

February Newsletter 2008

Missions:

The missions committee met January 6.

- We are investigating the needs and the procedures involved with dealing with the homeless in Pawnee County. More information will be shared later.
- As to date we still have not met our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We still need about \$350 to meet our goal.
- Disaster trainings are available. February 16th is the next training. If you are interested, please let the committee know or Keith Bryant.
- An organization related to Gary and Rebekah Thomson and the missionaries serving in Japan with them is providing an opportunity for 2 people from each home church to go to Japan and work with our missionaries. Anyone interested going to Japan and working with Gary and Rebekah, please contact the committee or Linda Thomson.
- Kansas Nebraska has established a partnership with Portugal. If you are interested in going to Portugal, please contact the committee.
- Webster Conference Center still needs help. The youth will probably go sometime this spring. Hopefully we can get more people to go and help.
- March is the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering emphasis. Please pray what God will have you give for North American Missions.
- I have been forwarding messages from Chip Moses. If people without email are interested in reading them, please let the committee know and we can give you a copy.
- If you see an opportunity for our church to minister or reach out, please let us know. Please pray with us as to how to reach out to Larned and Pawnee County and share the love of Christ through ministry.
- Committee members: Urban Gathman, Betty Halderman, Mike Limon, Effie Smith and Patty Wilcox

Letter to the Church from Howard Wood:

Deacons at Work

I must express my appreciation to the Deacons and others of our church in their efforts in carrying for those in our church, particularly me, who need their help in times of need.

As most of you know, my last few months have been occupied with a battle against oral cancer, and with the help of the Lord and His people at First Southern Baptist Church of Larned, the battle has been going on very satisfactorily, according to the several doctors and those who know what must be expected in such a serious illness.

Yesterday, the oral surgeon removed the last 24 of my teeth, and treatment with radiation and chemotherapy will begin next week. The amount of radiation needed to control the cancer would be too great for the survival of my teeth, even after the first sixteen had been removed in the earlier stages of the process. At the moment, I must feed myself entirely with liquids through a tube. When the gums heal better, I will be able to go back to some soft foods (baby food for all practical purposes!). I tried to talk the doctors into setting my food consumption, at a lower level to lose some weight since there is nothing enjoyable, or even any hunger, for liquid food through tubes, but no such luck. They insisted I must keep my full weight in order to heal properly from the surgery. That includes not only the removal of teeth, but the removal of my cancerous jaw bone and its replacement with bone and other tissue from my right arm.

I was allowed to leave the hospital a few days ago to home-bound status. Medicare and my insurance will still pay for my care as long as I stay at home (only exception is to be transported by others to and from medical appointments). I suggested church as well as doctor be allowed, but no such exception is to be allowed. They even provided the name and address of a lady whose responsibility it is to check on me and be certain that I do stay at home! When the doctor gives his approval, I will be allowed to drive to and from medical appointments when other transportation is not available, but this will be limited to absolutely no stops at the grocery store, etc., "on my way".

So I owe a great debt of gratitude to the Deacon's Fund plus various deacons and others who have been transporting me to appointments (generally five days a week for at least eight weeks) in Great Bend, starting next week), and to those that have provided donations to help those drivers with their expenses. Thanks to Mrs. Gathman for organizing all this day by day. Thanks very much to each of you. A special thanks to those of you that found my car (after surgery) in Kansas City and brought it home despite mechanical complications.

I miss being in services regularly and appreciate the cards and other expressions of good will during a time of need that I never expected would come in my life. The Lord and His people are surely good to me.

Love in Christ, Howard Wood

VBS

This year, VBS takes us to a tropical place called "Outrigger Island" where we will learn about Living God's unshakeable truth. Surf's up! The tentative dates for this years VBS is May 27th thru June 1st

VBS starts with some awesome training in Salina. With conferences for every aspect and every age group of VBS. This training gives you a chance to try hands-on crafts, music, games, and even snacks. There is adult VBS supplies, Youth VBX (that is not a typo)

supplies, and children's supplies for each age group. The date for this training is March 8 from 9:00 to 3:00 and we have to have our registrations in by February 25th. Please see or call Cindy Walker 285-6646 if you would like to attend so I can get you a registration form. We will carpool and have a great time and I would love to see many of you go.

Sunday School

I have read Psalm 23 many times. But I never understood the real message until we studied it in Sunday School last week. The 23rd Psalm illustrates how God completely surrounds us as our Shepherd. Verses 1-3 tell us that He goes before us as He leads us. In verses 4 & 5 we see how He walks beside us in our darkest of times. We're told in verse 6 how He is behind us pursuing or following us with goodness and love. We always learn something from the Sunday School lesson & from each other. Come join us. I promise you'll learn something & have fun too. Mike Barton

Valentine Supper

On Sunday evening February 10th at 6:00PM the church will celebrate with an all church Valentine Dinner. Everyone is welcome to attend. Fun, food and fellowship for all ages. We will have a sign up sheet for what to bring (1 item per family)

Youth

During the month of January, we have had 4 to 6 youth attending each Sunday evening. Please continue to keep the youth and leaders in your prayers, as we look at setting up events for the coming year. The beginning of a youth committee met on Sunday evening 27th and several ideas of possible activities were discussed. We will be trying to schedule a work weekend at Webster Conference Center this spring.

On Friday, February 29th, we are planning a fun evening event for the youth. More information will be forthcoming as decisions are made. I extend to all youth, 7th through 12th grade, a invitation to come on Sunday evenings 6:30 to 8:00 and bring a friend with you. The bigger the group the more fun we can have.

For the Valentine banquet on February 10th the youth will be joining the whole church body for a meal and program that evening.

As always, if you have any questions or ideas, please call Ron or Marletta at 285-6824

Search Committee

The search committee has been working very hard and is making progress in the search for a new pastor. We had a very positive interview with a candidate and his wife. And will be meeting on February 6th to decide if it is God's will that we move forward with this man.

We would ask that you continue to pray for the search process and the man that God is going to bring to our church.