

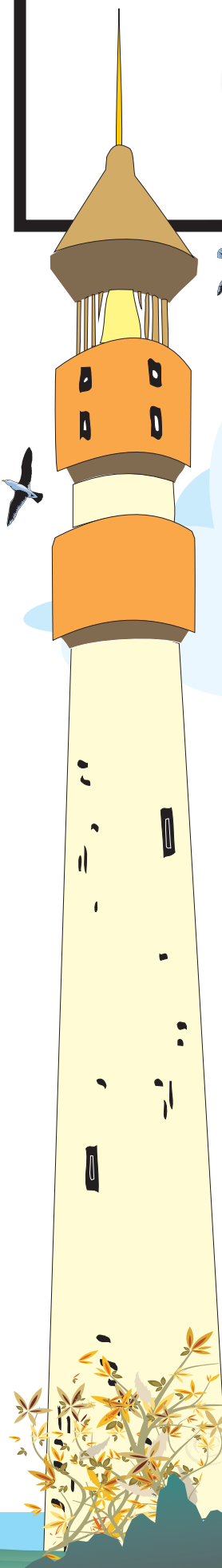
March 2024

The Lighthouse

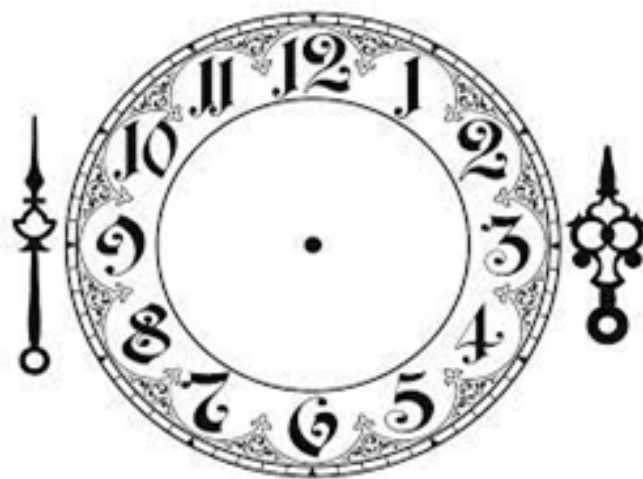
My Times Are in Your Hands

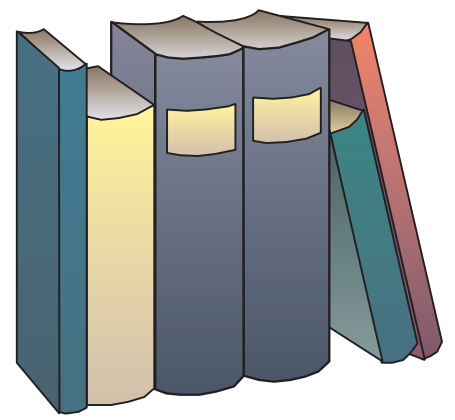
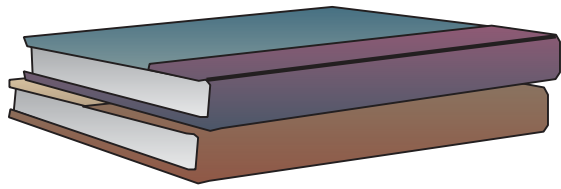
Rev. Shannon Philio, Assistant Pastor

On Sunday, March 10, daylight saving time (DST) begins. We “spring” forward our clocks one hour before going to bed on the Saturday evening before. Don't miss Sunday School! Even more so, don't miss worship! As I was marking my calendar, I began reflecting on time. David wrote in Psalm 31:14-15, “But I trust in You, O Lord; I say, 'My times are in Your hands.’” David also wrote in Psalm 139:16, “All my days were ordained by You and written in Your book before one of them came to be.” David understood that the Lord is sovereign and in full control of his entire life, every day, every hour, every minute, every second of his life, and David thus trusted God with full confidence and faith in the High King's providence, protection, provision, power, and preservation. Rev. Charles Spurgeon wrote, “If we believe that all our times are in God's hand, we shall be expecting great things from our heavenly Father. When we get into a difficulty, we shall say, 'I am now going to see the wonders of God, and to learn again how surely He delivers them that trust in Him.’” All of your life, the good times and the bad, the joys and the sorrows, are in the Father's hands. The question you need to ask yourself is, “Am I committing my entire day, my entire time, to the Lord? Am I trusting in Him, following His footsteps, and listening to His voice in faith from sunrise to sunset?” What great comfort for all of us as we journey through the day to know that our times truly are in the Master's hands. Sometimes we sing that praise hymn, “In His Time,” during worship service. May it be your prayer today, “In Your time, in Your time, You make all things beautiful in Your time. Lord, my life (my time) to You I bring, with its winter and its spring, may I fathom everything, in Your time.”



