

#### Volume XVIII, Issue II

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February 2023

## The Practice: Keeping the Sabbath.....

by Patricia Lull

"Sabbath keeping is not about taking a day off but about being recalled to our knowledge of and gratitude for God's activity in creating the world, giving liberty to captives, and overcoming the powers of death." —Dorothy C. Bass

"I'm so busy... I just don't have enough time to complete all my work." Do you need a break, but doubt you have time for it? What about those who don't have sufficient work to sustain themselves? The practice of keeping Sabbath helps us to resist the tyranny of too much or too little work.

**Sabbath in the Bible.** The Exodus (20:8-11) commandment to "remember" the Sabbath is grounded in the story of creation. Since we are created in God's image, what behavioral cues do we take from what we see of God in this story?

In Deuteronomy (5:12-15) the commandment to "observe" the Sabbath sees to it that no one, not even animals, will work without respite. How do people freed from slavery celebrate their liberation? What kinds of justice do they wish for others? How might Sabbath-keeping help us resist various forms of enslavement today, for ourselves and for others?

**The Sabbath in Judaism.** Shabbat - the Jewish Sabbath - is the heart of Judaism. In observant Jewish homes, Shabbat begins each Friday night at sundown as a woman lights the Sabbath candles. Until the following sundown, all activities associated with work or commerce are prohibited.

How does this Sabbath requirement of no work or commerce honor God and respect human needs? What are good re-creative activities to do on the Sabbath (e.g., worship, play, take a walk, rest, read, spend time with loved ones)?

**Can Christians Keep Sabbath?** .. In what ways did Jesus extend the meaning of Sabbath by his teaching and ministry? What did Jesus mean by proclaiming, "It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath" (Matthew 12:12)? When Constantine declared Christianity the state religion (321 C.E.), Sunday was established as the day for both rest and worship. Is Sunday the day of the week you experience Sabbath? If not, when do you and your household observe Sabbath?

Though we may yearn for Sabbath rest, what obstacles keep us from it? Pressures to work and spend? Organized sports? The fact that Sundays are no longer protected by custom and law? Trying to overcome a reputation of Sabbath-keeping as sapping joy from the day?

**Unwrapping the Gift of Sabbath Keeping..** How might ceasing from work one day a week reshape your work and attitudes on the other six? What is the advantage of a pattern of Sabbath time, as opposed to snatching odd moments or hours of Sabbath time? What are the advantages to keeping Sabbath on Sunday? Who might not be able to keep Sabbath on Sunday? How might we enable them to keep Sabbath another time?

How is Sabbath-keeping a way to honor the generosity of our Maker? How does our society's Sabbath-keeping (or lack thereof) express our relation to the created world? What changes in society would make it easier to keep Sabbath? In what ways can members of a worshiping community help one another step off the treadmill of work-and-spend and into the circle of glad gratitude for the gifts of God?

#### Jesus' Transfiguration

## What happened at the mysterious event known as the Transfiguration? What did it mean?



And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Matthew 17:2. NRSV

This biblical event appears in each of the Gospel books as an important moment in the life of Jesus and evidence of his divinity. After Jesus performs a <u>series of miracles</u> and <u>foretells His own</u> <u>death</u>, Jesus leads just three of his disciples, Peter, James and John, to a "high mountain." This is where the Transfiguration takes place in which his appearance was radiantly transformed.

The transfiguration of Jesus Christ was a powerful demonstration of His divine nature and manifestation of His glory, which Jesus possessed prior to coming to earth in the human body. This revelation is referenced in a passage in the Apostle Paul's message to Phillippi. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of <u>the cross</u>. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given

Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:5-11 KJV).

It's impossible to appreciate what's going on with the Transfiguration unless you consciously factor in the reality that that remarkable scene takes place just a few days after Jesus had, for the very first time, told his disciples He was going to die. And when he told his disciples, in <u>Matthew 16:21</u>, He was going to die, they were offended and scandalized. Peter, speaking for the group, grabbed Jesus and said, "far be it from you [to die], it can't happen." Jesus was, of course, upset with Peter and told him, "you savor the things of man and not of God."

This (Transfiguration) is about three years into a three and a half year ministry. This is after for months and years those disciples had followed Jesus, they had seen his miracles, they had done miracles in His name. They knew something palpably and objectively about the power and the reality of who Jesus was, and yet, when He began to talk about dying it was staggering to the disciples and they began to wonder if He was really the Messiah. Therefore, for that reason, Jesus took three, Peter, James and John, into a high mountain apart, away from the other apostles.

Jesus takes Peter, James, and John into a very secluded place and He begins to pray. He asked the disciples to pray and they fall asleep. Then, as they wake up, they see Jesus standing before them with an ineffable (indescribable) manifestation of light and glory which will be His when he reigns as King in days to come. He had laid aside that external glory and for just a few minutes as they watched they see him transfigured (metamorphized is the Greek word). The point is that the caterpillar had become a butterfly, the one who had so carefully veiled his physical glory took it to himself for a brief moment. The whole purpose of that experience was to reinforce the staggering faith of those apostles. That's exactly what Peter gets out of it when he remembers it and says we did not bring you cunningly devised fables, we made known to you the power of Jesus because we were with Him in the holy mountain. We know He is Messiah and will reign as Messiah because we saw His physical glory.

The point of the Transfiguration was to reinforce the staggering faith of the apostles. As Jesus, Peter, James, and John return from the mountain, they find the other apostles trying to drive a demon out of a man and unable to do so. When they ask why the exorcism won't work, Jesus says it is because of their staggering faith. In the context, what is it that has staggered their faith? It was Jesus' message that He is going to die and that is exactly what the Transfiguration is all about. In such an interesting and compelling way, the Transfiguration illustrates what a careful, sensitive, creative and resourceful teacher Jesus was. He had been trying to get His impending death across to the disciples and sees how desperately crippled they are by the announcement. So He is sensitive enough, some days later, to provide that sort of a condescending object lesson, where God condescends to give him that physical glory just to reinforce their faith.



