Happy Valentine’s Day!

Wednesday, February 14th

Daylight Savings
Sunday
March 10
2:00am

Leadership Team Meeting
Sunday
March 10
After Morning Service

St. Patrick’s Day
Sunday
March 17

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. (John 12:24)
A big question that is important to ponder is what role do God’s gifts have in the life of faith? God has a wonderful design for his gifts, but there are two opposite errors that must be avoided. These errors are two different types of idolatry. One is the idolatry of indulgence. This is when we turn God’s gifts into gods. The other error is self-made religion. This is where God’s gifts are not enjoyed because we think it is godly to refuse them. Christians may find themselves wrestling with either one of these. But what I desire to address in this article is God’s design for his gifts in this world. It is important to understand this in order to deepen our relationship with the Lord. What we must understand is that God gives us his gifts with the purpose of pointing us to him. There is something special about giving a gift to someone. The true delight of the receiver of the gift comes from appreciating the giver of the gift. We can only properly say we enjoyed the gift if we have the giver in mind. The same goes for God’s gifts in this world. God gives wonderful gifts to his children.

The reason God created the world was to display his himself to everyone. When you read a poem, the poem tells you something about the poet. When you see a painting, the painting tells you something about the artist. When you listen to Mozart, you learn about his beauty, majesty, power, and wisdom in a special way in the things that have been made (Romans 1:20). The Psalmist wrote, “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork” (Psalm 19:1). When you look up at the night sky a certain wonder comes over you. My prayer is that each of us would say, “How wonderful is the One who created this.” When we look at other humans we should say what a beautiful creature God has created. When we think about the achievements that humanity has accomplished, we should think this could only be done by a creature created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26).

In one sense God is in his creation. It is important to emphasize that he is distinct from it, but he is in his creation in the sense that it all reveals his glory. We cannot disconnect God from his created work. His glory is displayed everywhere in what he has made. This is why it is important to enjoy God’s creation. By taking pleasure in his created work we are taking pleasure in him. Scripture teaches us that God loves giving gifts to his children (Matthew 7:11) and that everything “created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving (1 Timothy 4:4). We should delight in food, family, music, the outdoors, and many other gifts. As we take pleasure in God’s gifts we know him more and enjoy him more. This is how we avoid the idolatry of indulgence. If we only take pleasure in the gift and forget the Giver, then we have plumbed into idolatry.

In the similar sense we should also avoid setting up rules that inhibit our ability to enjoy God. The apostle Paul rejected this teaching as the teaching of demons (1 Timothy 4:1). Satan loves to deceive people into thinking that God is a kill-joy. He did this to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:5). This teaching taught that holiness was achieved by disciplining oneself not to enjoy the good things of creation. But this is to run one away from God, and therefore this is the opposite of holiness, this is dead religion inspired by demonic influence. You can see how wisdom is important in a proper understanding of how to pursue God’s gifts. We always need to examine ourselves to see if we are making one of these two errors. We should not make God’s gifts gods and we should not set up our own self-made religion.

My prayer for our church is that the Lord would give us wisdom in this (James 1:5). The mission of Eureka Baptist Church is “To grow in Christ together.” We do this in multiple ways. We have the regular ministry of the preaching of the Word (2 Timothy 4:2), we immerse ourselves in Scripture reading together (2 Timothy 3:16-17), we pray for the Lord to help us go deeper with him (Ephesians 3:14-19), and we regularly meet together in order to encourage one another. These are means of grace that God has given us to build us up into one healthy body (Ephesians 4:15-16). But we must do more than this if we are fully to enjoy God in this life. We must realize that all of God’s gifts are there so that we might “taste and see that the Lord is good” (Psalm 34:8). We learn about his beauty, majesty, power, and wisdom in a special way in the things that have been made (Romans 1:20). The Lord desires us to see these attributes of him in both Scripture and in creation. May we understand that everything that is made, all these gifts, points back to its source – our great God. May we take pleasure in him as we enjoy his gifts.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Seth
Penney Family: Senegal

Harvest Celebration 2019
Once again, as many of us as could from the WorldVenture team joined our Senegalese brothers and sisters for the church association’s annual harvest celebration. This celebration occurred in two locations simultaneously across the large Diourbel-Fatick region. Along with a worship service of thanksgiving, they collected donations of cash and grain, and dedicated those to the Lord’s use. What a blessing to see these men and women, who have so little, and who once would have offered sacrifices to the spirits, offering their heartfelt thanks to the Lord who died for them and has given them abundant life.