While God does have you and your times in His hands, does He give you any responsibility for being good stewards of your time? David wrote in Psalm 90:12, “Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” Ask yourself, “Am I making the most of my time to glorify, honor, and please the Lord from the moment I awaken to the moment I fall asleep that I might gain a heart and a life of wisdom?” Even Colossians 4:5 says to “walk in wisdom, making the best use of the time.” Are you getting the idea that God wants us to be serious about how we use our time? Allow me to paraphrase the Apostle Paul's words in Ephesians 5:15-17: “Be careful with how you use your time. Be wise, not unwise. Make the best use of the time! Because Satan, the world, and the flesh, the three great enemies to the Christian faith, will tempt you to use your time for sin and evil. Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” Ask yourself, “Lord, what is Your will for how I use the time You have ordained for me in Your book?” As we gather, grow, and go in and for the Lord, might we take every thought, every minute, every breath, every time captive (2 Corinthians 10:5) in obedience, trust, faith, hope, love, and sanctification, becoming more like Christ, for the Lord's honor, will, pleasure, and glory! “In His time, in His time, He makes all things beautiful in His time. Lord, please show me every day, as You are teaching me Your way, that You do just what You say in Your time.” Carpe diem! Carpe tempus!





The Importance of Reading

Rev. Jim Misner

As Christians, I believe that it is important to read! Obviously, it is necessary that we consistently read the scriptures! It is our conviction that the scriptures are inspired, infallible, and inerrant “Word of God”, the only rule of faith and practice. In approaching your reading of God's word, I would not encourage the “flip and dip” method (just opening the Bible wherever) but rather a consistence schedule for reading through the scriptures.

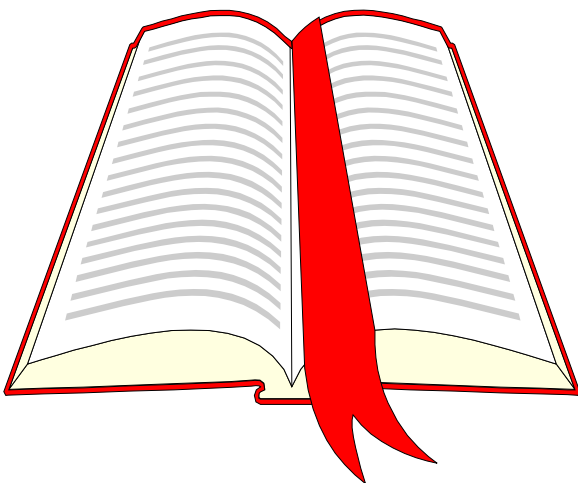
It is also important for our Christian growth to read books written by fellow lovers of Christ that will encourage, educate, and strengthen us as followers of Jesus Christ. If you don't mind, I would like to recommend a few books that, Lord willing, will be beneficial in our growth as followers of Christ. These books can be ordered from the church office if interested.

An outstanding work about what it means to be a member of the body of Christ is “Life in the Father's House” by Wayne Mack and David Swavely. It is described as a “members guide to the local church”.

The material is solidly founded in the scriptures and describes how the members of the body of Christ are to function within the church as a unit to faithfully serve the Lord. It is important to understand our responsibility as members of the body of Christ because “the quality of a church is not measured by the condition of its buildings or the appeal of its services but by the state of the people themselves. They are the church, so the church is as good as they are (page 12).

Subjects addressed are (the importance of the church; the members commitment to the church; roles within the church; the use of spiritual gifts; confronting one another in love; preparing unity within the body and “praying for one another”.

The book is informative, educational and most importantly based upon scriptures as it describes what a biblically church is supposed to be. Never lose sight of the fact that every member of the body of Christ play a role in making the church “all it can be”.