#### LENT: HOW TO SLOW DOWN AND MAKE MORE ROOM FOR JESUS IN YOUR LIFE

THE <u>DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS</u> IS THE BIG STORYLINE OF THE BIBLE. IT'S NO SURPRISE, THEN, THAT A MAJORITY OF CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE IT EVERY YEAR ON <u>EASTER</u> <u>SUNDAY</u>. BUT DID YOU KNOW SOME PEOPLE START <u>GETTING READY FOR EASTER</u> 40 DAYS BE-FORE IT HAPPENS?

THE SIX WEEKS LEADING UP TO EASTER ARE KNOWN AS <u>LENT</u>. LENT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE STARTED IN THE FOURTH CENTURY AD, WHEN PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO BE BAPTIZED ON EASTER SPENT 40 DAYS <u>FASTING</u> AND <u>PRAYING</u> TO PREPARE FOR THEIR COMMITMENT.

TODAY, PEOPLE WHO CHOOSE TO PRACTICE LENT DO SO BY GIVING UP A KIND OF FOOD, AN ACTIVITY OR A BAD HABIT. OTHER WAYS TO OBSERVE LENT ARE ATTENDING SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICES, COMMITTING TO PRAY MORE OR GIVING TO OTHERS.

#### WHY 40 DAYS?

IN THE BIBLE, MOSES EXODUS 34:28, ELIJAH 1 KINGS 19:8-9 AND JESUS MATTHEW 4:1-2 ALL WENT THROUGH INTENSE FASTING EXPERIENCES FOR 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS. BY THE TIME THOSE EXPERIENCES ENDED, THEY WERE READY FOR THE NEXT CHALLENGE THEY HAD TO FACE. ADOPTING THAT PATTERN MADE SENSE TO EARLY CHRISTIANS.

#### IS LENT REQUIRED TO BE A GOOD CHRISTIAN?

THE SHORT ANSWER IS NO. SERVING GOD ISN'T ABOUT KEEPING RELIGIOUS CUSTOMS, IT'S ABOUT HAVING A <u>PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP</u> WITH HIM. IF YOU'VE <u>RECEIVED CHRIST AS</u> <u>YOUR SAVIOR</u> YOU CAN'T GET "MORE SAVED" BY PRACTICING CHURCH TRADITIONS. BUT WILL YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD DEEPEN IF YOU SET ASIDE TIME TO REFLECT AND FOCUS ON HIM? <u>CAN A SEASON OF FASTING HELP YOU PREPARE FOR THE NEXT STEP ON YOUR JOURNEY</u> WITH GOD? THE SHORT ANSWER IS YES!

#### **MAKING MORE ROOM FOR GOD IN YOUR LIFE**

ONE OF GOD'S GREATEST PROMISES EXPLAINS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SPEND TIME WITH HIM: "DRAW NEAR TO GOD, AND HE WILL DRAW NEAR TO YOU" JAMES 4:8, ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION.

NEARNESS MEANS YOU'LL GET TO KNOW GOD BETTER AND <u>LEARN TO RECOGNIZE HIS</u> <u>VOICE</u>. JESUS SAID HE LEADS HIS SHEEP WITH HIS VOICE. "THE SHEEP HEAR HIS VOICE, AND HE CALLS HIS OWN SHEEP BY NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_ AND LEADS THEM OUT" JOHN 10:3, ESV.

WITH CHRIST IN THE LEAD, YOU'LL GO THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND WILL MAKE IT TO YOUR DESTINATION. YOU WON'T STUMBLE AROUND IN A FOG OF CONFUSION OR WANDER AIMLESSLY, NOT KNOWING WHERE TO GO.

STAYING CLOSE TO JESUS ALSO ENSURES YOU'LL HAVE LIFE "ABUNDANTLY" JOHN 10:10. THIS DOESN'T MEAN YOU WON'T HAVE CHALLENGES OR HARDSHIPS. BUT IT DOES MEAN YOU'LL HAVE PEACE, POWER AND JOY THAT CAN HELP YOU DEAL WITH ANY SITUATION PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13. OUR SAVIOUR'S GOOD NEWS

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#### LEADERSHIP BOARD MINUTES

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH NOVEMBER 27, 2022

The Special Meeting was called to order by President, Anna Lowery

Members present: Steve Digh, Anna Lowery, Robbie Wooten, Teri Trudnak, and Alice Vlaservich.

**Members Absent:** Becky Messick and Melinda White

The purpose of the meeting was to accept the proposed 2023 Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee, Steve Digh and Jeff White.

Motion by Rebbie Wooten to accept the proposed budget and present to the Congregation for approval at a December 18 Congregational Meeting. Seconded by Alice Vlaservich and carried.

Meeting was adjourned,



LEADERSHIP BOARD MINUTES OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNA LOWERY, PRESIDENT DECEMBER 18, 2022 11:00 AM

Meeting called to order by President, Anna Lowery

The purpose of the Congregational Meeting was to approve the proposed 2023 Budget

Members of the church were sent a copy of the proposed budget. President Lowery asked if there any questions.

President asked for a motion to approve the proposed budget. Motion by Robbie Wooten to accept the budget. Seconded by Alice Vlaservich and carried.

### The Origin of St. Valentine

The origin of St. Valentine, and how many St. Valentines there were, remains a mystery. One opinion is that he was a Roman martyred for refusing to give up his Christian faith. Other historians hold that St. Valentine was a temple priest jailed for defiance during the reign of Claudius. Whoever he was, Valentine really existed because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to Saint Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked February 14th as a celebration in honor of his martyrdom.

