

Branson First Church of the Nazarene



ANNUAL VALENTINE PARTY



The annual Valentine Party was held on Friday, February 7, with 41 in attendance. Danna's BBQ catered the meal of pulled pork, pulled beef,

baked beans and cole slaw while Nancy Plummer provided the lettuce salad, baked potatoes to round out the meal and then made



delicious desserts. Definitely, no one walked away hungry!
(Continued on pg 2)

Rev. Jim Cariker, Senior Pastor
417-337-2287

Rev. Gloria Cariker, Assoc. Pastor
417-337-3540

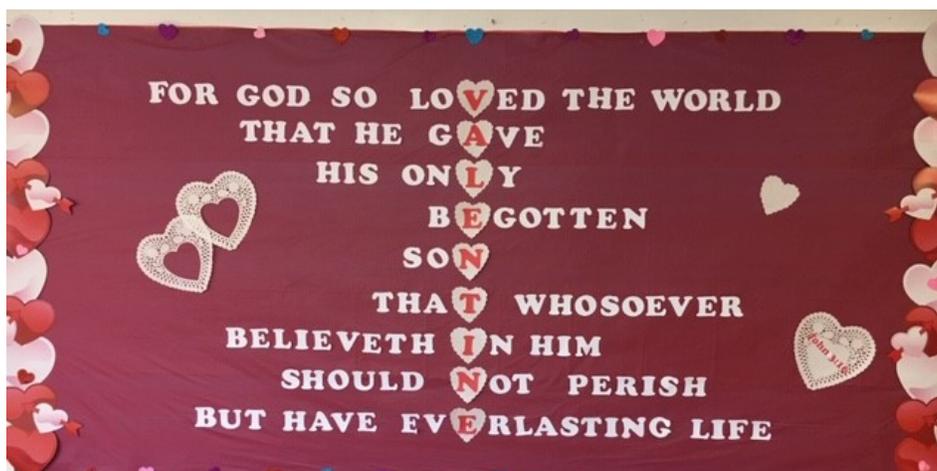
Sunday School at 9:30 am
Adult Bible Study Fellowship at 9:30 am
Worship Service at 10:30 am
Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30 pm
Thursday Prayer meeting at 6:00 pm

300 W Hensley
PO Box 988
Branson, MO 65616
417-334-4308
brannonnazarene@centurytel.net
www.brannonnazarene.org



Volume 5, Issue 3
March 2020

Monthly Publication
Rogene Clements, editor



VALENTINE PARTY (CONTINUED)

The Fellowship Hall was decked out with decorations and Karen Doran did an excellent job with the bulletin boards.

After the meal, everyone moved upstairs to the sanctuary for "Open Mic." Wayne Elander started the entertainment by singing "The B I B L E," then Jerry Presley read a story that was written by Andy Griffith about his first experience watching a football game. The description was hilarious.



James Plummer then did his monologue of puns, stories and jokes. Most of us were laughing with tears in our eyes.

There was singing by the Mellow Ds (Larry & Karen Doran), Rogene Clements read a story about not judging a book by its cover, Maxine Prentice and Jim DeMille sang a couple of songs; then Shirley West and Maxine sang while accompanied by Jim on the guitar. Joy Straley read a couple of scriptures about love, Pastor Jim read a poem (written by Gloria) about being a Preacher's Wife; T-Beau West sang a couple of songs. Then Nadine Elander ended the program with a solo.

All in all, it was a great evening. Many thanks to James Plummer for organizing the event; to Nancy for all the cooking she did; and to Karen Doran for all the decorations!

LARRY AND KAREN DORAN

After graduation Larry joined the Air Force and was stationed at Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls, Texas. His boss in the instrument shop often invited him to his house for a home-cooked meal. His wife said "My sister is graduating from high school and is coming to stay with us for the summer. Would you mind showing her around?" Larry thought "I can't say no after all those meals!" So now he was her kid sister's babysitter. Terrific. When he saw her sister, he decided "Well, maybe this won't be so bad after all." Karen quips, "56 years, 3 kids and 8 grandkids later, he is still babysitting. I always say he's my graduation present."

At age 7, Larry was gifted with his first guitar. In 1963 he put together a rock band, "The Casuals" and had other bands. His music and marketing support for IBM took them nationwide. When Karen's mother needed care, they settled in Nebraska. Larry often taped his voice to critique himself. One day he left the tape on while he went to the kitchen for a cup of coffee. There was Karen at the sink singing harmony. Larry said "You



dry your hands off and come with me. After 40 years of marriage, why didn't you TELL me you could do that?"

Karen bribed him. She was the director of The Iron Horse Station Players in York, NE for 3 years. If he would act and help her in the community theater, she would sing with him. They did live theater together for the next 15 years.

Karen was born into the Nazarene church. Larry shared that he's attended lots of churches, but feels the Nazarene church is home. They moved from Nebraska to Branson in 2017. They saw an ad in the paper about the Valentine Party and decided to attend. Karen says, "We were welcomed so warmly we started attending service and have been there every since." Furthermore, Karen says, "We love Branson. Of course, we enjoy all the music, but the atmosphere and people are like no other place we've lived."

Did you know Larry studied Mandarin Chinese language at Yale for the USAF?

