

“KNOWING THE OUTCOME IN ADVANCE”

Ann Huffman, who over the years has kept me supplied with columns by Malcolm Nygren, brought by the most recent one today. It was entitled, “Remember: The Sun Will Shine Again.”

It reminded me of the old saying that the sun shines every day; if it didn’t, we wouldn’t know it. That is to say, if the sun ever really stopped shining, we’d all be dead. Only because the sun continues to shine are we alive and able to complain when there is a layer of cloud between us and it.

In the midst of a long, grey winter, Nygren wrote, “We have to remind ourselves that leave will unfurl on the trees again and the dormant grass will be fresh and green.”

He goes on to say that life goes on, even in winter. “Simple pleasures are ours to enjoy any time,” he notes. “A good book will be pleasant in a comfortable chair and a warm room. A hammock next summer will be no better.”

February is “what we make of it,” he goes on to say (though he still closed with the hope that “the sun shines a lot next week”).

I was talking a short time ago with some folks who tape Illini games that they aren’t able to see at the time they are played. They are very disciplined about avoiding anything on TV or radio that might tip them off as to the results before they get to watch the game, so that they can experience the same feelings they would if they were watching it live.

But recently they inadvertently discovered the outcome of one game – I think it was the game we won at Wisconsin – before they had a chance to watch the recording. As I recall, we were down by 11 points during the first half of the game in question, and those of us who watched it live remember chewing our fingernails – maybe even the arm of the chair we were sitting in.

But the folks who knew the outcome in advance remained calm, experiencing no tension or anger whatsoever.

As one of them said, “It makes a huge difference in your attitude when you know the outcome in advance.”

In February, despite all the snow and not knowing what tomorrow may bring, we still know that spring will (eventually) bring warm weather and sunshine.

And although we don’t know the details of the future, knowing that God works in all things for the good *to those who love God and are called according to God’s purpose* enables us not only to accept and deal with the pains and difficulties of the moment, but to not be so eaten up with worry about the future we’re unable to see and appreciate the beauty and the blessings of this moment.

We are all headed toward significant transitions – you toward a ministerial transition and Glenna and I toward a major *life* transition. And transitions almost always carry at least a touch of anxiety. But while neither of us knows the exact shape of the future, we know God will be there leading us, as we open ourselves to God’s leading us, and blessing us along the way.

The sun is shining even now and it will shine even more in due season. In the meantime, let us treasure the gift of the time we have yet together. See you Sunday.

THE SPRING QUARTER OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

is about to begin on March 7. Thanks to the teachers for last quarter and the ones who'll be teaching this next quarter. We're excited to begin a new one:

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Nursery: **Mac Condill**

Pre-K/Kindergarten: **Gwen Ray**

1st – 3rd Grade: **Shirley Edwards & Debbie Howell**

4th – 12th Grade: **Randa Carson**

ADULT CLASS OPTIONS

- ◆ **FaithWeaver Class** — Rev. Evelyn Hale: The FaithWeaver lessons cover the Bible every 3 years. Each week it focuses on the same scripture as the elementary children's Sunday School classes – providing a great opportunity for adults and children to talk about their Sunday School lessons together during the week. The Spring quarter (March–May) focuses on the New Testament.
- ◆ **Coffee Hour:** If you just want to take some time to chat and enjoy a cup of coffee, sit in on the coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ **Future Builders/Willing Workers:** This class uses a King James Version Bible study materials.
- ◆ **The Power of A Praying Wife Book Discussion Group** — Sara Abercrombie & Carol Yoder: Based on the popular author Stormie Omartian's book, this class will discuss the ways in which prayer can sustain unity in your marriage, and change the focus from your own personal predicaments to God's power.

“PRAYING WIFE” CLASS

If you're interested in attending the one-quarter class on “The Praying Wife”, write “WIFE” by your name on the Fellowship Pad on Sunday morning, so we'll have an idea how much material to order.

MYSTERY DINNER THEATER TICKETS FOR SALE:

Tickets for the theater, **Saturday, March 13 at 5:30 pm at the Community Building**, are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children (4-12) and free for children 3 and under. We have only a **limited number of tickets**, so sign up soon. Everyone will need a ticket (no matter the rate) to give us a head count for the meal. Mark on the Fellowship Pad on Sunday morning how many tickets you'd like or call the church office to order (543-2292)

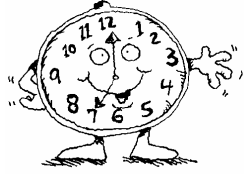
FAREWELL EVENTS

MARCH 14 AND 28

March 14: A “retirement reception” will be held for the Johnsons from 2-5 pm, Sunday, March 14. There will be a very special program at 2:30 pm. The whole community is invited. Come and bring your friends.