Saints are not supposed to rest in peace; they're expected to keep busy: to perform miracles, to intercede. Being in jail or dead is no excuse for non-performance of the supernatural. One legend says, while awaiting his execution, Valentinus restored the sight of his jailer's blind daughter. Another legend says, on the eve

of his death, he penned a farewell note to the jailer's daughter, signing it, "From your Valentine."

St. Valentine was a Priest, martyred in 269 at Rome and was buried on the Flaminian Way. He is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, bee keepples, epilepriages, love, plague, travple. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses.

**The season of Lent begins.** To understand what Lent is about, as we take the first steps in this journey toward Holy Week and Easter, let's back up just a few verses before what we read and heard last Sunday: The Transfiguration. Jesus was glorified, glowing in brilliant light on that mountain – but it makes sense only in the light of what just transpired in Luke 9:18-27.

Jesus asks what rumors and guesses are floating around regarding his identity. No one could be sure – but Peter gets it right: "You are the Messiah. The Son of the Living God." Some would doubt this seriously – thinking the Messiah would come someday, but not today! Others would holler Thanks be to God! Happy days are here again! The Romans will be ushered out of our land and soon! And prosperity is around the corner!

Jesus, never one to meet our fantasies and expectations, clarifies how he will disappoint those dreams in order to give us something better. "The Son of Man must suffer many things, be rejected and killed." And ours, in following him, isn't comfort and ease, but "Let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow." We are always invited into such a challenging life following Jesus. Almost mercifully, as if God knew we couldn't bear the pressure of fixating on this all year long, we are granted this season of Lent, six weeks, an intense time to reflect and embrace this taking up the cross.

Taking up the cross isn't bearing the challenges of the world. In Roman times, you picked up a cross only if you were a condemned man, on death row, walking that last mile. Your life is over. You are no longer your own. Whatever you owned doesn't matter anymore. Time is short. Courage is required. We choose discomfort, doing without, not satisfying every desire so our deepest desires might be exposed and dealt with.

Jesus, from this moment, began his long death row walk from the far north region of Capernaum south to Jerusalem, knowing he'd be executed. We to begin a long journey. Selfdenial. Quiet. Prayer. Some fasting. Not dieting but doing without something you love or need. You shed other items, other





When: Since 1968, it is celebrated on the third Monday in February(21)

President's Day is a day set aside to honor all of the U.S. presidents. We

often think of two great presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln when we celebrate this holiday as it falls by design between their birthdays. But more and more of us, look at this day as a tribute to each and every person who has ever served in the office as President of the United States of America. It is a national holiday, although most businesses and industry do not recognize it as a paid holiday.

#### George Washington's Birthday When: February 22nd

The "Father of His Country", George Washington was born on February 22, 1732. He became commander in chief of the Continental Army in 1775 and fought a long and arduous war for freedom from British rule. The war was finally over in 1781 when the Continental Army with the help of the French, forced Cornwallis to surrender at Yorktown.

In 1787, Washington was unanimously elected president by the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia and took the oath of office in 1789. He served two terms of office from 1789 until 1797. After the presidency, Washington retired to his home in Mount Vernon, Virginia where he died on December 14, 1799 of a throat infection.

Quiz: What is George Washington's most famous quote? <u>Answer...</u> "I Can not tell a lie... .. I chopped down the Cherry Tree!"

#### Abraham Lincoln's Birthday When: February 12th.

Every American knows President Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States. "Honest Abe", as he was commonly known as, was born in the wilderness country of Hardin County, Kentucky on February 12, 1809.

Abraham Lincoln became president in 1861. Although he hated war, he was drawn into it as he believed it was the only was to save the nation after the southern states declared their secession to the Union.

In addition to serving as president during the civil war and saving the Union, Lincoln wrote the Emancipation Proclamation that ended slavery in the U.S. forever. He also wrote and gave The Gettysburg Address, memorializing the bloodiest and most important battle of the Civil War. Gettysburg proved to be the turning point of the war.

Shortly after the war ended, Abraham Lincoln became the first U.S. President to be assassinated. He was shot and mortally wounded on Good Friday, April 14, 1865 by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theatre.



#### February 8

The **Boy Scouts of America** (**BSA**) is one of the largest youth organizations in the United States, with over four million youth members in its age-related divisions. In 1909, Chicago publisher W. D. Boyce was visiting London, where he encountered the Unknown Scout and learned of the Scouting movement.<sup>1</sup> Soon after his return to the U.S., Boyce incorporated the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910. Since its founding in 1910 as part of the international Scout Movement, more than 110 million Americans have been members of the BSA.

The BSA goal is to train youth in responsible citizenship, character development, and self-reliance through participation in a wide range of outdoor activities, educational programs, and, at older age levels, career-oriented programs in partnership with community organizations. For younger members, the Scout method is part of the program to inculcate typical Scouting values such as trustworthiness, good citizenship, and outdoors skills, through a variety of activities such as camping, aquatics, and hiking.

The BSA is a constituent member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. The traditional Scouting divisions are *Cub Scouting* for boys ages 7–10, *Boy Scouting* for boys ages 11–18 and *Venturing* for young men and women ages 14–21. Learning for Life is a non-traditional subsidiary that provides in-school and career education. The BSA operates traditional Scouting locally through units sponsored and operated by churches, clubs, civic associations, educational organizations and the like. Units are led entirely by volunteers who are supported by local councils using both paid professionals and volunteers.

The influence of Scouting on American society is frequently cited by both its advocates and critics. In addition to nostalgic memories of campfires kindling friendships, prominent leaders in various fields of endeavor have credited the skills they learned in Scouting as helping mold them into successful citizens.

The BSA's stated purpose at its incorporation in 1910 was "to teach [boys] patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred values. Later, in 1937, Deputy Chief Scout Executive George J. Fisher expressed the BSA's mission; "Each generation as it comes to maturity has no more important duty than that of teaching high ideals and proper behavior to the generation which follows." The current mission statement of the BSA is "to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law."

