

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church
351 Morrow Road, Forest Park, Georgia 30297



THE CROSSROADS

FEBRUARY 2012

A light in the community that brings all people to God through Christ centered worship and ministry and nurtures their faith in order to extend His kingdom.

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What Is This Thing Called Love?

Many believe love is a sensation that magically generates when Mr. or Ms. Right appears. A speaker at a High school asked, "Someone define love." No response. Then he said "Doesn't anyone want to try?" Still no response. "Tell you what: I'll define it, and you raise your hands if you agree. Okay?" Nods. "Okay. Love is that feeling you get when you meet the right person."

Every hand went up. This is how many people approach a relationship. Consciously or unconsciously, they believe love is a sensation (based on physical and emotional attraction) that magically, spontaneously generates when Mr. or Ms. Right appears. And just as easily, it can spontaneously degenerate when the magic "just isn't there" anymore. You fall in love, and you can fall out of it.

In my first marriage (my only marriage) I was told by this girl that she was going to marry me. I was shocked and dismayed since I was not looking to get married any time soon. She graduated college and we got married. So what is love, real, lasting love? Love is the attachment that results from deeply appreciating another's goodness. As a very experienced marriage counselor here is the way I see it.

Couples who are about to get married are what I call, "being in lust." Now if they have dated for years the lust has diminished significantly. They see each other as they really are with all their strengths and weaknesses. If they are new at this I will make them fill out a card that asked them to tell three things they like about their spouse to be and three things they do not like. I have seen and heard mostly women scream and say, "I can't do this," or "There is nothing I don't like about him." Not a good sign.

I had a small book that was titled, "Love is a feeling to Be Learned." Why? Love is a choice. If love comes from appreciating goodness, it needn't just happen but you can you can make it happen. Love is active. You can create it. Just focus on the good in another person (and everyone has some). If you can do this easily, you'll love easily.

I was once at a small concert in which the performer, a deeply spiritual person, gazed warmly at his audience and said, "I want you to know, I love you all." I smiled tolerantly and thought, "Sure." Looking back, though, I realize my cynicism was misplaced. This man naturally saw the good in others, and our being there said enough about us that he could love us. Obviously, there's a huge distance from here to the far more profound, personal love developed over the years, especially in marriage. But seeing goodness is the beginning.

By focusing on the good, you can love almost anyone. Susan learned about this foundation of love after becoming engaged to David. When she called her parents to tell them the good news, they were elated. At the end of the conversation, her mother said, "Darling, I want you to know we love you, and we love David." Susan was a bit dubious. "Mom," she said hesitantly, "I really appreciate your feelings, but, in all honesty, how can you say you love someone you've never met?" "We're choosing to love him," her mother explained, "because love is a choice." There's no better wisdom Susan's mother could have imparted to her before marriage. By focusing on the good, you can love almost anyone.

While most people believe love leads to giving, the truth is exactly the opposite: Giving leads to love. What is giving? When an enthusiastic handyman happily announces to his non-mechanically inclined wife, "Honey, wait till you see what I got you for your birthday, a triple-decker toolbox!" that's not giving. Remember NEVER buy your wife at anytime something that has a cord attached to it.

True giving, as Erich Fromm points out, is other-oriented, and requires four elements. The first is care, demonstrating active concern for the recipient's life and growth. The second is responsibility, responding to his or her expressed and unexpressed needs (particularly, in an adult relationship, emotional needs). The third is respect, "the ability to see a person as he [or she] is, to be aware of his [or her] unique individuality," and, consequently, wanting that person to "grow and unfold as he [or she] is." These three components all depend upon the fourth, knowledge. You can care for, respond to, and respect another only as deeply as you know him or her. That is why Ephesians 5:21-33 tells us to give what the other person needs most. Husbands LOVE your wives the way Christ loved the church which was unto death, and wives RESPECT your husbands the way the church respects Christ. In my marriage counseling I always say marriage is like a three legged stool. The legs are love, respect and forgiveness. A woman I know once explained why she's been happily married for 25 years. "A relationship has its ups and downs," she told me. "The downs can be really low and when you're in one, you have three choices: Leave, stay in a loveless marriage, or choose to love your spouse." I could not say it better. That is what love comes down to and happy relationships are where the two become one sitting on that stool with three legs.

