sent prophets and leaders and kings to bring us back into that relationship again and finally in the New Testament He sent the most powerful expression yet of His Love – His very Son. It is an amazing love, an active love, an unconditional love in that “God demonstrates His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” *Romans 5:8*

Jesus said that our most important responsibility in life is to: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” *Mark 12:30* The second most important is to “Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.” *Mark 12:31*

That about says it all! So now, just go out and DO it!

Happy Valentine’s Day

—Carolyn Burkholder

Building Better Marriages **Music in Your Marriage**

We have always been conscious of music in our relationship. We danced to the jukebox in the Union at Alma College; we still dance whenever we get the opportunity. So what is music in marriage? Some songs speak to us through the years. "Cherish is the word I use to describe...all the feelings that I have growing here for you inside." "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine." "Wouldn't it be nice if we were older, and we didn't have to go to school? We could be married, and then we'd be happy." Musical elements can be related to marriage. **Melody** equals regular day to day life – daily sharing times, planning meals, making a home. **Harmony** equals communication, new learnings, shared experiences, and conflicts resolved. **Percussion** equals heat and anger, as well as play, laughter, and excitement. **Mood Music** equals sexuality. **Triplets and grace notes** equal surprises. Don't forget **Rhythm**: "You gotta like Rock and Roll music, if you want to dance with me"—Why?? Because "it's gotta back beat you can't lose it, any ole way you choose it. You gotta like Rock and Roll music, if you want to dance with me." That **Back Beat** is commitment, that bass (base) line underneath that holds us up and keeps us going.

In *Fighting for Your Marriage*, Markman, Stanley, and Blumberg report longitudinal research with couples. Their studies confirm that communication styles and handling of conflict are the best predictors of success in marriage as defined by stability versus divorce. Couples reporting high levels of marital satisfaction also showed high levels of commitment. Stanley differentiated between constraint commitment, like obligations, and personal dedication commitment. Dedication commitment equals desiring the marriage for the long-term and being willing to grow that relationship. Dedication commitment can be intentionally enhanced. We can turn up the volume on our **Back Beat**.

What do you think you could do as an individual and as a couple to grow dedication commitment for your relationship? This may include talking about your relationship, remembering what you used to have, deciding to work together, and doing some of the things you used to do. Talk it over with your partner *knee to knee*.

Knee to knee means stopping and making time and giving undivided attention to one another. Think "*knee to knee, eye to eye, hand to hand, and heart to heart.*"

(Eddie and Sylvia Robertson are a Certified Leader Couple with Better Marriages)
www.bettermarriages.org

Geoff Smith Honored for His Volunteer Services

(Excerpts for this writing were taken from the October 31, 2009 edition of the Cherokee Tribune)

Members of the WUMC congregation should not be surprised at the recent (well, fairly recent) honor received by Geoff Smith.

Geoff was recognized as the Cherokee Families of Cherokee United in Service Volunteer of the Month last October. He was recognized for his volunteer work at the Falany Performing Arts Center.

He had been a volunteer usher at the center for about three years when center Director Ric Sanchez's assistant left. Because of the economy the position was not filled.

Geoff asked if he could help out and now coordinates the ushers and ticket takers (all volunteers themselves) and is in charge of printing and mailing tickets

for events. He also helps out by changing the marquee sign and setting up the stage for performances.

"He's invaluable," Sanchez said. "Without volunteers I'd be sunk."

Geoff doesn't just volunteer at the center. He has been chairman of the Trustees of WUMC for seven years and sings in the choir. Last summer he came early in the morning to unlock the church for those who were preparing lunches for the MUST summer program for needy children. If an extra driver was needed, he volunteered.

"If I have an interest in something, I end up more deeply involved," says Geoff. "I like to keep busy. I don't like sitting around very much." He adds that he can spend as many as 3 hours each day volunteering at the center.

Geoff, we are very proud that you and Mary Jo are members of the WUMC.
(Editors note: This article should have been run much earlier. My apologies, Geoff.)