CELEBRATED THE SUNDAY BEFORE FEB. 5

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14th .....Nick & Alice Vlaservich

27<sup>th</sup> .....Brian & Anna Cole

#### OUR SAVIOUR'S GOOD NEWS



Sunday School: 9:45 pm Sunday Church Worship: 11:00 pm

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er Schedule: 5 12 Nick Vlaservich 19 Marsha Patton 26 Lent-No flowers

se sign up to place flowers on the altar in the Glory of God and

onor or Memory of your love ones.

Plenty of openings (27) Decorate the altar of our Lord And then take home to decorate your home of give to a love one of shut-in OUR SAVIOUR'S GOOD NEWS



725 Gastonia Technology Parkway Post Office Box 475 Dallas, North Carolina 28034 Phone: 705-922-4648 Email: oslcdallas@aol.com Website: oslc-nc.org



#### <u>SHUT-INS</u> NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Please remember our church members who are shut-ins or reside in a nursing home or senior living and visit them or send a card to them.

#### <u>Marilyn Finger</u>

2701 Jackson Square, Andersin, SC 29625

#### Jill Petzold #122

Stanley Total Living Center 514 Old Mt. Holly Rd, Stanley, NC 28164

(If others, please let the church office know)

Help fill the pantry

at the

Dallas Christian Social Ministry.

Check and see what food item they need for the month

(on page 6-our calendar) and let us over fill that bas-

God will bless you in your generosity.

ket in the hallway. This is a great outreach program.



Kure/Agape Beach E-mail: <u>kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org</u> Web site: www.agapekurebeach.org

> Please see calendars and other information on the bulletin board or go on-line



GO OUT ON A LIMB GET INVOLVED BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT A positions are still open. Participate in the service of the Lord and sign up.

Sign up sheets for the 2023 calendar year are on the wall in the Education wing. THANK YOU!



The legend of Groundhog Day is based on an old Scottish couplet: "If Candlemas Day is bright and clear, there'll be two winters in the year."

Every February 2 –around 7:30 am ET - , people gather at Gobbler's Knob, a wooded knoll just outside of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.

The ceremony in Punxsutawney was held in secret until 1966, and only Phil's prediction was revealed to

the public. Since then, Phil's fearless forecast has been a national media event.

The groundhog comes out of his electrically heated burrow, looks for his shadow and utters his prediction to a Groundhog Club representative in "groundhogese." The representative then translates the prediction for the general public.

#### If Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, it means six more weeks of winter. If he does not see his shadow, it means spring is just around the corner.

Phil started making predictions in 1887 and has become an American Institution. Residents contend that the groundhog has never been wrong. Approximately 90% of the time, Phil sees his shadow.



## The Long History Behind Ash Wednesday Traditions

#### ASHLEY ROSS



is inextricably linked to Easter. After all, it marks the beginning of the Lent penance period that ends on that important Christian holiday. But, even though the Easter story takes place in biblical times, the traditions of Ash Wednesday aren't quite that old. (Ash Wednesday is on March 2, 2022)

Ash Wednesday

"The practice of Ash Wednesday dates back to the 11th Century," says Lauren F. Winner, a priest and assistant professor at Duke Divinity School. "You see that in the book Daniel in the nine chapter there's a line about associating fasting with ashes, so ashes are associated with penance, which is the dominant theme of Lent."

And the most familiar Ash Wednesday observance—the ash crosses worn on the foreheads of many churchgoers—hasn't always been acknowledged by all branches of Christianity, Winner says. It wasn't until a few decades ago that the tradition became widespread in the United States.

In the 1970s, the practice matched up with a few wider trends in American religion, including the embrace of once-discarded traditions and the search for ways to connect the physical body to spiritual life. Ash Wednesday was an opportunity for a multi-sensory way of connecting faith to the body, so many American Christians at the time decided to begin wearing that outward physical mark of their spiritual lives. Winner says she thinks its popularity has endured as it offers those celebrating an easy way to prompt conversations about faith.

"We've seen the rise of a whole array of bodily practices and this is a very striking one for those who are not necessarily comfortable talking about faith,"she says. "The practice of this once a year is an organic way of drawing their faith into their lives."

But what is it exactly that's on the foreheads of those observing the holiday? The ash used for Ash Wednesday is made of palm branches used on the previous Palm Sunday, when Christians carry palms in a nod to the Gospels' reference to Jesus' path being covered in palm fronds on the day he entered Jerusalem. Occasionally the ashes are mixed with oil so they stay on congregants' foreheads for longer.

In modern times, especially as cremation has become more popular in the U.S., many people imbue the ashes with a new level of meaning, Winner says. "[They represent] penance and mortality," she says, "but there's also a much stronger and more palpable association if people were just last year scattering ashes of a family member."

With many religious traditions, the meaning can often be lost over time. But Winner says Ash Wednesday, even as observances evolve, is one exception to that rule.

"It's very powerful to say those words about 'you are dust and to dust you shall return," she says. "I keep waiting for it to get overly familiar and lose its power but it doesn't."

#### 

#### (The season cont'd from page 4)

Feel the unease. Knowing others are hungry but not by choice. Knowing you are hungry not for the trivial things we stuff into our souls - but for God. Easy things are never memorable or joyful. Do the arduous thing, striving hard for the impossible, is the way to life, rest, and joy. Which is what is to come next in Luke's story: the glory, the shining, the hope. Easter's coming – but make sure you don't fast-forward. Take your time.

During the Sundays of Lent, will focus on how future events foreshadow what we see in our world today. And how those who followed Jesus in the first century continued on their journey. God gives us signs so that we might have hope in a world that seems to be totally up-side-down! Come worship at Grace and hear the good news of God's Holy Word.