Rejoices: We had a great time over the holidays with Joel, Luke, and Caleb. They are all safely back at college and thriving in their second semesters - Praise that all the many meetings of January went well - Church association’s annual harvest celebration - We have secured housing in Wheaton for our 2019-20 home assignment.
Requests: Esther’s energy seems to have taken a dip once again. Pray both for increased energy for her, and for wisdom for her to know how to manage what energy she does have - We have two new families arriving soon (one next week and another in March). Pray for them as they adjust to life in Senegal, and for us as we orient them and try to help them get settled here - Senegal’s presidential elections are Feb 24. Pray for safe and quiet elections, as well as a positive outcome for the good of the country’s future. The current president has done an excellent job for the last 7 years; we expect (hope) he will be re-elected to a second term.

Stout Family: Macedonia

Praise Report
Praise God that around $30,000 was given in December for the Word of Hope Building Project!
Praise God we only need $87/month more to be fully supported!
Praise God that Joy made the Deans List at Crown College
Praise God that our dear Macedonian friend Jole is coming to visit us from Jan 25 - Feb 11.

Prayer Requests
Pray for Pastor Pero and the Word of Hope Church as they are looking for the right location and building to buy for the church
Pray for our SEND Macedonia Team that is serving in Skopje with the Macedonian Orthodox and in Tvo with Albanian Muslims
Pray for our upcoming 2 mission conferences at Windom E Free on January 20 and Mound E Free in March
Pray for complete restoration and health for our family, especially Debby as she is still anemic
Pray that God would prepare our hearts to return back to Macedonia and serve our SEND team and work with Word of Hope Church
What Should We Pray For?
Article by John Piper
Read the complete article: www.desiringgod.org

If you are like me, you find that from time to time your prayer life needs a jolt out of the rut it has fallen into. We tend to use the same phrases over and over. We tend to default to worn out phrases (like the word default). We fall into patterns of mindless repetition.

The devil hates prayer. Our own flesh does not naturally love it. Therefore, it does not come full-born and complete and passionate from the womb of our heart. It takes ever renewed discipline.

Years ago, when I wrote Let the Nations Be Glad, I argued that prayer is a wartime walkie-talkie, not a domestic intercom. God is more like a general in Command Central than a butler waiting to bring you another pillow in the den. Of course, he is also Father, Lover, Friend, Physician, Shepherd, Helper, King, Savior, Lord, Counselor. But in this fallen “world with devils filled,” prayer will function best when we keep the frequency tuned to Command Central in the fight of faith.

So when I wrote that book, I gathered into one place all the things the early church prayed for. I printed this out for myself, and it has proven to be one of those “jolts” that I need. I thought you might find it helpful. You might want to print it out and keep it for a while in your Bible to guide you in your praying.

It is a great confidence-builder in prayer to know that you are not quirky in your praying. To pray what the New Testament prays is a safe and powerful way to pray. Prayer remains one of the great and glorious mysteries of the universe — that the all-knowing, all-wise, all-sovereign God should ordain to run his world in response to our prayers is mind-boggling. But that is the uniform witness of Scripture. God hears and answers the prayers of his people. Oh, do not neglect this amazing way of influencing nations and movements and institutions and churches and people’s hearts, especially your own.

If you want to pray for what the early church prayed for . . .

**Pray that God would exalt his name in the world.**
“Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.’” (Matthew 6:9)

**Pray that God would extend his kingdom in the world.**
“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)

**Pray that the gospel would speed ahead and be honored.**
Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you. (2 Thessalonians 3:1)

**Pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit.**
“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13; cf. Ephesians 3:19)

**Pray that God would vindicate his people in their cause.**
“And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night?” (Luke 18:7 RSV)

**Pray that God would save unbelievers.**
Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. (Romans 10:1)

**Pray that God would supply his troops with necessities.**
“Give us this day our daily bread.” (Matthew 6:11)
Pray for the success of other missionaries.
I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints. (Romans 15:30–31)

Pray for a knowledge of God’s will.
And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. (Colossians 1:9)

Pray to know God better.
[We have not ceased to pray for you to be] increasing in the knowledge of God. (Colossians 1:10; cf. Ephesians 1:17)

