

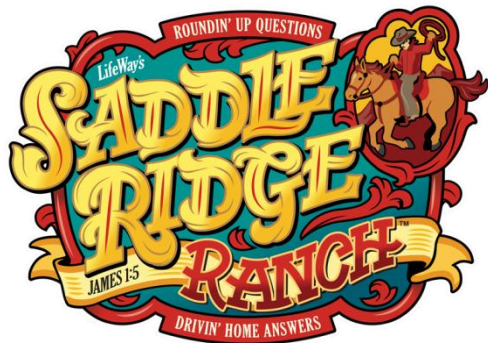
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The Beacon



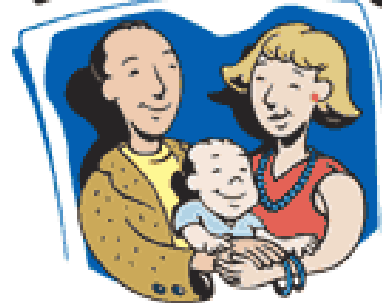
February 2010



It's time to start thinking about Vacation Bible School. This amazing ministry takes months of preparation to make it successful. Be praying about how you can serve and be looking for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

We are working on a new church directory. Olan Mills will be here March 23-26 to take pictures. There is no cost to the families or the church and every family will receive a free 8x10. Sign-ups are on Sunday mornings in the front foyer. We want to have everyone in the directory, so please sign up!

Church Photo Directory



OUR RECORDS



	<u>January 3</u>	<u>January 10</u>	<u>January 17</u>	<u>January 24</u>	<u>January 31</u>
Sunday School:	Snow				Snow
9:00 am Worship:	Snow	74	72	64	Snow
11:00 am Worship:	54	126	109	115	Snow
Evening Worship:	Snow	44	48	47	Snow
Offering:	\$2,891.90	\$3,316.00	\$3,621.31	\$3,195.00	\$3,840.90 (Wed. Offering)



*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples if you have love for one another."
John 13:34-35 (NKJV)*

February is here and Valentine's Day is fast approaching. It is the day we set aside to express our love to those who are special in our lives. It has become totally commercial and often it is a lonely, bogus time for many. Why? Because love, true love, expresses itself throughout the year, not just on one day in one way.

In our text, Jesus tells us there is one true or distinguishing mark for those who follow Him. It is love, agape love, for one another. Not a cheap love, not a superficial "what have you done for me" love, but a self-sacrificing want the best for you type of love. According to Jesus, when we practice this type of love toward one another the world can't ignore us. It knows we belong to Jesus.

All of that sounds wonderful, but how does it work out in our lives? Here are the ways that we can show love.

Service. Do we serve God by serving others? In any church, ours included, there are many ways to serve others. We can serve as greeters to make visitors feel welcome. We can pick them up as we drive the vans on Wednesday nights. We can serve by keeping their children in the nursery, by helping to feed them on Wednesday nights. The list goes on and on. The question is, do we love others enough to serve them rather than be served? If we understand correctly, service is really a ministry of love.

Another way we show love is by making an effort to get to know people. People need friends. They don't just need a friendly church. They need to develop a relationship with fellow Christians. Do we open ourselves up to that possibility? We may have several friends, but they need us to love enough to be a genuine friend. This is really accomplished by sharing our lives with them and allowing them to share their lives with us. This type of love costs. It can be a little scary and it involves lots of time.

Finally, do we love enough to earnestly pray for one another? Prayer changes everything. It changes us, it changes others and it changes circumstances. Do we love enough to feel the pain, sorrow, worry, joy and happiness of others? Does that love then lead us to earnestly seek the Father's face on their behalf? Do we love one another? Jesus commanded us to love, just love.

Loving Jesus and others with you,

Bro. Gary



New Beginnings

As I walk out of my house on a Wednesday night one realization hits me.... "Wow!" Our parking lot is full not only of cars, but also kids. They are everywhere: from the group playing football in my front yard to the group that is running around hurling footballs down the parking lot. That is just some of the youth; we have such a wide variety of youth and children now on these nights that the property has the appearance of forever being in motion. With more kids comes more problems and challenges. Unfortunately, we have many parents that just drop off their kids and drive on or go into the other building just leaving their kids up top. Which can be done because there are people to watch them...right?

The problem mainly arises around the fact that there are not enough adults to watch all the kids. At camps around the nation they require one adult for every eight kids that are there. This one adult is responsible for keeping an eye on them and protecting them, even if it is from themselves. At our church we may, and I mean may, have five including myself. Half of us are in the new building keeping an eye on the basketball players and kids in the gym, the rest are outside. There is no way, at this moment in time, for us to keep an eye on all of the kids. What some don't realize is that on any given night we will have anywhere from 100 to 150 kids/youth up there and, needless to say, some get a little overwhelmed.

We need your help. There is no way to watch all of these kids with such a small group of leadership. If we want to continue to have all of these kids here we need more adults becoming more involved in these kids' lives than just saying hi. Don't get me wrong, that is very important, but if these kids are not shown love then they are getting here what they get at home and that is not a whole lot. And who knows, one of these kids may change your life for the better and the sad part is you would never know it unless you spent time with them. So please come up and hang out with our kids and give them the opportunity to have a Godly man or woman in their lives.

Bro. Hunter