OUR SAVIOUR'S GOOD NEWS

#### The Resume of Jesus Christ

Address: Ephesians 1:20 Phone: Romans 10:13 Website: The Bible. Keywords: Christ, Lord, Savior and Jesus

Objective

My name is Jesus-The Christ. Many call me Lord! I've sent you my resume because I'm seeking <u>the top management</u> position in your heart. Please consider my accomplishments as set forth in my resume.

#### **Qualifications**

I founded the earth and established the heavens, (See Proverbs 3:19) I formed man from the dust of the ground, (See Genesis 2:7) I breathed into man the breath of life, (See Genesis 2:7) I redeemed man from the curse of the law, (See Galatians 3:13) The blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant comes upon your life through me, (See Galatians 3:14)

#### **Occupational Background**

I've only had one employer, (See Luke 2:49). I've never been tardy, absent, disobedient, slothful or disrespectful. My employer has nothing but rave reviews for me, (See Matthew 3:15 -17)

#### **Skills Work Experiences**

Some of my skills and work experiences include: empowering the poor to be poor no more, healing the brokenhearted, setting the captives free, healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind and setting at liberty them that are bruised, (See Luke 4:18). I am a Wonderful Counselor, (See Isaiah 9:6). People who listen to me shall dwell safely and shall not fear evil, (See

Proverbs 1:33).

Most importantly, I have the authority, ability and power to cleanse you of your sins, (See I John 1:7-9)

#### **Educational Background**

I encompass the entire breadth and length of knowledge, wisdom and understanding, (See Proverbs 2:6). In me are hid all of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, (See Colossians 2:3). My Word is so powerful; it has been described as being a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path, (See Psalms 119:105). I can even tell you all of the secrets of your heart, (See Psalms 44:21).

**Major Accomplishments** 

I was an active participant in the greatest Summit Meeting of all times, (See Genesis 1:26).

I laid down my life so that you may live, (See II Corinthians 5:15).

I defeated the arch enemy of God and mankind and made a show of them openly, (See Colossians 2:15).

I've miraculously fed the poor, healed the sick and raised the dead!

There are many more major accomplishments, too many to mention here. You can read them on my website, which is located at: www dot - the BIBLE. You don't need an Internet connection or computer to access my website.

#### **References**

Believers and followers worldwide will testify to my divine healing, salvation, deliverance, miracles, restoration and supernatural guidance.

#### In Summation

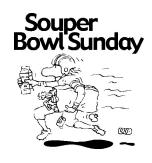
Now that you've read my resume, I'm confident that I'm the only candidate uniquely qualified to fill this vital position in your heart. In summation, I will properly direct your paths, (See Proverbs 3:5-6), and lead you into everlasting life, (See John 6:47). When can I start? Time is of the essence, (See Hebrews 3:15). VOLUME XVIII, ISSUE

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If you need a Pastor, please contact Pastor Pete Feige at 704-516-2805 or our office at 704-922-4648. Check out our website at **oslc-nc.org** or email us at <u>oslcdallas@aol.com</u>.



#### FEBRUARY 12

Each year on **Souper Bowl Sunday** congregations from around the nation collect monies to be donated to local and/or regional charities. This year the we will support our local Dallas-High Shoals Christian Ministry. On Sunday, February 12, the baskets will be at each door of the church with their kettles for any donation you might want to give plus there will be a basket at each door of the church for canned goods. Please help fight hunger and poverty in our community.



DALLAS DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL SIGN-UPS BASEBALL AGES 5—15 SOFTBALL AGES 6—14 <u>FEBRUARY 1 THRU MARCH 1</u>

For more info call: Brandon Whitener 704-922-3176 ext. 234

 $\mathbf{or}$ 

www.dallasnc.net

#### **CLW/RACHEL GROUP**

WILL BE MEETING IN THE TBA on February 27 AT 1:30 PM

on February 27 AT 1.50 FW

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#### PRAYER GROUP

WILL MEET AT THE HOME OF SHIRLEE MARAZZA on February 21 at 1:30 PM

**LET US PRAY...** "Are any among you suffering? They should pray...The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up." (James 5:13-15)



MARGARET Addington, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), RONDA Bradley (Marsha Patton's mom, surgery

for neck fusion), KAREN Brady, MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), STEVE Cloninger (friend of Brady Ratchfordcancer), ROB Curley (cancer), STEVE Digh (cancer), HAR-DY Feige (Pete's dad - chronic back pain), GLEEN Fraizer (friend of Steve & Julie Digh -cancer), NANCY Friday, DON Gardner (John Patton's uncle -caner in lung, liver, stomach, & pancreas), BECKY Goodwin (friend of Brady's - cancer), JA-SON Hames (friend of the White's), GRACE Harbin (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), ANDERSON Jones (friend of Penny Wilson-paralyzed by fall), JEFF Lineberger (stroke), DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), JACK Lonon (Kasev Digh's step-father-cancer), MARINA Marazza (Shirlee Marazza's granddaughter-Long Haul Covid19), BO Messick (foot), FRANCIS McAllister (broken hip), CHRIS Messick (recovering back surgery), JASON, ALLISON & LEX Murray, ELIZABETH Mustin (rare breast cancer), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), SONDRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), TERI Trudnak, RONNIE Shiles (friend of Brady Ratchforddeclining health), MARTHA Surratt (friend of Alice Vlaservich -cancer). ,GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), ALICE Vlaservich (healing), MELINDA White (blood cancer.), NANCY Wilson, MARY BETH Wright (cousin of Nick Vlaservich cancer).

#### **GOD WANTS YOU!**

(1) God wants you to participate in His worship service for **2023** by servicing as a worship assistant as a Crucifer, Greeter or Usher

See the sign up sheet in notebook in hold on office door and please help.