March 28: The Johnsons' last Sunday morning worship service with us will be followed by a potluck and program. And the **Choirboys** will sing that morning. Make plans now to be here.

Remember to turn clocks
night, March 13,



forward one hour on Saturday

Daylight Saving Time

THE SINGING GROUP HAS AN EXCITING LINEUP

coming up in the next few weeks. Make sure you plan to hear these numbers—a couple of which will include the children. Want to sing with the group, one Sunday or several? Just come to practice - 8:25 am Sunday mornings.

Feb. 28—“*Let There Be Peace on Earth*” with the children’s group

March 7—“*The Old Rugged Cross*”

March 14—“*Dry Bones*” with the children’s group

March 21—“*Worthy Is the Lamb*”

MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY - MARCH 14

Anyone can come forward to be baptized or to transfer church membership on any Sunday, but from time to time we set aside a special Sunday, and March 14 is the next Sunday. If you are interested in being baptized or transferring your membership to Vine Street, let Rev. Johnson know.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER VBS

The Vacation Bible School committee has already started planning! **Mark your calendars for June 7th through the 11th, 9:00—11:30 am.** Let Carol Huffman or Shana Condill know if you’d like to volunteer for this fulfilling week.

COPIES OF “SECRET PLACE” DEVOTIONALS

for March-May are in the literature rack at the back of the sanctuary. They have brief devotions for every day. No charge. We have both hand-sized and large print copies.

HAITI OFFERING REPORT

\$3,677.33 through February 14

PLUS - **\$508.24** was given on February 21 to purchase materials to go in Hygiene Kits that our Sunday School children and youth are putting together to send to Haiti. We will receive further offerings on February 28 to buy more materials for more kits (it costs about \$10 per kit).

CHILI SUPPER & BAKE SALE BENEFITING HAITI

this Saturday, February 27, 4:00-8:00 pm at the Christian School. They are in need of baked good for the Bake Sale, so if you would like to donate any items, you can drop them off ahead of time at the school. If you have any questions, give **Jessie Price** a call at 246-5494.

EBERHARDT VILLAGE EVENTS

Wellness group: every Wednesday and Friday at 10 am. Open to the public.

Blood pressure clinic: every 3rd Thursday, 11 am, Community Room

Free Peace of Mind Seminar: Wednesday, February 24, 11:30 am. Topics will include power of attorneys, advance directives and much more. Lunch provided. Please RSVP to let them know if you'll be attending (call 543-4574 – Connection Coordinator *Lauren Fryer* or 543-3705 – which is the main phone)

The first day of Spring this year is **March 20**. Hold on!



... to **JANE & SLATS TROWER**, who became great-grandparents for the 14th time on when **CONLAN RILEY ARMER**, was born on January 13.. Soon they'll have to remove both shoes to keep count. He was born to **Jared and Kelly Armer** and weighed 7 lbs, 10 oz, and was 21" long. **John and Connie Armer** of Bethany are the paternal grandparents. ... to **BRYCE YANTIS**, who received the SAR award this year.

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

	<u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
January 31	101	101
February 7	94	110
February 14	98	86
February 21	88	85
<i>Average</i>	95	95
<i>Year to Date</i>	96	95

Thank You's

To my Vine Street Church family,

I would like to give thanks for the many cards and prayers received since my week-long stay at the hospital. It is a blessing to have so many hearts that care.

Thank you,
Michael Signist

To all,

Thank you so much for the donation of \$100 and for the continued prayers and support. It's so heartwarming that all these people are praying for our little angel! Thanks again!

God bless,

Staci, Mike, Mikey and Kelly Chappell

(Kelly is the 1-year old member of this Hammond family at St. Jude's hospital with a brain tumor)

Thank you!

We feel enormous gratitude and admiration for the Vine Street Christian Church family. We are very thankful for all of the prayers, cards, calls, visits, offers of help and referrals to others during Mother's illness and since her passing.

Thank to the following ladies for the card and the amazing meal prepared for us the day of Mother's funeral: Rose Lundquist, Evelyn Riggs, Anne Pate, Ruth Foster, Shirley Edwards, Sandy Dolan, Ruth Lowder, Alice Ray, Wileva Williams, Melissa Yoder, Ellen Miller and Cornelia Davison.

A special thanks to Mike Johnson for the compassion and help he so generously provided these last few months.

Janice and Dave Roberts

(Liz Livesay's daughter and son-in-law)

LARGE PRINT EMERGENCY SIGN IN ELEVATOR

We recently doubled the size of the print on the sign posted in the elevator telling what to do if you should happen to get stuck. That hasn't happened since the early days of the elevator, but if it ever does happen again, we can manually open the doors. – and even raise or lower the elevator to the next floor. And it only takes a few minutes to do that, so you don't have to worry about being stuck for very long. And the sign inside the elevator that tells you exactly what to do is now twice as big as it was, so you can read it easily if you ever have to, which you shouldn't.