Sunday Servants for February



Ushers

- 7th Chuck & Stacy Knight
- 14th Mark & Lee Lamb
- 21st Eddie & Sylvia Robertson
- 28th Bruce & Martha Ayer



Coffee in the Corner

- 7th Tom & Brandi Grogan
- 14th Chris & Heather Robinson
- 21st Roger & Barb Hauge
- 28th Joan Poole & Ann Cagle

Member's Special Moments



February Birthdays

- 4th Rick Whiteside
- 12th Bob Countryman
- 13th Mary Jo Smith
- 15th Jane Conder
- 16th Linda Chunn
- 17th Jane Catt
DeDe Reilly
- 20th Bob Burkholder
Jackie Cissa
Bob Wickwire
- 25th Marian Wickwire
- 26th Emily Countryman
- 27th Barbara Wehunt
- 29th Alan Allen



February Anniversaries

- 1st Rod & Norma Patton
- 3rd Joe & Harriet Love
Dusty & Ursula Rhodes
- 6th David & Ruth Burgess
- 10th Bruce & Martha Ayer
- 15th Donnie & Mary Helen Lamb
Michael & Cindy Sutton
- 16th Jim & Joan Poole
- 21st Tom & Bettye Jo Isherwood

Member Spotlight



The purpose of this feature of The View is to help members get to know each other better. So, let's meet



Ed and Linda Stickler

It seems like traveling is in their blood even after 37 years of travel while Ed was in the U.S. Air Force. The Sticklers are hoping to get on the road (or in the air) again after taking 1 1/2 years to get settled in Soleil at Laurel Canyon and sell their home in Cobb Co. They originally took a trip to Laurel Canyon to get some ideas on remodeling their home in Cobb County but just fell in love with the area and moved there.

Linda grew up in Marietta and got her master's degree at Georgia State University becoming an accountant. She was working at Dobbins Air Force Base 30 years ago when she met Ed who was stationed at the base. They fell in love and were married. She was able to teach in many two and four-year colleges as they were transferred around the country. One of the schools was McKendree University, a Methodist school in Lebanon, Ill.

Ed lived a lot of people's dreams – he grew up in Hawaii where his father was self-employed. From there he attended the Air Force Academy in Colo. and became a pilot, making the Air Force his career, ending with the Air Force Reserves.

Ed and Linda have two daughters who, along with 3 of the grandchildren, ages 4, 6, and 16, live close by in Acworth and Marietta. Their 20-year-old grandson is in the Army and currently

stationed at Ft. Campbell, Ky. He will be deployed to Afghanistan in April.

Their travels have included not only the U.S., but also three trips to Europe with their grandchildren. Next, they hope to get back out west to see old friends there. In addition to their travels, Linda likes to read and Ed is a member of the Laurel Canyon Softball Team. The past two seasons his team has won the County championship in the Cherokee County Sr. Softball Association. They both enjoy some tennis.

The Waleska UMC has been their church home for a year. They began coming here because many of their new friends at Soleil came. They like the small size of the friendly congregation and how easy it is to get to know people. It was quite a change for them coming from Mt. Bethel in Marietta where the membership had grown from 700 to about 7,000. They are beginning to get involved in the church family this year, as Ed is a member of the Staff/Parish Relations Committee and Linda takes part in the new Bible Study on "Jesus, The One and Only".

We welcome them into our community and church family.

*Ed and Linda Stickler
448 Larkspur Dr
Canton, Ga. 30114
770-542-9747*

Book Notes

Have you read a good book lately? Please write a review and share with us.

Very Valentine

by Adriana Trigiani

Review by Amy McGee

As I finished *Very Valentine*, the eighth and most recent novel by Adriana Trigiani, I had to give a deep sigh of longing. Through her vivid words and loving description, the author awakened in me a heartfelt need I'd never known I had, a craving I'd never considered before. My very soul ached for that which it could never possess.

I simply had to go out and find a really, truly amazing pair of shoes.

Very Valentine is the story of Valentine Roncalli, the 33-year-old daughter of a loving but tumultuous Italian-American family living in New York City. Of her generation, she alone has chosen to join her grandmother in the

family business, the Angelini Shoe Company. As her grandmother's apprentice, Valentine learns the centuries-old craft of making shoes by hand, creating one-of-a-kind wedding shoes based on her grandfather's original designs.

I wasn't kidding about the desire for those shoes. While my previous experience with Trigiani had been with her Big Stone Gap series, here she makes Valentine's New York every bit as vivid, if not more so, than the small-town Appalachian setting of Gap. I thought I could almost hear the traffic, smell the leather and wood of the shoe shop, taste the delicate flavors of the truffle pasta Valentine's beau, the dashing chef Roman Falconi, prepares in his restaurant. Trigiani lavishes loving detail here, detailing the craftsmanship of the extraordinary shoes and the artistry of Roman's cooking. The beauty of her own craft is its transparency: she manages to transport the reader into Valentine's world without overburdening the narrative with the description. She knows which details will evoke the best response, but she lets the story flow.

