



the Care Giver

Christ caring for people through people

January/February 2012

Volume 16, Issue 1



Be Glad Every Day!

We celebrate and give thanks to God for the New Year, 2012! Have you ever made a New Year resolution? Maybe you've made one this year. Personally, I don't make them, but one thing I am going to do this year is make an effort to gladly thank God for each day! I came across a short story entitled "Be Glad Every Day" by Catherine Galasso-Vigorito author of the book "A New You." I hope you enjoy reading this short story and maybe you will be motivated to be glad each day through the year, too!

What color are you going to paint your world? It is up to you. Dip the paintbrush of your life in the glory of the rainbow colors, where joy and beauty reign. You are one of a special kind, a unique creation of God. Bask in the glowing light of His love.

One evening, while watching the movie classic Pollyanna, the touching story about a little girl whose parents were killed while serving as missionaries, one statement stayed with me. Pollyanna spoke of a quote from Abraham Lincoln that she wore around her neck in a locket that her father had given to her. It read, "When you look for the bad in mankind expecting to find it, you surely will."

Then Pollyanna went on to say, "After my father heard that quote, he looked only for the good in people and made up the 'glad game'." This was a game her father started to cover up the disappointments of a life of poverty, as the only clothes they had were to be found in the barrels of charity sent to Africa from America.

Then, Pollyanna went on to recall her father saying, "If God took the trouble to tell us in the Bible eight-hundred times to be glad and happy, He must have wanted us to do it." And I agree! We all

have had our share of disappointments in life, and we must have a regimen of discipline to combat the negativity that bombards our minds.

So we want to saturate our whole being with, as Pollyanna said, the "glad" verses in the Bible. Let's put them in our memory, repeat them in our minds and speak them aloud from our mouths each day. I will start your list for you and let you complete the treasures:

"He was anointed with the oil of gladness above all His fellows," Psalm 45:7.

"Thou has put gladness in my heart." Psalm 126:5.

"Light is sown for the righteous and gladness for the upright heart." Psalm 97:11.

"This is the day that the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24

"But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God; yea, let them exceedingly rejoice." Psalm 68:3.

"Come before His presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful

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New Stephen Ministry Class Starts January 12, 2012

There is still time to recruit new potential Stephen Ministers! It's important to recognize that a church the size of Hope Lutheran is always in need of more Stephen Ministers. It is vital that we, as Stephen Ministers, all participate in searching for individuals whom may now or later recognize that the Stephen Ministry program is the perfect tool for them to personally become humble servants to others. When you talk to a potential Stephen Ministers, you are not alone, as God will give you spiritual

support and Kim Y. and Pastor Mike will give you Stephen Ministry materials, ideas and prayer support. Recruitment is a team effort and you are never alone in this ministry!

"God waits for you to act first. Don't wait to feel powerful or confident. Move ahead in your weakness, doing the right thing in spite of your fears and feelings." From Rick Warrens Daily Hope, "Cooperating with the Holy Spirit."

"CHIT CHAT"

with Linda J

Billy Graham in Quotes

I was born in St. Paul, MN and when I was five years old my parents told me that we were going to the Metropolitan Stadium (known as "The Met") in Bloomington. I was very excited, as I loved going to see the Minnesota Twins play baseball. We got to our seats and I quickly realized there were no ball players on the field, there were no concessions, but there was a guy wearing a suit and talking about God. Well, that guy was Reverend Billy Graham! I was disappointed, but even then, at five, I soon became impressed with this minister and started to listen to him. While I was growing up my family would always watch Billy Graham when he was on television. Pastor Graham came to Fargo in the summer of 1986 and my husband, Don, and I got to see him. I have always admired Dr. Graham and still enjoy how he talks in quotes making a biblical point in just a few words.



Recently, I was at Barnes & Noble Bookstore and found a book entitled "Billy Graham in Quotes" written by Franklin Graham and Donna Lee Toney.

Billy Graham says, "God speaks from heaven through the Bible, His written Word, this is why I use the phrase 'the Bible says.' I would

not have the authority to say what I do in sermons unless it was based upon the Word of God."

Below are some of the quotes Reverend Graham has spoken from the years 1947-2010.

On Age: "Life can grow sweeter and more rewarding as we grow older if we possess the presence of Christ. Sunsets are always glorious. It is Christ who adds colors, glory, and beauty to man's sunsets."

On Angels: "The empire of angels is as vast as God's creation, if you believe the Bible, you will believe in their ministry."

On the Bible: "The Bible is God's book of promises, and unlike the books of men, it does not change or get out of date."

On Christianity: "A Christians we are constantly bombarded with attitudes and values which are contrary to biblical teachings."

On Service: "God wants to use you right where you are. Everyday you probably come in contact with people who will never enter a church, or talk with a pastor, or open a Bible—and God wants to use you to point them to Christ. You may be the "bridge" God would use to bring them to Himself."

On Glorifying God: "Our voices, our service, and our abilities are to be employed, primarily, for the glory of God."