WORSHIP DVDs USED IN A NEW WAY

Each week we video our worship services and create DVDs that we take to people in our congregation who aren't able to come to worship. Recently, as new use for these DVDs was found. The Arthur Home wants to provide two worship opportunities a week for its residents. The Tuesday evening worship services that a dozen or so churches provide on a rotating basis is one. But it is difficult to get churches to come for two services a week. So we are now supplying the Arthur Home with our worship DVDs which they show to residents to provide a second worship opportunity for them each week.

WEEK OF COMPASSION UPDATE

If you're like me, you're often so overtaken by work and daily stresses that you zoom through life on auto-pilot, and any contemplation about what it means to be alive-any time taken to consider our mortality-feels like a luxury.

This year thoughts of dust bring up images of rubble and dust in Haiti. The massive devastation there has raised our awareness of what it means to be mortal, vulnerable, and in need. The Generosity of Disciple congregations, church members, and people who, looking for a way to help, found Week of Compassion, has been staggering. The reports of responses our partners have engineered on the ground have been breathtaking.

Mortality. Dust. Generosity. Life. These are the things that are swirling around my head as we head into Lent.

Last Sunday was the first Sunday of Lent, and the first of the two Sundays set aside for our Week of Compassion special offering. This offering funds our general Compassion Response Fund which allows us to respond immediately, efficiently, effectively, and for the long haul. Because of the Generosity of Disciple Churches across the country in 2009, we were able to wire \$10,000 for earthquake relief to Haiti from the Compassion Response Fund within 24 Hours of the first report.

Because of your generosity, we can respond before the dust has even cleared. And because of your faithfulness, we'll be there long after the last news crew packs up to go.

We invite you to help us continue to make a difference-not only in the lives of those suffering in Haiti, but also in the lives of those all over the world who are also still in need. Give generously to our Week of Compassion special offering so that when the next disaster strikes, we will once again be ready to respond, thanks to you and your compassion.

- *Brandon Gilvin, Associate Director*

MARCH 2010

EVERY SUNDAY	8:25 am	Singing Group Practice
	9:00 am	SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:00 am	WORSHIP

<u>EVERY MONDAY</u>	8:30 am	Morning Crafts Group
	5:30 pm	Weight Watchers

SUNDAY, FEB. 28	<i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>	
<u>Wednesday, March 3</u>	1:30 pm	C.W.F.
<u>Thursday, March 4</u>	4:30 pm	VBS Directors Meeting
SUNDAY, MAR. 7	<i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>	
<i>Food Pantry Sunday</i>	<i>Sunday School Spring Quarter Begins</i>	

<u>Wednesday, March 10</u>	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Cabinet meets
	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
Saturday, March 13	5:30 pm	Mystery Dinner Theater @ Community Building
SUNDAY, MAR. 14	<i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>	
<i>Home Communion Sunday</i>	2 – 5 pm:	Community Reception for Mike at the High School
Tuesday, March 16	6:00 pm	Arthur Home Service
	7:00 pm	Education Meeting
Wednesday, March 17	Noon	Lakeland Cluster Clergy here
Thursday, March 18	4:30 pm	VBS Directors Meeting
SUNDAY, MAR. 21	<i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>	
	11:30 pm	Elders Meeting after worship
Monday, March 22	Noon	VISITOR article deadline
Wednesday, March 24	9-11 am	Toenail Clinic
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
SUNDAY, MAR. 28	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	
	11:30 am	Potluck for Mike & Glenna after worship
Thursday, April 1	Rev. Rick Williams first day with us.	

MARCH 2010 BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Melissa Yoder
- 3 - Gale Hopkins
Sara Abercrombie
- 5 - Suzanna Sigler
- 6 - Glenna Johnson
Steve & Cindy Helton (A)
- 8 - Russell Perrine
- 9 - Gary Stutzman
- 10 - Carol Yoder
- 12 - Ryan Dennis Malin
- 13 - Patricia Howell
Nathan Goodman
- 14 - Vernon Rohrer
- 16 - Colton Alexander
- 18 - Deborah Howell
Steve Hopkins
Larry & Nancy Maxedon (A)
- 19 - Jeff Hunter
Carter Davis
- 22 - Alexandria Earnst
Hunter Carson
- 23 - Cathy Yoder
- 24 - Jon Malin
Dan Abercrombie
Mark & Melissa Yoder (25th)
- 25 - Nick Coleman
- 26 - Rita Goodman
Michael Sigrist
- 28 - Wesley Yoder
Robert & Ruth Ann Lowder (A)
Jack & Patricia Barnes (A)
- 30 - Margie Phillips
Nancy Maxedon
- 31 - Mary Johnson
Rebecca & Pete Jean (A)

**Please let us know if anything in this list
needs to be corrected.**