PAPER PULPIT — WATCH OUT FOR THE LIONS

“When the man of God had finished eating and drinking, the prophet who had brought him back saddled his donkey for him. As he went on his way, a lion met him on the road and killed him, and his body was left lying on the road, with both the donkey and the lion standing beside it” (1 Kings 13: 23—24, NIV).

The conventional view of March is that “*It comes in like a Lion, and goes out like a Lamb.*” And weather-wise, that is often the case. But what about in our spiritual lives--Do we ever encounter Lions that threaten our peace and security?

The scripture above is a portion of an account of a prophet of God who was sent by God from Judah to the Northern Kingdom of Israel to deliver a prophecy of warning. This prophet was instructed by God to deliver the message and then return home without eating or drinking anything in the Northern Kingdom. But another prophet convinced him to stay and eat. After doing so, the first prophet left to return home but was killed by a Lion—obviously the consequence of being disobedient to God’s instructions.

Clearly this passage declares to us the importance of being obedient to the Lord. But it also serves as a warning as to how easy it is to be deceived and led astray by people or even activities that seem non-threatening. The old prophet in the

story reminds us how even Satan can present himself as an angel of light (see 2 Corinthians 11:14).

What are the lions that threaten your spiritual peace and security? Could it be the pressure of peers? Or maybe it is the desire to just use whatever means necessary to accomplish a worthy result---we call that “Situational Ethics”—“The End Justifies the Means.” It is so easy to let little things pull us away from the “Straight and Narrow Way.”

There is only one Lion that we really want to meet. That Lion is “*The Lion of Judah*” (Revelation 5:5)—Jesus. He is also the “*Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World*” (John 1:29), the Lamb who was slain as the ultimate atoning sacrifice for each one of us.

Because of the lions that will threaten us, it is absolutely essential that we understand clearly the directions from the Lord and that we follow those directions completely. We find those directions by studying God’s Word and applying it to our own hearts. The Psalmist said, “*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against Thee*” (Psalm 119: 11). Read it. Memorize it. Meditate upon it. And put it into practice in your everyday lives!

Lions will come, but the Lamb of God is the one who gives us “*Peace that surpasses understanding that guards our hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 4:7).

In Christ, Pastor Jim

CIRCLE OF SISTERS

The February meeting was back at Pizza Ranch on February 18. There were 15 ladies in attendance. Joy Straley led the devotions from “Book of Mysteries” by Jonathan Cahn, a Rabbi priest.

The March meeting will be on the 17th! That being St. Patrick’s day, be sure to wear green that day. Peggy Hembree will bring the devotional lesson.

We always have a great time when we get together; so, Ladies, please join us in March. We gather about 11:15 am.



LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Carolyn Smolik will be hosting a Ladies Bible Study in her home at 571 Crescent Drive, Hollister beginning on Thursday, March 12. Meeting time is 9:30 am.

Judy Moore, who previously taught us studies on the Book of Daniel and the Women of the Bible, will be teaching on a series she calls, “Blessings.”

Plans are to meet twice a month—on the second and the fourth Thursdays. ALL ladies are invited. It is a non-threatening meeting. Judy is a great teacher. You won’t have to find or read out loud scriptures from Habbakuk in the Bible!



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March 1	Janet Pryor
March 3	Don Enright
March 9	Natalie Ruan
March 12	Terri Elsworth
March 13	Diane McAfee
March 13	Bobby Wilbanks
March 15	Joy Straley
March 20	Gregg Richards
March 31	Kasen Castro

MARQUEE SIGNS

My wife says I never seem to listen, or something like that.

I checked into the Hokey Pokey clinic and I turned myself around.

WANTEDS VS. NEEDED

Do you believe there is a different between “wanted” and “needed?” I do!

When you walk into the church building on Sunday morning, do you feel loved? I mean, do you know there will be a friendly face, warm handshake or special hug when you walk into the building? What does that do to you?

Have you visited other churches to find that no one speaks to you let alone offers a handshake?

Greeters are an important part of the church atmosphere. I was once told that when people would say they were going to visit Branson, they were told not to bother attending the Nazarene church because it

CHURCH EVENT CALENDAR

March 1		First Sunday of Lent Teen Challenge in service Love Offering will be taken
March 7	8:00 am	Men’s Fellowship Breakfast
	10:30 am	Ladies Craft day
March 8		Pastor Jim will be at District Ministers’ Retreat; T-Beau West will bring the morning message.
March 9	7:00 pm	Church Board meeting
March 17		Happy St. Patrick’s Day Circle of Sisters, Pizza Ranch Peggy Hembree will do devotions
March 19		First Day of spring!
March 29		Phil Roades, DS, will attend our worship service.

was not friendly. Honestly, that broke my heart! I also learned that it was said, “Why bother greeting the visitors?” Look around folks—how many of us have moved to Branson from somewhere else?! Our church just might be vetted by people who plan to move here.

We’ve tried something different in our Sunday morning Worship service in that the announcements are given before the service begins. Part of the reason is because people are talking too much and Pastor had a hard time getting started. My response is GREAT! People like each other so much that they want to talk. To me, that’s a lot better than walking into a cold shoulder church!

I say all that to say, “We want/need Greeters.” Some have served and feel it’s time for others to step up and have the joy of greeting. If you want more information about greeting, please see me. Rogene