And the story is light enough for a beach read, but no less enchanting for that. Valentine struggles to find a way to keep Angelini Shoes financially afloat in the 21st century without betraying the company's old-world values, clashing with those who urge her grandmother to sell out. She takes it upon herself to protect what her family has built, as she worries about her own future, both economic and romantic. Accompanying her grandmother on a buying trip to Italy, Valentine uncovers a family secret and finally discovers her own true artistic voice. The resolution doesn't necessarily tie all loose ends into a tidy bow like the ribbon on a pair of Angelini wedding sandals, but there is a strong sense that our protagonist is going to meet the changes in her life on her own terms, with her best foot forward, so to speak.

I recommend *Very Valentine* to any woman looking to escape for a few hours into a very fine book. My only regret is—alas—those wonderful shoes aren't included.

"Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair."

G.K Chesterson

Notes, Notes and More Notes

The Sweetheart Dinner will be held on Saturday, Feb.20, 5:30pm in the Hoke O'Kelley Auditorium, Burgess Administration Bldg., at Reinhardt College.

Honor your sweethearts, wives, daughters, and friends. Join with the United Methodist Men in honoring the WUMC Sweetheart of the Year.

Candidates for this honor in 2010 are Carolyn Burkholder, Danna Pendleton and Pat Summers.

Vote with ballots in the church, or contact Eddie Robertson at 770-479-8575 or Steve McCay at 678-493-7422.

Reservation forms for this catered dinner will be in church bulletins.

The Evening Circle of the United Methodist Women will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 2 at Heather Robinson's home. Call 770-479-2243 for directions. Call Sylvia Robertson at 770-479-8575 to carpool from Waleska. All women and daughters of the congregation are welcome.

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The Rev. Sam Hamby
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Dennis Waldrep
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DeDe Reilly
Director of Family Ministries


Ashley Peterson
Director of Youth Ministry

Dan Burkholder
Editor
danburk@windstream.net

Church hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-noon
Sunday School, 9:30 each Sunday
Worship, 10:30 each Sunday
Nursery provided

5 Love Languages adult class introduction will follow the Family Night Supper on Wednesday evening, February 10th from 6:45-8pm. For more information contact Dr. Eddie and/or Sylvia Robertson.

"Who Stole My Church?" adult drop-in book study will resume on Wednesday nights beginning February 24th, from 6:45-8pm, following the Family Night Supper.

Pastor Sam  will be away over the February 14th weekend. At his request, Carolyn Burkholder, a member of our congregation, will deliver the sermon.

Ladies Bible Study of Beth Moore's "Jesus, The One and Only" will be offered on Mondays from 7-9pm and Tuesdays from 1-3pm beginning the week of February 15th. Invite your friends and neighbors. The more the merrier. For more information and to register please email DeDe at dbr@reinhardt.edu.

The Book Club will meet Thursday, February 4th at 6:30pm at the Gordy Center. "The Graveyard Book" by Neal Gaiman and "South of Broad" by Pat Conroy will be discussed.

We are asking each member of the congregation to take home a rice bowl and fill it with your change during February. This will go towards feeding hungry children, particularly in Haiti.

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Waleska United Methodist Church
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Waleska, GA 30183



Please Put on Your Calendar for February

- 2 Day Circle at 10am at the home of Margaret Jackson, 8951 Fincher Rd (HWay 108). Call Margaret at 770-479-4158 for more information
- 2 Evening Circle at 7pm (see notes)
- 4 Book Club at 6:30pm at the Gordy
- 7 Methodist Men's breakfast at 8am
- 8 MOPS at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall Childcare provided. Call Laura Hamby at 770-479-4140 for info.
- 10 First Family Night Supper at 5:45pm Club 456 at 6:45pm
- 5 Love Languages adult class at 6:45pm (see notes)
- 11 Juliet's meet for lunch. Call Martha Ayer at 770-479-6303 for more information
- 15 Ladies Bible Study of Beth Moore's "Jesus, the One and Only" begins from 7-9pm
- 16 Ladies Bible Study begins from 1-3pm
- 17 Romeo's meet for lunch. Call Bruce Ayer at 770-479-6303 for more information
- 17 Ash Wednesday Service. Time to be announced
- 20 Sweetheart Dinner at 5:30pm (see notes)
- 21 VBS Leadership Training at 4:30pm
- 21 Trustees meet at 5pm
- 21 Administrative Council at 6pm
- 22 MOPS meets at 9:30am
- 22 Beth Moore Bible Study from 7-9pm
- 23 Beth Moore Bible Study from 1-3pm
- 24 Family Night Supper at 5:45pm Club 456 and other classes begin from 6:45-8pm or later (see notes)

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