(2) New Flower Calendar is up. Please remember your love ones and also help decorate our Lord's altar. Cost of Flowers has increased to \$35.10 There are 25 openings

#### A Stewardship Minute

"There are many ways in which we cannot share, but that does not discount the ways we can." This statement is in this month's issue of *Stewardship*. We can all say Amen to that can't we? The needs of the world are certainly overwhelming: poverty, food shortages, millions with health problems, calamities caused by floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, droughts and so forth. The list of the world's afflictions and desperate needs staggers us and makes us feel helpless. So I repeat the words found in the Stewardship article: "There are many ways in which we cannot share, but that does not discount the ways we can."

The third chapter of the Book of Acts helps us understand the truth of

these words. Do you recall the story of Peter and John going to the temple to pray? The apostles saw a lame man begging for alms. Peter, having sympathy for him said, "I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise and walk." And the man did just that.

OUR SAVIOUR'S GOOD NEWS

If we are short of money trying to meet any need, we still have a voice to offer Christ's love. We have talents to offer compassion and care, time to help, words to alert others so they may use their brains and brawn to help relieve a portion of the wounds of the world. And if we will use whatever gifts from God that we have to be the church at work on Christ's behalf, we can be certain that our efforts will be rewarded in ways we

might never imagine.

<b>Prayer:</b> Blessed Lord, let us never forget that living for you and serving as follow-		
ers of Christ will honor you and make		
our lives worthy and a blessing for oth-		
ers. Amen		

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#### **TOP TEN PREDICTIONS FOR 2023:**

With all the problems the World is facing, it can be unsettling to the mind. Today, I share with you ten predictions that are true!

- 1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
- 2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on Earth..
- 3. The Holy Spirit will still move..
- 4. God will still honor the praises of His people.
- 5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
- 6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
- 7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
- 8. There will still be room at the Cross.
- 9. Jesus will still love you.
- 10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

Isn't it great To Remember Who Is Really In Control, and that; "the Word of the Lord endures forever." (1 Peter 1:25)

I hope you found this encouraging and will share it to friends!!!! Sometimes we need the reminder of just WHO is really in control.

#### 2022 Feb. Mission Emphasis - DCSM

"...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness and to walk humbly with your God." ---Micah 6:8

#### **OUR MISSION**

The mission of The Dallas Christian Social Ministry (DCSM) is to serve as a cooperative ministry of the area churches in bearing witness to the Love of God made visible in Jesus Christ through acts of compassion and mercy by providing crisis assistance, humanitarian aid and developmental (self improvement) opportunities to persons and families in the North Gaston area. **OUR HISTORY** 

In an effort to enhance the quality of life for all the citizens in the North Gaston area and in response to a number of urgent needs, The Dallas Ministerial Association (DMA), initiated a local food pantry which soon became knows as The Dallas Christian Social Ministry. For more than 36 years, DCSM has served faithfully in the North Gaston Community and continues to receive generous and wide spread support from both the area churches and the local community.

#### A COOPERATIVE EFFORT

DCSM in an effort to enhance the quality of life for all the citizens in the North Gaston area and in response to a number of urgent needs, The Dallas Ministerial Association (DMA), initiated a local food pantry which soon became knows as The Dallas Christian Social Ministry (DCSM). For more than 35 years, DCSM has served faithfully and continues to receive generous and wide spread support from both the area churches and the local community.

#### TWO DCSM MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR OSLC THIS MONTH:

**Souper** • <u>Souper Bowl Sunday – February 12, 2023</u>: Bring soup (and other canned goods) for DCSM There will be containers in the hallway for the cans

The DCSM is the February Mission opportunity for you to participate in locally.

- **Pray** for the organization, its staff, those who come to receive food, clothes, financial emergency support for their unpaid medical, electrical, and gas bills, will be encouraged by the words of care and concern spoken in Jesus' Name.
- Bring cans of soup (or other canned goods) on Souper Bowl Sunday or a monetary gift to DCSM- Feb. 12

#### **CELL PHONES:**

As every day goes by, we find ourselves more and more dependent on our cell phone and less dependent on our land line with any answering machine. To help the Church keep you informed quickly, the Church council is requesting you provide us with your cell phone.... To do this please record it <u>o</u>n our Sunday's worship form. Thank you for your help.



## **Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County**

We at Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County, Inc. would like to welcome you to our center. Our pregnancy center is a nonprofit pro-life organization of committed Christians sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and actively helping women, men and families in crisis pregnancy situations.

Questioned frequently asked:

- Where can a pregnant women go for physical help and emotional support
- Where can a a new mom or dad go for resources and support for their newborn to twelve month old?
- Where can a pregnant teenager go for support, advice and mentoring?
- Where can a woman carrying the guilt of an abortion go for healing and support?
- Where can a teen hear the truth of Purity and practical ways to live an Abstinent lifestyle?

The answer to all those questions is Crisis Pregnancy.

Since 1986, Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County has offered all of our servies for free thanks to the donations and support of individuals, churches and businesses across Gaston County.

#### Now, how can we serve you?

**Peer Counseling** 

- Pregnancy test
- Adolescent Parenting
- Abstinence Education Car Seats
- Baby ClothesDiapers
- DiapersFormula

- Car Seats
- Wipes
- Baby Food

- Ultrasound
- Maternity Clothes
- Pack & Plays
- Baby Supplies
- Blankets and more

## Sanctity of Human Life

For more than 3 decades we have been making a difference in Gaston, Lincoln and the greater Piedmont area of NC. Simply, by the grace of God, He has strategically placed us here for such a time as this with a reminder that he will honor them, and they will not be insignificant. This is our time.

We work with each client on an individual basis to meet their needs so that giving life to their baby is a viable option. We also prevent unwanted pregnancies by training our youth to save sex for marriage and offer healing and forgiveness in Jesus to those already wounded by an abortion in their past. By PARTNERing with us you can help end the tragedy of abortion one life at a time. YOU can make a difference.

In April and September: Attend volunteer training at CPC.

