



Family and Youth Corner:
by Steve Walton

“Thy Kingdom Come”

Dear FPC family,

In the coming weeks, the national election cycle into which we have already entered will really start to ramp up. Momentum will build as we move toward a Summer of political conventions, and then general elections in November. Let me encourage you all to participate fully in the process, especially by exercising your right to vote. God commands all people everywhere to be in submission to their civil authorities, but in the whole scope of history, very few societies have had the privilege of *choosing* their civil authorities. Let’s seek to honor God and work for the benefit of our country by casting our votes in a wise and conscientious way. It’s important, and in the opinions of many, this may be the most critical election in our nation’s history.

Without downplaying any of that, however, remember that the advancement of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ is far *more* important. Nations rise and fall; kingdoms come and go. But *His* kingdom is everlasting, and we are citizens of it. Like Abraham, we are waiting for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. We desire a *better* country, that is, a heavenly one. Our ultimate and true citizenship is in heaven. So, as we rightly seek the benefit and well-being of our earthly country, it is more important still that we desire, seek, and pray for the advance of Christ’s kingdom. This is what we are asking when we pray, “Thy kingdom come.” As the Shorter Catechism explains, when we pray this petition we are praying (1) that God would destroy Satan’s kingdom. Just as He drove out the inhabitants of Canaan before He gave Israel the promised land, God is at work tearing down Satan’s kingdom, destroying Satan’s works, clearing the way for His kingdom of grace. We also pray (2) that God would then *advance* His kingdom of grace. In other words, we are praying for revival, for reformation, and for the growth and prosperity of the Church. This means we are praying (3) that God would bring us and others (many others!) *into* His kingdom of grace, and that He would keep us in it. Finally, we are praying (4) that the Lord would hasten the coming of His kingdom of glory. We live in His kingdom of grace right now; when Christ returns to judge the earth, He will say to His people, “Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Then we will enter that kingdom where there is no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain. That is God’s kingdom of glory.

So, let’s pray for our earthly country. Pray for the upcoming elections, and for God’s mercy and blessing on our land. Let’s wisely and righteously cast our votes in November. But let’s keep all of this in perspective, holding in view the hope of the joy set before us: our eternal home in Christ’s kingdom.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
~Steve

Pizza and Game Night: Friday, February 3rd, 6:-8:30 PM
Each family please bring: \$5 and a 2-liter drink. ~Thank you!
Sign-up sheet is in the narthex; contact Steve Walton (551-3031 or walton.steven.k@gmail.com) for details.



Roger & Dianne Smalling

by Carolyn Root

Roger and Dianne have ministered for 36 years as missionaries in Europe and Latin America. Their focus is to prepare Latin Americans for Reformed Christian leadership.

By God’s gracious answer to prayers and supply in 2011 the Smallings have:

- ◆ Taught at the Congress of Christian Teachers in Queretaro, Mexico
- ◆ Taught hundreds of pastors and leaders in Bolivia
- ◆ Taught grace and leadership classes in the Yucatan
- ◆ Made their 7 books available electronically in three languages
- ◆ Mentored their Vision REAL centers throughout Latin America

2012 Prayer Goals:

- ◆ New training centers throughout Latin America
- ◆ A better way of getting their hard-copy books to Latin America
- ◆ Anointing and protection as they travel and teach

“The unfailing love of the LORD never ends! . . . Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each day.” (Lam. 3:22-24)

“All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you.”(Col.1:6)

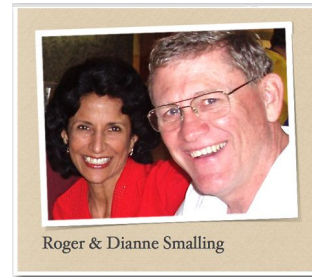
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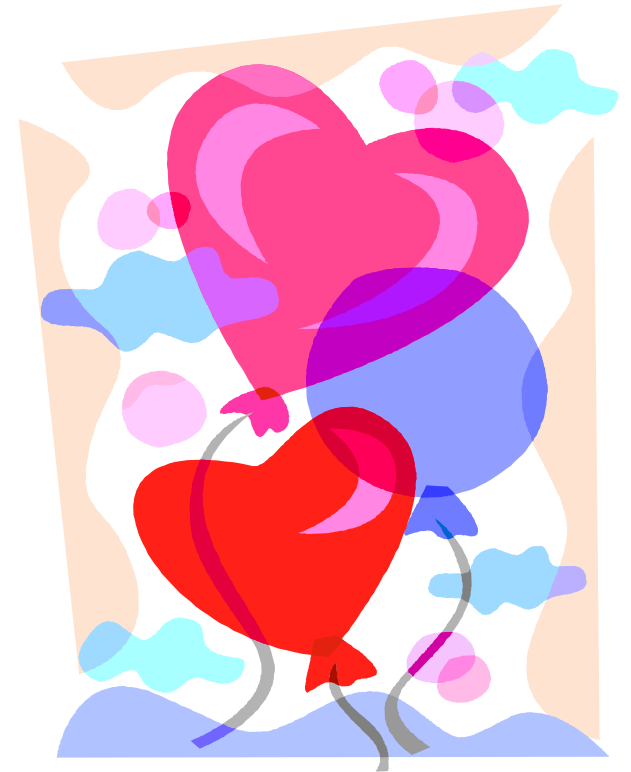


