

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following couples on their anniversaries:

Buddy & Leah Dowd – February 9<sup>th</sup>  
Joe & Joyce Carter – February 14<sup>th</sup>  
Ronda & Gerry Walker – February 16<sup>th</sup>  
Curtis & Carla Citarelli – February 22<sup>nd</sup>

## ANGEL FOOD

Ordering information for the Angel Food program - The order deadline for Manhollow Missionary Baptist Church & Isle of Topsail is February 12th. The order deadline for Topsail Baptist is February 10th. February's menu is posted on the bulletin board located in the Sunday School hallway. Please note that you can place your order on-line & pay with a debit or credit card. Also, the Angel Food program accepts food stamps.

## ABOUT LOVE...

*1 Corinthians 13:5 ...it (love) is not self-seeking... (NIV)*

In love, we lose ourselves. In Christ, our self does not exist. In love, we seek to give rather than get. In love, we seek to give, rather than receive. In love, we seek to serve rather than be served. All the people you know need love and need to see love expressed in you as unselfishness. In a world dominated by greed and selfishness, love finds a way to complete tasks and get jobs done more efficiently. In every moment we can seek God in love or seek self. In your life, the more you look out for the interests of others, the more successful you will be. The more you care about others, the more others will follow your lead and follow the example you set for them. In daily life, seek out the best in others and you will find the best in yourself without trying.

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## PHONE TREE

Some of you have had concerns with the Phone Tree system. The company was called and based on our set-up; they do not see why problems have occurred. We will continue to try to work out any issues as they occur. You may find the following information helpful in learning more about the system:



If you have caller id on your phone, the number that will appear is 270-2528. This phone number is for outgoing phone tree calls only. A phone is not hooked up to this number.



You must say hello (or a similar greeting) in order for the computer to know when to play the message.



When receiving a Phone Tree call, please note that you can press the star key (\*) to repeat the message.



Loud noises, such as dogs barking, loud televisions, babies crying, etc. will stop the message from playing.



You will hear a chime that says "Phone Tree" prior to the actual message playing. This is a requirement for the system to assure proper answering machine detection.



Some may find it easier to allow their answering machine to pick up phone tree calls.

Phone Tree suggested that the next time we place a phone tree call, to have those who have trouble receiving the message to call the church. So, the next time we place a call, please call the church at 270-2576 and leave a message explaining the problem. We will then do a test call to those individuals to see if we can work out any issues. Thank you for your patience.

## *ECHOES FROM BLAKE'S CHAPEL FEBRUARY 2010*



### **Psalms 51:10 (NIV)**

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

There is nothing like a fresh start when things aren't going well. But who can purify the heart? Well, David knew that there was only one who could do that.

There is no amount of work that you can do to remove sin in your life (make you pure). You can't reason it away, wish it away, bargain it away or purchase it. But it can be removed.

It is important to know that remorse and repentance is not the same thing. It is good to be sorry for our sins. However, being sorry does not remove our sin. It is a great first step in the right direction. Repentance goes a step further than remorse. Repentance acknowledges that I need to turn from my sin. That's a great second step. The actual act of removal of sin is that we allow God to perform heart surgery on us. It is He and He alone who can remove sin from my life.

But why would God want to remove sin in my life? There is one profound and yet very simple answer – because God loves you. Sin is what separates us from God so God removes it from us.

There is one more question that you might have and that is – How does God accomplish this? Space prohibits a lengthy answer, but here is the short answer: **John 3:16 (NIV)** <sup>16c</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

*Pastor Steve*

## GETTING TO KNOW...

### *The Women's Home & Foreign Missions Society* by Leah Dowd

On July 31, 1897, in Friendship, Maine, the WH&FM Society was organized. Acting on a vision and a promise made at a meeting of universalistic women from all denominations, Mrs. Sarah K. Taylor organized the first WH&FM. It consisted of four women and two men. The women became the first active members and the men the first honorary members. The society grew rapidly and after the first year, there were about 300 members from fifteen states and three Canadian provinces. The membership grew to 638 by 1899. To be more united it went from having individual memberships to local societies in the churches and communities. Later, in order to become more unified, Conferences and Regional organizations were formed within the General Conference of the denomination.

The object of the WH&FM Society as given in its by-laws is "to engage and unite the efforts of the Christian women of the Advent Christian Denomination in sending the Gospel of the Kingdom throughout the world, the deepening of the spiritual life among believers in Christ and by organization to render more efficient work of the women of our churches."

The first major project of the WH&FM was supporting a school in India. In 1901, two missionaries were sent to India by this ladies society to oversee the work. Thus, the first Advent Christian Church was organized in Guindy, India. The work in India was totally supported by the WH&FM for many years. In these years, orphanages, schools, nursing homes and churches were built. The work in Guindy, India continues today under the Advent Christian World Missions.

The WH&FM Society has worked here at Blake's Chapel for decades. The present day WH&FM Society meets the first Thursday of the month with the exception of July and August. Out meetings consist of a devotional, prayer time, business, refreshments and fellowship with sisters in Christ.

Below is a list of various activities in which the WH&FM is or has been involved:

- Penny Crusade
- Christmas in October
- Relay for Life
- Safe Haven-Pender Co. Battered Women's Shelter
- Pender East Ministerial Association
- Bibles for Servicemen
- "Baby Kits" for Honduras
- Meals for Hospice Care Center
- Gifts for nursing home residents
- Cards & gifts for shut-ins
- Meals for the bereaved
- Bridal and baby showers
- Published Glory Be! by Pastor Buddy Dowd
- "Pounding" for the parsonage
- Chrismon Tree
- Fundraisers-Yard Sales, Bake Sales, Flavoring, Cookbooks, Wreaths, Raffles, Auctions, etc.

ALL WOMEN of the church are invited to join us on the first Thursday of every month (except July & August) at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- ♥ February 10<sup>th</sup> – Youth Fellowship to serve supper
- ♥ February 17<sup>th</sup> – Lunch for Hospice
- ♥ February 17<sup>th</sup> – Men's Fellowship to serve supper
- ♥ February 20<sup>th</sup> – Mary Kay Party for Relay for Life
- ♥ February 20<sup>th</sup> – Children's Outing
- ♥ February 21<sup>st</sup> – Worship Service at Woodbury

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## CHILDREN'S OUTINGS

Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, a children's outing has been planned. The van will leave the church at 12:30 p.m. The children will be visiting the Fort Fisher Aquarium.

Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, a children's outing has been planned. The van will leave right after church. The children will have lunch and visit the Children's Museum in Wilmington.

Tentative plans have been made as follows:

- April – Circus
- May – Kid's Walk @ Relay for Life
- June – Monkey Joe's
- July – Bowling
- August – Craft Day @ church
- September – Fort Macon
- October – Corn Maze
- November – Movie
- December – Wilmington's Christmas Parade

## BIBLES FOR TEENS

Cindy Justice from Hampstead Baptist Church heads up the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) at Topsail Middle School. She has been allowed many privileges in working with this group after school that is uncommon this day and time. She is desperately trying to raise money to purchase 100 bibles to be given out at FCA's February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Five dollars is needed to purchase each bible. If you would like to donate to this cause, please place your donation in an envelope and mark the envelope FCA. Shannon will collect the donations and take them to Mrs. Justice. Your help will be greatly appreciated and will go a long way in helping her continue to spread the love of God to these teenagers that need to hear His Word.

If you have ideas, suggestions or articles for the next newsletter, please give them to Shannon Sessions.

The next newsletter will be available March 7, 2010