Do you want to help us share good news? Would you be willing to invite 7 friends to our annual Celebration of LIFE Fundraiser? If so, please contact Meg at <u>meg.koontz.cpc@gmail.com</u>

> or 704-867-3706



## CHURCH OFFICE 704-922-4648 --- EMAIL oslcdallas@aol.com --- Website oslc-nc.org

#### LEADERSHIP BOARD

Term Expiring 2023 Teri Trudnak 922-4485 Term Expiring 2024

Term Expiring 2025

Melinda White 922-7056 Alice Vlaservich

922-3052 Robbie Wooten

691-8967

Anna Lowery

616-8850 Becky Messick

> 460-8664 Steve Digh 718-6430

#### **OFFICERS** OF THE LEADERSHIP BOARD AND OTHER OFFICIALS

President	Anna Lowery
Vice President	•
Secretary	Melinda White
General Treasurer	Joe Finger
Delegates	Undesignated (appointed by Board)

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor	Peter (Pete) Feige
Parish Administrator	Nick Vlaservich
Choir Director	Marie Robinson, Interim
Archivist	
Organist	Nancy Wilson, Interim

#### **BOARD MEMBERS ON MINISTRIES AND OTHERS**

Property Team
Ministry of Christian Education
Ministry of Worship
Ministry of Finance & Stewardship .
Ministry of Witness
Ministry of Youth
Nominating Ministry Team
Fellowship/Facility Ministry Team.

Alice Vlaservich Melinda White, Becky Messick Anna Lowery, Denise Traveria, Teri Trudnak, Robbie Wooten Steve Digh Becky Messick, Alice Vlaservich Melinda White (appoint in Oct.)\*\*

#### MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE

Dallas-High Shoals Christian...... Julie Digh

## **Celebration of Life** Let the Little Children Come to Me!

"But Jesus called the children to Him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Luke 18:16

## Thursday, March 9, 2023 First Assembly of God

777 South Myrtle School Road Gastonia, NC 28052

> Host & 9 Guests: \$100.00

Praise & Worship TIME TBD in the Sanctuary PROGRAM Begins at 7 p.m. Contact Meg Koontz, Fundraiser Coordinator 704.867.3706 or Meg.Koontz.CPC@gmail.com



Jan Fox, Pre-Born! Field Consultant, knows that compassion is the only effective way to step into the life of a woman facing a crisis pregnancy. Jan says her focus is clear, "Save a life for today and one for eternity." For years, covered by Pre-Born! intercessory prayer, Jan has taught pregnancy clinic staff and volunteers how to share the gospel in an unintimidating and practical way. She has them read scripture out loud so they can also hear what God is saying.

er:

"This is so powerful. Many times, hearts are softened," Jan said. "The most important side of this is to give women an invitation to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Thousands come to know Christ because of this method."



#### **Questions?**

Contact Meg Koontz, our Celebration of Life Coordinator:

Email: meg.koontz.cpc@gmail.com Call 704-867-3706 Text 724-263-1709

# Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

February 2023

hildren, even with their lack of sophistication, often have a way of getting to the heart of things quicker than the rest of us with all of our acquired knowledge. This came through to me rather graphically when a girl of seven was attempting to tell me of her favorite Bible story.

She referred to it as the story about sharing, but I did not catch on to what she had in mind until she went further and described the scene involving the multiplication of loaves and fishes.

The girl had a point, and her remark provided me with a totally different outlook on a story that I had heard many times over. Somehow, her observation seemed much more down to earth than the phrase, "multiplication of loaves and fishes" ... not that Jesus could not multiply anything he chose ... he certainly could. But coming at the story as this child did is perhaps more apt to bring home the message of the miracle, which after all is said and done is more important than the wonder of a large crowd being provided with a picnic lunch on some hillside of long ago.

This really is a story about sharing. What would have happened if the person with the loaves and fish had insisted that he needed what little he had for himself? He could have claimed that the rest of the folks should have had enough foresight to bring their own food, and that they did not deserve to share in his goodies since they were not responsible people. He might have been convinced that the hunger of others was not his problem. Granted, such an attitude would not necessarily have stopped Jesus from doing his thing, but the fact is that the approach he chose to use is very much the same approach that God has most often used throughout history. God offers love and concern; he feeds and nourishes, but most often calls upon people like you The meaning of stewardship has to do with 100%, rather than 2, 3, or even 10%. All people are stewards. The only uncertainty is what kind.

It is God's house in which we live, and it is to God that we are responsible. We are God's managers.



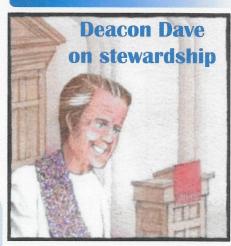
and me to provide the means from what he has already given us.

To take nothing away from the miraculous event of the story, it might be that the miracle of bringing about a truly generous sharing was even greater than whatever Jesus might have done with (Continued on page 4)



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ur weekly gift to God should be a gift that is acceptable ... a fitting expression of our esteem and respect of God, sacrificial, causing some degree of burden to the giver, and proportionate ... truly saying: "God I love you, and thank you for all you have given me." This gift of mine should be an account of my stewardship to God, my generous and loving father.



L Paul summed up the basic principles of Christian stewardship when he wrote to the members of the church at Corinth: "I seek not yours, but you!" Jesus gave a similar interpretation of it when he said: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these other things shall be added unto you." Both Jesus and Paul were appealing for a total dedication to the cause of the Kingdom.

This stewardship of all of life will lead some to enter full time Christian service. To all, it will mean an on-thejob witnessing, no matter what our abilities, our bank accounts, or our jobs. Christian stewardship means the glad contribution of time and abilities to the work of the local church and church related causes around the world.

Because our gifts and circumstances differ, we cannot all be ministers or missionaries, teachers or nurses. We cannot all witness to Christ in the professions, like Albert Schweitzer, or in the business world, like a "Golden Rule" Nash. But we can all give of our time and energy right where we are. This is where such gifts are most needed and most appreciated.