Dr. Spencer R. Frye

OUR MISSION: To exhibit the kingdom of God to our community by being a witness to everyone who is within our reach that Jesus Christ is LORD. To proclaim the gospel by telling the good news of Jesus Christ while equipping all who will to be evangelist so the church will grow. To provide for the worship of God through traditional Sunday morning worship and offer alternative times and styles of worship to the community. To promote the ministry of compassion by providing opportunities for ministry and encouraging others to seek God's call for compassionate service. To preserve the truth of God's word by defending the faith against any deviation from the bible as objective truth. To educate the members of the body of Christ so they are equipped to live as becomes the followers of Jesus. To maintain the spirit of unity through the fellowship of the children of God. To expand the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Thank You

Fellow Christians,

I want to thank you for praying for our son, Douglas, years ago. We were talking with him about his recovery from multiply sclerosis yesterday when they dropped by for a Christmas visit. At a check-up he was asked to touch his nose and was successful in doing so. This was unbelievable for his doctor who said he had to have divine intervention because at first he was not able to open a door without the help of his other hand.

We praise God for his recovery and know that prayers do work. They, he and his wife, are living in SC now. He is working for Scana and has a second job, by word of mouth, of installing irrigation systems during the warmer season.

Thanks again for your love and concern.

With love and prayers,

Ruth Gettys

Dear Members,

Thank you for your support in 2011 and for the recent check. Your donation allows us to serve those men, women and children who are homeless. With your support we are able to provide shelter, 3 meals per day and much more.

The answer is . . . Jesus,

Tawana Tarno

Calvary Refuge Shelter

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the cards I received during the Christmas Holidays.

Tye Bryant

It is with great joy that we,

Brittany Nicole Johnson

§

Juan F. Rodriguez-Cardona

invite you to share in a celebration of love

as we exchange our marriage vows

Saturday, February 18th 2012

at 6 o'clock in the afternoon

at

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church

A light reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall

RSVP to Juanita DeBey—404-661-3899

(Brittany is registered at Target)



Please don't forget to bring in your canned goods/non perishable items for our "Souper Bowl" food drive. We will collect items through February 5, 2012. These items will be donated to a local pantry for service to this community.

On Sunday, February 5, 2012 we will also collect any monetary donations that you would like to give. Thank you for supporting this outreach program.

NURSERY WORKERS

Everyone should have a copy of the 2012 schedule by now, if not, see Barbara Barlow. If for any reason you are unable to stay the date that is assigned to you, please try to swap with another worker. **THANK YOU**

FROM THE CLERK...

If you glance at the February church calendar, you will note that it is going to be a very exciting month. We will be celebrating our own version of the Super Bowl with "Souper Bowl for Caring" on Sunday, the 5th, a day when we donate funds and non-perishable food items for local food pantries. (It seems like we are collecting something all the time, doesn't it? But if you look at the back of your Sunday bulletin under Mission Outreach, you will note that our little congregation provides a tremendous amount of outreach support to those in need in our local and world communities. Isn't that what we're here for?) Dr. Frye, Philippe Karka, and Rick Pierce will represent Philadelphia at the presbytery meeting Saturday, the 11th at New Life. Secret Pal participants will gather for a covered-dish luncheon on the 12th, reveal their identities to 2011 Pals, and draw names for 2012. Two of our own, Brittany Johnson and Juan Rodriguez, will be marrying at the church on the 18th and we wish them all God's blessings for their wedding and in the years to come. The council (former session) will meet for business on the 19th and the youth will be favoring us with another of their yummy fund-raiser meals following worship that day. All in all, it looks to be a very busy month.

Recent changes in the Book of Order have resulted in changes to our basic Presbyterian terminology. *Minister of Word and Sacrament* has been changed back to the older term *Teaching Elder*; *Elders* are now referred to as *Ruling Elders*, another older term; and the governing bodies are now referred to as *Councils* rather than *Sessions*. Philadelphia has a *Session Guidebook* (Right away we have to change the title, don't we?), *Presbyterian Women policies, by-laws and procedures, wedding policy, etc.*, but the new BOO G-3.0106 requires that we have a *Manual of Administrative Operations*. During February, and possibly much longer, the Clerk's Committee will be meeting to gather, edit, and revise what we have into one collection as required. I solicit your prayers as we wade through these changes. The new BOO is available on-line at <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.com/resources/book-of-order2011-2013.pdf> if you would like to read a copy.

We continue to wrestle with our response as a congregation to other changes in the BOO, primarily changes in ordination standards, and follow closely the activities of the Fellowship of Presbyterians. Again, if you have internet access and would like to be more informed, check out <http://www.fellowship-pres.org/> for latest information. Especially noteworthy is the link on the left to the new reformed body, Evangelical Covenant Order.