Pray for power to comprehend the love of Christ.
I bow my knees before the Father . . . [that you] may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. (Ephesians 3:14, 18–19)

Pray for strength and endurance.
[We have not ceased to pray for you to be] strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy. (Colossians 1:11; cf. Ephesians 3:16)

Pray for a deeper sense of God’s power within you.
I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers . . . that you may know . . . what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe. (Ephesians 1:16, 18–19)

Pray that your faith not be destroyed.
“I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:32)
“But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.” (Luke 21:36)

Pray for greater faith.
Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24; cf. Ephesians 3:17)

Pray that you might not fall into temptation.
“Lead us not into temptation.” (Matthew 6:13)
“Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)

Pray that God would complete your good resolves.
To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power. (2 Thessalonians 1:11)

Pray that you would do good works.
[We have not ceased to pray for you that you would] walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work. (Colossians 1:10)

Pray for the forgiveness of your sins.
“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” (Matthew 6:12)

Pray for protection from the evil one.
“Deliver us from evil.” (Matthew 6:13)

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Weekly Events

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Happy Birthday!!
Josie Johnson 3/17
Sophie Lindo 3/19
Debi Swanson 3/28

Do we have your birthday and anniversary? We’d love to pray for you on your special day! Please email your information to Amber!
J.a.lindo@hotmail.com

2019 Board Members
Deacons
Shaun Anderson
Gordon Trombley
Elders
Mark Brooks
Rob Mickelson
Trustees
Randy Clark
Shaun Anderson
Deaconess
Barbara Trombley
Amber Lindo
Hansi Stridde
Abby Swanson
Secretary
Amber Lindo
Treasurers
Hansi Stridde
Abby Swanson

Church Announcements

- Daylight Savings – March 10
- Leadership Meeting on March 10 after Morning Service.
- Easter Flower Orders are due to Shaila Johnson by March 24th

-EZ 104.9 plays a message from Pastor Seth the 2nd week of the month. Be sure to tune in. Deacon Shaun Anderson: “Pretty exciting stuff - as I was walking down an aisle of a hardware store in Siren, I heard a message of salvation over the radio station played throughout the store, from my pastor! Who would of thought - Pastor Seth from Eureka Baptist Church is spreading God’s word not only in Eureka but on the air waves also! There is some exiting stuff happening for God’s glory in Eureka!”

- Be sure to get on the Weekly News Blast email list! Contact Amber to be added. Lots of important information every week.
- Interested in becoming a member? Talk with Pastor Seth!

~~March Winds~~
by Kay Graves

A Picture of
...the Many Ways  ...God has used  ...the Wind

(Gen.8) God REMEMBERED Noah after the Flood  ...so sent a WIND to RESTORE the earth

(Ex.10) God RESCUED the Hebrews from the Egyptians  ...sending a WIND to make a WAY of ESCAPE

(Num.11) God BROUGHT quails from the sea  ...in a WIND to BRING a plague JUDGMENT upon the people for making the desires of the flesh their priority

(1Kings 19:11) God “passed by”
...creating a great strong WIND
...splitting mountains
...causing an earthquake and fire
...BUT it was God's calm WIND
...in a BREATH of a WHISPER
...that Elijah recognized as the VOICE of GOD

(Ps.1:4)
UNGODLY are like chaff
...DRIVEN AWAY by the WIND

(Ps.18:42)
ENEMIES of God's people are CAST OUT ...before the WIND
...as dirt in the streets

(Ps.104:3)
God WALKS UPON
...the wings (like a dove..Holy Spirit)
...of the WIND

(Ps.147:18) God sends out HIS WORD
...causing the WIND (Holy Spirit) to BLOW
...causing WATERS (of the WORD) to flow

(Ps.148:8) God's Word of judgment
...is FULFILLED
...by His DESTRUCTIVE WIND

(Prov.30:4) Only Jesus can control
...the WIND
...and WATERS
...(of the earth, Word, and Spirit)

(Is.41:29) Idols are deceptive WIND and CONFUSION.

(Jn.3:8 and Acts 2:2)
The WIND “is like”
...represents the Holy Spirit
...whereby...
"ye must be born-again."
Eureka Baptist Church had a Diaper Shower for Brianna Brickley on February 17th after morning service. Thank you to Anne Miklya for making the cupcakes, Shaila Johnson for decorating and the Kitchen Crew for cleaning up the event! We’re all so excited for this new blessing to arrive!