

Sunrise Christian Church

January 2018 Family Newsletter

L3- Love, Learn, Lead

Great is our Lord's love for us



(A child making a snow angel)

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;

wash me, and I will be whiter than snow- Psalms 51:7.

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Students at Oregon State College (now University) enjoying a snowball fight (about 1939)

2018- The Year of Service



A church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of its most valued members, Someone Else.

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with them for many years and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list, "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results; "Someone Else can work with that group."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in the church. So whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person; sometimes even appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! And they wonder what they're going to do now.

Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who's going to follow it? Who's going to do the things Someone Else did?

Thus, when you're asked to help this year, just remember -- we can no longer depend on Someone Else.



Did you know that you and I were created by God for service?

Listen to what Jesus has to say about this: *"You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be a slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve"* - **Mark 10:42-45.**

The apostle Peter put it this way: *"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another"* - **I Peter 4:10.**

What he was speaking about is that upon becoming a Christian each person is given a special gift from God to be used for the building up the body of Christ (see I Corinthians 12:4-7).

This means you, and it means me. Each one of us has a special gift meant to be used in serving one another. This means that no one is too young or too old, too rich or too poor, too smart or not smart enough not to be able to serve! Each one of us is important in the body of Christ; necessary and essential, actually!

What do you believe?

I've been told that I'm a little scary. What I think they mean is that I'm steadfast in what I believe. And I am! But I hope this does not come across as that I don't care or willing to listen.

Personally, in a world that shifts its values as if with the wind, I think someone who is sure of what they believe is refreshing. Too many people are looking for answers yet only finding personal opinions. We all need to stand on something more secure than personal thoughts and opinions.

God's word is that sure foundation. So sure that Jesus would compare it to a person building a house on a rock rather than on sand. That those who built on the word of the Lord could weather any storm of life, while those who don't would be swept away by them.

And I've been in ministry long enough to see that this is true.

Psalms 56:11 says this: "***In God I trust and am not afraid.***"

So, what do you face- family problems, finances, health concerns, something else? Christ can see you through it. Simply stand on His word, doing what it says.

Think that I'm making light of your problems? I'm not. Let me give you an example: Horatio Spafford- best known for the hymn he wrote, *It Is Well With My Soul*. But do you know the story behind it?

Talk about dealing with difficulties, he and his wife's lost their two year-old son to death. Shortly afterwards The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 left him financially broke. Two years later

he planned a trip to Europe with his family, but at the last minute had to stay behind in order to attend some urgent business. The ship his wife and four daughters were on sank after striking another ship in mid-ocean. His wife was rescued, sending him a telegram saying, "Saved alone." Unfortunately their four daughters drown. Quickly, he took another ship to Europe in order to be with his wife. And while crossing the ocean near the spot of his daughters' tragic death he wrote the hymn.

Listen, now, to this line from his hymn: "***When sorrow like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to know it is well with my soul.***"

How did building on the rock of Christ's words help Horatio Spafford? He and his wife were able to go on with life- having three more children; and, later, moving to Jerusalem in order to start a mission project there.

So, how about you, are you building your life on the Rock of Christ's words?

What we believe does make a difference!

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Upcoming Events:

Jan. 6- Faithful Men *men's breakfast*- 7:30am, Saturday, at Rusty's.

Jan. 7- *Baskets of Love* food collection

Jan. 7- *Crockpot Sunday*

Jan. 21- *Sanctity of Human Life Sunday*

Jan. 26- SCC's *Dinner and Movie night*

Feb. 14- *Valentine's Day* dinner

Feb. 16-19- Cove Christian Camp's *Winter Camp* for grades 6-12

March 9- HPC's *Spring Banquet*

March 24- *Church leaders' meeting* at Cove Christian Camp

April 1- *Resurrection Sunday!*

April 7- Cove Christian Camp's *Spring Conference*

Apr. 20-21- Cove Christian Camp's *Men's Retreat*

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Charity Begins at Church

After the church service, seven year old Brian said to the preacher: 'When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money.'

'Well, thank you, 'the preacher replied, 'but why?'

'Because my daddy says that you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had.'



And, now, in time for the Super Bowl

The Coin Toss

By the time Bobby arrived, the football game had already started. "Why are you so late?" asked his friend.

"I couldn't decide between going to church and going to the football game. So I tossed a coin," said Bobby.

"But that shouldn't have taken too long." said the friend.

"Well, I did have to toss it 35 times."