John and Cathy Rug Concon, Chile



Wildfires Sweep Our Region!



Dear all who have been following the news about the fires in Chile,

The wildfires began las Friday...these have been several very, very long days for thousands of people. We watch the news each day and our hearts break.

Approximately 4000 homes have been completely destroyed or seriously damaged, and the death toll is up to 133, of which only 40 bodies have been identified. There are posts from people all over social media with pictures of missing loved ones, and they beg for any information anyone might have about them. We can turn off the television and distance ourselves from the horrible scenes. But those who lost their homes and/or family members live with it day in and day out. Every time they close their eyes they relive the chaotic scenes of panic and death.

A large number of people have decided to camp in tents on their property to protect it from looting. We would say...what is there to loot? But people are walking off with anything and everything, for example some bent and discolored sheets of tin from the roof, or water and clothes that have been donated. Also, unfortunately there are evil people trying to restart the fires in some areas. I really have no explanation for why, other than they are very evil people.



Roxana is the young woman who helps us in our home, with brother-in-law Jose, husband Adrian, daughter Aransa age 9 and Adrian age 6.

We have lived this a little closer than we have other disasters. Roxana, a young woman who helps us at home, basically lost everything. She left for home after work, and before she could get there, the roads were totally blocked with people trying to flee the area, or those rushing home to make sure loved ones were safe. I received a phone call where she sobbed out that the neighbors told her everything was gone, but much worse than that was that she didn't know where her 2 children ages 6 and 9 were. Hours later she was finally able to contact the woman who regularly babysits them and learned that the children were safe. She and her husband walked over 4 hours through several burning areas, watching over their shoulders to see where the flames were. They finally had their children in their arms and a friend offered to bring them in his car to our house where they could stay. As they started this way, a panicked driver crashed into them, rendering their car useless. The story goes on and on...one horrible scene after another. When they finally arrived here on Saturday

evening, we met her husband, brother-in-law and her two sweet children. What really got to me was listening to 6 year old Adrian tell me what happened.

“Our sitter told us we had to leave...FAST. We started running. One boy told us ‘Go that way!’, but when we did...FIRE!! We turned around and ran fast another way and we saw...FIRE. We couldn’t find a way out. Finally we got away, but it was so smokey I was coughing and my eyes burned. People were screaming. It was scary! I wanted my mom and dad!”

His eyes were like saucers and his narrative was accented with many exaggerated arm gestures. He was obviously traumatized, but was incredibly brave and well behaved.



The images were just hellish. Unfortunately many of the victims don’t believe in hell, and those who do, have no idea that Jesus has provided a way to reach eternal safety. We desperately want to help everyone....which obviously isn’t possible....but we want to help as many as we can in Jesus’ name. Not necessarily with many words which they might be unable to process at this moment, but with acts of practical love. Please help us be the hands and feet of Jesus right here, right now. If you can help, we would be so very grateful. Every purchase will be documented and all funds will go directly to those in need.

Compassion Fund Donations

Donations Address:

Mission to the World

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Atlanta, GA 30374-4165

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Cathy's email: cathyrugf@gmail.com

<https://mtw.org/missionaries/details/john-and-cathy-rug>

Our mailing address is:

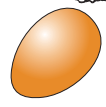
John and Cathy Rug

Las Hiedras 919, Pasaje 1

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BIRTHDAYS for MARCH



James Moseley 3rd

Eloise Gryder 9th

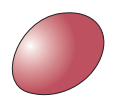
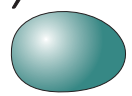
Michele Lustig 10th

Pat Pennell 15th

Lenny Glidewell 20th

Gabbie Bowden 24th

Jim Selig 26th



Dates to Remember for March

March 2 Men's Breakfast at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall

March 3 Communion

March 4 Men's Study at 6:30pm at the church

March 6 Ladies Circle at 9:30am in the church parlor

March 10 Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 10 Monthly Luncheon after the worship service, please bring a dish to share.

March 18 Deacon's meeting at 5:30pm

March 18 Men's Study at 6:30pm at the church

March 24 Palm Sunday

March 26 Session Meeting at 6:00pm in the church

March 28 Maundy Service at 6:00pm

March 29 Good Friday

March 31 Easter