And the answer that the Christian steward will make, will include voluntary service in some of the opportunities in their church. Of course, we do not all have the same abilities or the same material resources. Not all of us can do the same things. But all of us should do as many of them as time, abilities, and circumstances will allow.

Some will say: "But I'm just too busy to do any of these things!"

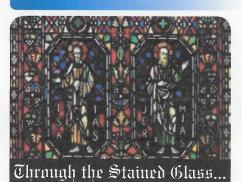
There is a saying that if you want to get something done, ask a busy person to do it. This is true because the person who gets things done is the person who has learned to budget their time and energy toward worthy goals. True, we do not all have the same amount of time to give. But the Christian steward knows how to budget their time just as they knows how to budget their money; and they know that the gift of time and abilities is just as necessary to the Kingdom as is the gift of money. They take time to do the Kingdom's work.

To the Christian steward, life is a vocation that calls for a total dedication, including money, time, talents, everything. They give themself. With St. Paul, God says to all of us: "I seek not yours, but you." And the Christian steward lays their time and abilities on the altar and replies humbly:

"All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee."



"Please, Dick, don't make a scene!"



John Haughey spoke to a gathering of church leaders some time ago about the "Holy Use of Money," taken from the title of a book he wrote. He described what he called "mammon illness," that is so pervasive in our consumer oriented culture.

#### What is "mammon?"

Rev. Haughey's description of "mammon illness" begins with a definition of the word "mammon." In Luke's Gospel, the word "mammon" is not a neutral term. It is not simply another word for "money." It connotes disorder. Its root meaning is "that in which one puts one's trust." Mammon becomes a source of disorder because people allow it to make a claim on them that only God can make. Rev. Haughey says, "Judging from the many references Jesus made about money and possessions, Jesus must have discerned this mammon illness to be widespread.

Concerns about money and possessions constituted a major obstacle to his hearers being able to accept his words about the character of God."

#### **Running after things**

One symptom of mammon illness is "running after things." Here Rev. Haughey uses Luke 12 as a reference point: "As for you, do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not worry anymore. All the nations seek for these things, and your father knows that you need them." (vs. 29-30). It is as if Jesus were saying "To provide yourself and yours with what you want and with what you need, you think you have to run." He connects running with unbelieving. He invites his hearers to connect slowing down and walking with believing. He doesn't deride providing for oneself, just doing so with anxiety, because anxiety is a sign that a person thinks there is a part of his or her life out of God's loving reach.



#### **Dear Editor:**

I get so many pleas for money today. The mail box is full of "give to me and my organization" letters every week

The biblical command has always been and continues to be: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse." The church is God's way of carrying on his work today. It is God's program of evangelism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century just as it was in the first century.

Christ loved the church and gave himself for it; it is his body. He is coming back for the church. Someone said to me the other day, "I don't have much to give to any organization, but what I do have to give, I want to give to my church where it can be used for the glory of God.

The Apostle Paul placed a high value on being found faithful as a Christian in the matter of stewardship. The Christian who gives his tithe to God's Work at God's house on the first day of the week fits that description.

J. Dufault

Stewarding God's time in my life involves these questions: Am I giving sacrifi-

cially of my time and talents to the church and to others?

How many of my free hours are spent each week doing things that serve or entertain myself?

Am I using all my talents in ways that are God-pleasing?

Do I believe that God will bless me with adequate time to do everything expected if I give generously of my time and talents to others?

#### Continued from page 1...

#### Children, even with their ...

the bread and the fish. Neither bread nor fish had the power to say "no" to anything, but whoever brought the food was called to say, "Yes." Changing things is more often than not far easier than changing people, and the gospel message was meant to do just that ... to change people, you and me included. True, Jesus was able to bring about changes in bread, fish, water and wine, but as with everything else he did, these events were meant to be a means of changing and redeeming the folks who would experience the events and read the stories.

This same Jesus who had compassion for the crowds is calling us to be food to one another. Those with empty stomachs must be given bread. The people who are hungry for love are in need of concern and must be given time. There are many in turmoil and confusion who could well use an understanding friend or a willing listener.

We are told in the story that after everyone had eaten there was enough left over to fill a number of baskets. This, too, is not all that different from what things are today. I dread to think of the number of doggie bags that go from restaurants to the refrigerators to wastebaskets. While some scratch for money to buy essentials, others are looking for the best place to invest their surplus. With the distribution of food and wealth being what it is, you and I have an awesome responsibility. I do not think that our God wants us to feel guilty for what we have, but I do think that God expects us to use that which he has given in ways that would enhance the lives and hopes of so many who do not know the meaning of leftovers.

The person in the story was not asked



#### "I seek not yours, but you!"

to solve the hunger problem for the whole world or even his own country. He was, however, asked to do what he could for those who were with him.

And there are ways in which we can respond despite the many ways that we cannot. Sometimes it will be in a personal way of one kind or another. Perhaps it will be in a voting booth when our unselfish choices may lessen the needs of someone else. It may be a simple phone call or some time spent in a hospital room. What do we do with the money saved by buying less expensive food? Does it provide us with more goodies next week, or could it perhaps go to some program that would help those whose perception of a good deal is to watch their children eat a couple of times a week. Yes, there are many ways in which we cannot share, but that does not discount the ways we can. X

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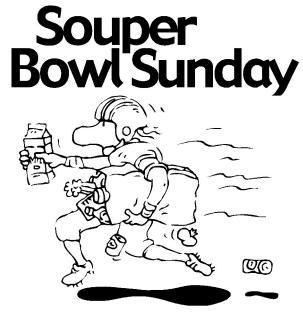


Our Saviour Lutheran Church P.O. Box 457 725 Gastonia Technology Parkway Dallas, NC 28034





## February 2023



Don't forget to bring can goods on February 12