It's Bible Trivia Time!

Today's Topic... "Biblical Bird Walk"

1. What book says that anyone who scorns his parents will have his eyes pecked out by ravens?
2. In Revelation, what bird went about crying, "Woe? Woe!"
3. What book portrays God as having wings and feathers?
4. What bird does the lover in Song of Solomon compare his beloved's eyes to?
5. What king instructed people in bird lore?
6. Who compared his days to eagles swooping down on their prey?
7. On what day did God create the birds?
8. Who had a dream about birds eating out of a basket on his head?
9. Who boasted to David that he would give David's body to the birds for food?
10. What king's search for his rival is compared with looking for a partridge in the mountains?

Did you answer all of the questions? If not, go the last page of this CareGiver for the answers.



Service of Light and Hope

The annual Service of Light and Hope (formerly Blue Christmas) was held at North Campus in mid-December. This special observance was officiated by Pastor Mike with the theme of the comfort and hope of Jesus, particularly at a time when one is feeling dispirited. Following the service participants had a time for fellowship and sharing with our Stephen Ministers.

Thank you to Gail, Traci, Denise, Priscilla, Stephanie, Connie, and Gin for helping to make this service possible. It filled a deep need for those who attended.



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Be Glad Every Day!

noise unto the Lord." Psalm 95:2.

"In the multitude of my thoughts within me, thy comforts delight my soul." Psalm 94:19.

"The Lord is my defense and my God is the rock of my refuge." Psalm 94:22.

According to the American Heritage Dictionary, the word "glad" means "feeling, showing or giving joy and pleasure; happy; pleased, willing." Gladness of heart is a beautiful quality. It is a celebration of life and one can see it in a person's actions, words and deeds.

We live in a world that can communicate every disaster that happens on earth. That can be a tactic of the enemy. His one purpose is to destroy everything that is good, honest and beautiful.

I take my burdens to the Lord and thank Him for the great privilege of knowing Him. I trust in God's unconditional love and wait in patience and faith. I'm speaking from my one experience, and I can assure you that God is faithful and the enemy will not triumph over you.

Look for the best in others, behold and rejoice in the bud of promise in people, and bring it out in full bloom. Then, in the evening of your life, you can hold in your arms a vast bouquet of those whose lives give forth a sweet perfume in response to your love.

Watch and see how your world will change as you live a life of thanksgiving, adding a "glad" verse to your memory each day. And so surround yourself with gladness. Choose to be glad and rejoice in it!

Pictures from Christmas Fellowship

The yearly gathering of Stephen Ministers and their families was another hit! We had tons of food, great conversations and entertainment. We thank Maria and Stephanie for organizing a variety of fun Christmas games. The favorite game was Bible Pictionary! Here are some pix from this evening of fellowship.



Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army!



Calendar for January/February 2012

January 5

Ministry Enrichment 6:30-7:30pm SC TBA
 Supervision 7:30-8:30pm SC Treat/Devotions-Linda J

January 12

SM Training Class 6:30-8:30pm SC Room 202 Module 1

January 19

Ministry Enrichment 6:30-7:30pm SC DivorceCare - Vol 2, Module 23
 Supervision 7:30-8:30pm SC Treat/Devotions-Steph E
 SM Training Class 6:30-8:30pm SC Room 202 Module 2 & 3

January 26

SM Training Class 6:30-8:30pm SC Room 202 Module 4

February 2

Ministry Enrichment 6:30-7:30pm SC TBA
 Supervision 7:30-8:30pm SC Treat/Devotions-Priscilla S
 SM Training Class 6:30-8:30pm SC Room 202 Module 5

February 9

SM Training Class 6:30-8:30pm SC Room 202 Module 6

February 16

SM Appreciation 6:30-8:30pm SC More Information To Come
 SM Training Class 6:30-8:30pm SC Room 202 Module 7

February 23

SM Training Class 6:30-8:30 SC Room 202 Module 8

Happy Birthday

February 7

Pat Stoderl



February 27

Mike Toomey



Answers to "Biblical Bird Walk"

1. Proverbs—30:17
2. An eagle—*Revelation 8:13*
3. Psalms: 91:4
4. The dove—*Song of Solomon 1:15*
5. Solomon—*1 Kings 4:33*
6. Job—*Job: 9:26*
7. The fifth day—*Genesis 1:20*
8. Pharaoh's baker—*Genesis 40:16-17*
9. Goliath—*1 Samuel 17:44*
10. Saul's search for David—*1 Samuel 26:20*



Christmas Cheer!



Way up North

Stephen
Ministry
is going
to be at
the North
Campus

March

April

May

Leadership Team

Pastoral Advisor

Pastor Mike Toomey
235-6629, x212

Congregational Awareness

Team Coordinator/ Referrals

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Ministry Enrichment

Connie Carlsrud - 282-3207

Supervision

Gin Mason - 235-3652

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(OPEN)

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Kay Swenson....478-3045 (h)

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