

Joyful News published monthly
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Thought for the month . . .

If we work upon marble, it will perish,
If, on brass, time will efface it;
If we rear temples they will crumble in
the dust,
But if we work upon immortal minds
and endure them with principles,
With the just fear of God and the love
of our fellowmen,
We engrave on those tablets something
that will brighten all eternity.
-Daniel Webster

*"The LORD is a stronghold for the
oppressed, a stronghold in times of
trouble."*

Psalms 9:9

Place Label Here



A recipe from... Kraft Foods

Rustic Chocolate-Cinnamon Bread Pudding

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1/2 cup (1/2 of 8-oz. tub) | 1-3/4 cups fat-free milk |
| PHILADELPHIA 1/3 Less Fat than Cream Cheese | 6 cups cubed whole wheat bread (6 to 8 slices) |
| 1/2 cup packed brown sugar | 2 squares BAKER'S Semi-Sweet Chocolate, coarsely chopped |
| 2 egg whites | |
| 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon | |

HEAT oven to 350°F.
BEAT reduced-fat cream cheese and sugar in large bowl with mixer until well blended. Add egg whites and cinnamon; mix well. Gradually beat in milk until well blended.
PLACE bread in 8-inch square baking dish; top with chocolate and cream cheese mixture.
BAKE 30 to 35 min. or until center is set. Cool slightly.

SPECIAL EXTRA. Top dessert with 1/2 cup thawed COOL WHIP LITE Whipped Topping just before serving.

If you would like to submit a recipe, drop it off at the church office or email to debby@oppcatv.com

The Bulletin Board

GUEST SPEAKER

JOY! GROUP

GAMES

Tuesday, January 17

We will have lunch at

Doc's

Lunch at 11:00

Leave the FBC Fellowship Center at 10:50

Bring your lunch money!

FOOD

The Joy of Being Known by God

(printed from SeniorARK.com)

My mother often recounts a particular excursion to the park when I was young. As always, she reminded me to look both ways before crossing the street, but as always I said, "I can do it by myself." So without looking, I just walked on out. She knew I would do it... so she kept her eyes glued on me. And how did she know I'd do it? Because like God, she knew me well. She knew that I like to be independent and do things my own way. When I took that first step off the curb, she yanked me back onto the sidewalk to avoid the oncoming cars. Needless to say, I had to hold her hand after that. Have you tugged one of your children back before? Have you ever been tugged?

If so, you know that tug is not out of anger, but out of love. Even though my mother knew what wrong I was about to commit, she protected me. She accepted my desire for independence and gave me the latitude to express it, but ultimately she cared for me enough to hold my hand. Likewise, God hems us in, in order to shelter and protect us. Even though God knows all our weaknesses and sin, he accepts us and welcomes us into his family. God knows all the things we hide and all the stuff we feel guilty about; even still, he loves us. God's knowledge is, therefore, not a threat—but a comfort. (The Psalmist recognizes how magnificent God's intimacy is. He writes, "God's knowledge is too wonderful for me.") God knows our secret fears, our struggles, and our needs. He knows our greatest joys, our passions, and our laughter. His knowledge is so expansive that we cannot understand it. But let us rejoice in this knowledge rather than run from it. Let us celebrate God's intimacy. After all, the King of the Universe has chosen to be in relationship with us!

God is always with us, wanting us to get to know him. The song "Beautiful Mystery" by Caedmon's Call reminds us of this. One line reads, "You're like the water I can feel but not grasp. Still You say, all I've gotta do is seek and knock and ask." This is God's desire for our lives: to spend time with him.

Words of Wisdom to Share

Paul, the Apostle, called by Jesus to be a "missionary" to us Gentiles, in his first epistle to the Corinthians summarized his teaching plan as "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." 1 Cor. 2:2. In Paul's pursuit of his mission to evangelize the known world, we find in the latter part of Phil. 3:2 his motivation - "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." Paul then, in verses 13 and 14 sets forth his ultimate goal. "Brother, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do. Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." These are words penned, if not by Paul then at Paul's dictation, who was a prisoner of the Romans and as he expressed in other writings, a bond-slave of Jesus Christ.

As American citizens and followers of Christ Jesus, we value our personal freedoms very highly. In our pursuit of life and liberty and happiness our lifestyles would be severely stymied if we found ourselves a prisoner or slave. Evidently, Paul didn't consider his situation as limiting his plans. In so far as being physically constrained ourselves, we are not. And yet our goals and motivation are not always scriptural. Let us strive in this new year, 2012, to follow Paul's example. Why? Because, Jesus loves you (me, us)! He proved that long ago. And as the herald angels sang on the occasion of His birth "Glory to God in the highest...."

JOY, in Christ

Allen

Let's all get together on Tuesday after third Sunday, January 17, 2012 in Fellowship Center. Bring lunch money for dinner and we'll eat at Doc's Place just off the Opp Bypass.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Happy Birthday to

January

1/22 - Joe Donaldson, Debbie Christ,
Beverly Steburg
1/23 - Trudie Shiver, Fletcher Rodgers,
Edna Johnson, Steve Sexton
1/24 - Cecil Smart
1/31 - Charlotte Eiland, Ramona Hammett,
Lisa Jones

February

2/3 - Hazel Stanfield

2/7 - Frank Shuford
2/8 - Gladys Adams, Bernice Donaldson
2/10 - Annie Lou Culpepper, Kay Cassidy
2/11 - Kenneth Wood
2/16 - Nell Adams, Allen Johnston
2/18 - Sue Hamilton, Harry Whigham
2/19 - Udo Christ
2/20 - Ella Hoomes
2/21 - Margaret Eiland

Happy Anniversary to

2/2 - Eddie & Lisa Gooden

2/4 - George & Derenda Showalter
2/17 - Ferris & Wynene Youmans

We invite you to join our Joy Choir. We meet, practice, and have a good time on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. You do not have to be an opera singer; just come and make a joyful noise to the Lord.