

# "The Link"

BETWEEN YOUR CHURCH... AND HOME!



A CHURCH FAMILY DISCOVERING  
"NEW BEGINNINGS"

Volume XXIII

February 2015

Issue 2



## St. Valentine's Story

Let me introduce myself. My name is Valentine. I lived in Rome during the third century. That was long, long ago! At that time, Rome was ruled by an emperor named Claudius. I didn't like Emperor Claudius, and I wasn't the only one! A lot of people shared my feelings.

Claudius wanted to have a big army. He expected men to volunteer to join. Many men just did not want to fight in wars. They did not want to leave their wives and families. As you might have guessed, not many men signed up. This made Claudius furious. So what happened? He had a crazy idea. He thought that if men were not married, they would not mind joining the army. So Claudius decided not to allow any more marriages. Young people thought his new law was cruel. I thought it was preposterous! I certainly wasn't going to support that law!

Did I mention that I was a priest? One of my favorite activities was to marry couples. Even after Emperor Claudius passed his law, I kept on performing marriage ceremonies -- secretly, of course. It was really quite exciting. Imagine a small candlelit room with only the bride and groom and myself. We would whisper the words of the ceremony, listening all the while for the steps of soldiers.

One night, we did hear footsteps. It was scary! Thank goodness the couple I was marrying escaped in time. I was caught. (Not quite as light on my feet as I used to be, I guess.) I was thrown in jail and told that my punishment was death.

I tried to stay cheerful. And do you know what? Wonderful things happened. Many young people came to the jail to visit me. They threw flowers and notes up to my window. They wanted me to know that they, too, believed in love.

One of these young people was the daughter of the prison guard. Her father allowed her to visit me in the cell. Sometimes we would sit and talk for hours. She helped me to keep my spirits up. She agreed that I did the right thing by ignoring the Emperor and going ahead with the secret marriages. On the day I was to die, I left my friend a little note thanking her for her friendship and loyalty. I signed it, "Love from your Valentine."

I believe that note started the custom of exchanging love messages on Valentine's Day. It was written on the day I died, February 14, 269 A.D. Now, every year on this day, people remember. But most importantly, they think about love and friendship. And when they think of Emperor Claudius, they remember how he tried to stand in the way of love, and they laugh -- because they know that love can't be beaten!



# Bible Wordsearch

## John the Baptist

Wordsearch 233

Matt.2:17-3:4

E W E E P I N G O T R E S E D  
L G O R N E R D L I H C S R D  
N R Y T H T E H O J L D T I T  
G A S P O K E N R O I O R A S  
L C Z W T A W H D H V R A H I  
O H N A V A A P P N E E I A A  
C E O E R I R R E O D H G I W  
U L N N A E Y D E C R N H M M  
S W E S P E T E H P I P T E O  
T D I A N S I H E N E O O R D  
S S R O I A V S G L H N V E G  
R E H T A E L I R B I A T J N  
E S P J O S E P H A E L M M I  
P A T H S R E A N G E L A A K  
B D R E A M A E D U J L T G R

ANGEL BAPTIST  
BELT CHILDREN  
EGYPT DESERT  
HAIR DREAM  
HEROD GALILEE  
HONEY HEAVEN  
ISAIAH JEREMIAH  
ISRAEL JOSEPH  
JOHN KINGDOM  
JUDEA LEATHER  
LIVED LOCUSTS  
LORD NAZARETH  
PATHS PREPARE  
RACHEL PROPHET  
RAMAH REIGNING  
REPENT SPOKEN  
TOWN STRAIGHT  
VOICE WARNED  
WAIST WEEPING

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

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MORE PUZZLES AT:

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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\* A JAR OF \*

## Love and Appreciation



*Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.*

### What you need:

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

### What you do:

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!

### Pastor Search Committee Established

Our Pastor Search Committee (PSC) has been established with the following officers & members:

Grover Carter, Chairman  
Ricky Foutz, Vice-Chairman  
Bob Boyd, Secretary  
Randy Board  
Linda Hill  
Tom Evans, Alternate  
Pam Woolems, Alternate

The PSC participated in an introductory training session conducted by Rev. Shawn Ames, a Regional Missionary from Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV), on Sunday, January 11, 2015. The session was very informative and helpful and the PSC expects to call on them more as the process goes forward.

This transitional phase is an exciting and challenging period for our church. We will be communicating frequently with the congregation and ask for your ideas and suggestions. More importantly, we ask for your prayers for the PSC and our church in general for we know that this is God's call and we must draw close to Him that His will be done.



# Birthdays

- February 1st- Debbie Board
- February 2nd- Nilah Leland  
Shannon Kagarise
- February 3rd- Diane Pole
- February 4th- Tonya Hodges
- February 5th- Elise Board
- February 7th- Chris Campbell
- February 11th -Haley Hodges
- February 13th- Shirley Carter  
Bonnie Lyle
- February 14th- Kaitlyn Board
- February 25th- Myrtle Ellis

## ? Bible Quiz?

What did Jesus say his earthly mission was all about? Choose the correct answer form the list below.

- A. Doing His own will
- B. Doing God's will
- C. Doing the will of the people
- D. All of the above

Answer above the calendar



## Church Members

- James Board
- Myrtle Ellis
- Board Family
- Jim Brown
- Lucille Caniff
- Linda Ferrando
- Jim Hartberger
- Faye & Collins Leftwich
- Reva Meade
- Agnes McPherson
- Jack & Edna Powers
- Geraldine StClair
- Jack Wheeler
- Jimmy & Jerri Wheeler
- Ken & Arlene Wheeler
- Sherman Wheeler
- Pam Woolems
- Unspoken

**There will be an important meeting on Sunday night, February 8th, at 6:30 pm,** to allow the church to give the Pastors Search Committee input on how you would like to proceed during the time between our Pastor's retirement and the call of a new pastor. You will also be given an opportunity to offer further guidance you may have to assist your Pastors Search committee in finding God's servant for Shady Grove. Please make plans to attend and above all Pray!



Campbell.

"They joined the Fruit-of-the-Month Club, and everything was fine 'til they got to apple."

## A Note from the secretary:

If your birthday isn't listed, please let me know, if it doesn't show up, I don't have it, and if you have anything that you would like to announce in the newsletter please let me know, thanks!!

**Love In Christ**  
 On Valentine's Day,  
 I think of my Christian brothers and sisters  
 with love...  
 hoping to help,  
 hoping to encourage.  
 hoping to serve,  
 as Jesus commanded.  
 I want you to know  
 that I am thinking of you,  
 and I want you to call on me  
 for help, encouragement and service  
 whenever you need me.  
 On Valentine's Day,  
 I send my love in Christ.