Finally, if you've been Presbyterian for a while go to YouTube on the internet and search for "Stuff Presbyterian Seminarians Say." You'll laugh out loud.

Lynn Vandiver,
Clerk of Session

PW Message Corner ...



- February 5—12:15pm—PWCT
- February 11—10:30am—Mary & Martha @ Kathy Banke's home
- February 18—10:30am—Circle One
- February 21—10:30am—Busy Bees

**P.L.O.T. Luncheon
Sunday, February 19
Pasta and Salad**



All proceeds go to the Youth Fund for activity expenses.

THE CRAFT GROUP

February 14—11:30am @ BJ's in Hapeville, Carpool from church at 10:45am
February 28—11:30am @ Longhorn's in Morrow



SECRET PALS REVEAL LUNCHEON

Secret Pals at Philadelphia are ladies who provide anonymous encouragement and prayer support to our sisters in Christ. We meet annually, the Sunday nearest Valentine's Day, to reveal our identity and to draw names for the new year.

The Secret Pal party for 2012 will be held Sunday, February the 12th at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. A covered-dish luncheon, participants are asked to bring your favorite (or most requested) dish. Those who have been Secret Pals this past year are also asked to bring an inexpensive (\$15.00 or under) gift for their 2011 Pal. Names for 2012 will be drawn at the party.

If you would like to be a Secret Pal to a lady at Philadelphia and support her throughout the year with greeting cards and prayer support, please plan to attend the luncheon. If you cannot attend, but would like to participate, please give your name to either Pat Randolph or Lynn Vandiver, this years' hostesses.

WANDA JOHNSON wants to let you know that she does elder assistant care provider work which includes light house work, driving, and errands. She can be reached at 404-901-9292 or 404-270-0137

WE CELEBRATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...

10 / Jeff Randolph
 17 / Lauren Zoeckler
 17 / Kaylynn LaFoy
 18 / Hal Banke
 21 / Barbara Barlow
 28 / Dot Dunn

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...

10 / Rebecca & Bob Huie
 14 / Juanita & Tim DeBey
 25 / Sherri & Spencer Frye



*CATCH US ON
 THE WEB AT
 WWW.PPC-USA.ORG*



THIS MONTH'S VOLUNTEERS

Nursery Workers

Ushers

2/5 Dot Pearce	Buddy Ashmore
2/12 Evelyn Murdock	Tom Murphy
2/19 Pat Randolph	Nell Cates
2/26 Juanita DeBey	Barbara Barlow

Core Values of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church

- Radical Hospitality** (Romans 12:9-21)
- Passionate Worship** (John 4:21-24)
- Intentional Faith Development** (I Corinthians 9:19-24)
- Risk-Taking Mission and Service** (Matthew 25:14-30)
- Extravagant Generosity** (II Corinthians 9:6-15)

PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

351 MORROW ROAD
 FOREST PARK GA 30297

TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER AND WITH CARDS (new info in bold)***Please notify us concerning updates. Inquiring minds – and prayerful hearts – want to know!***

12/28 Anna Bower (friend of Jim & Nancy Phillips) –treatments for tongue cancer

1/04 Betty Freeman (former member of Riverdale and friend of several) – homebound

1/24 Greg Ock (Emory Pearce's nephew) - kidnapped in Nigeria (see story below)

1/19 TJ Ragan (Cindy's niece) - recovering from surgical removal of obstruction in small intestine

1/08 Wygelia Sims (Nell Cates' niece) – long recovery from extensive surgery and complications

MORE OF THE STORY . . .*While working in Nigeria, Greg Ock, 50, of Bowdon was kidnapped on January 20th and is being held for ransom. He was working on a power plant job for the Japanese conglomerate Marubeni Corp. in West Africa. During the kidnapping in Niger Delta, gunmen killed Greg's driver. They are demanding over \$300,000 in ransom. Please keep Greg and his family in your prayers.*

OUR HOMEBOUND:**Mary Binkney****Marie Foster****Tye Bryant****Myrtice Ormond****Joan Cushing****Bert Tatzel****Doris Ellis****JoAnn Tatzel***Addresses of our homebound are on the bulletin board.*

To make a prayer request, you may call the church office at 404-366-1851, send an email to se-cyppc@bellsouth.net or click on the prayer request button on our website at www.ppc-usa.org.