Roger & Dianne Smalling

COMMUNICANTS' CLASS TO BEGIN MARCH 4TH

Attention Parents: A thirteen week *Communicants' Class* (taught by Pastor Martin) will begin March 4th (during the Sunday school hour). If you have covenant children that you think are ready for this class (or have any questions), please contact Pastor Martin (877-3267 or office@fellowshippres.org).

**February
2012**



**Fellowship
Presbyterian Church**

FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

1105 Old Spartanburg Road ~ Greer, SC 29650

Rev. Martin H. Martin, Pastor

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“Theology of the Opposite”

by Martin H. Martin

Do you ever step back to ask yourself what would be the opposite of something you know is bad? For example, the opposite of being mean is to be kind. The opposite of being stingy is to be generous. As we near the end of our Sunday morning series through the Ten Commandments, think about the opposite of the last three.

The eighth command tells us not to steal. So what is the opposite? The opposite of stealing is giving. Of course, you might try to give like Robin Hood by taking from some people in order to give to others. But Paul in Ephesians 4:28 basically says this – work hard in something productive so you will have in order to be able to give. Really it is a whole mindset of giving. Give of yourself in the way that you perform your work. Provide for others even in the way you work for them. God made us to work!

Of course, there is a great benefit to work. We get paid! But instead of working to get paid to have what we want, Paul says work in order to have in order to give! Do you work in order to give? Is your goal acquisition or provision? Are you working with people or possessions in your mind?

The ninth command is also better understood when we consider its opposite in Ephesians 4:29. The ninth commandment is getting at something deeper than just “don’t lie” (though it entails that). If you look at the wording carefully, the command forbids us to lie about someone in a legal proceeding, such that they are falsely condemned and suffer for something they did not even do. It is the worst kind of lie.

On the other hand, Paul says to use our words to build up and to bless! Your grandmother was onto something with that phrase, “If you don’t have something nice to say...” But we can refrain from speaking only to sulk in silence. The opposite of not falsely accusing is to deliberately use our words to be an encouragement and a help to others.

Do you deliberately speak up in order to be a benefit to others? Do you commend them where you can? Do you defend them when nobody else will? Do you have the difficult and confrontational conversations that nobody else wants to have, but do so in love and in private whenever possible? Words can be terribly destructive. They can do more than break bones. But they can also lift spirits and deliver from disaster.

Finally, what is the opposite of coveting? More acquisition to satisfy the

craving? No! The opposite of coveting is thanksgiving. Coveting is craving the things that we don’t have, and often resenting those who have them; but thanksgiving is an attitude that is not only content but humbly grateful for what it has been given.

Do you look at your life and take time to consider all of the things for which you can be thankful? Do you dwell on the things you don’t have or the things you do? Are you preoccupied with all the things “wrong” in life, or are you amazed at all of the things that God has made right and even at the ways in which He is using the things that are “wrong” for a good purpose?

Remember that God often points out and condemns the most egregious examples of a particular type of sin. Sometimes a “theology of the opposite” helps us see what God is calling us to do in order to be more like He is. So next time you are reading through a passage and see God denounce some horrid thing, and you think, “well of course I haven’t done anything like that”, ask yourself, “What would be the opposite of that?” It will often open your eyes to see a whole area in which you can positively think and behave more like your heavenly Father.

~Pastor Marty

Sunday Night, February 26th Crock Pot/ Pot Luck Supper

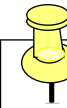
Fill your crock pot with your favorite main dish recipe (stew, chili, soup, mac & cheese, etc), or make your favorite side item or dessert and join us Sunday, February 26, following evening worship, for a pot luck supper and a time of fellowship.

Please sign up to bring a crock pot main dish, side item (fruit/ veggie tray, salad, etc.) or you favorite dessert.

Thank you!

SERVING IN FEBRUARY:

Elder of the Month: Larry Poole Deacon of the Month: Sam Stubbs
Greeters of the Month: Elizabeth Hill & Lillian Mcumber
Ushers: Troy High, Ron Reinink & Bill Wilder
Nursery Coordinator: Angie Frengel



CHURCH NOTES:

The sacrament of the **Lord’s Supper** will be celebrated on **Sunday, February 5th**; during morning worship.

Wednesday Supper & Activities :

5:30 PM: Supper (catered meal; cost: \$3.50/adult, \$2.50/child, \$15 max/family)

Feb. 01: Pork roast, rice pilaf, peas/ carrots, applesauce, rolls, & spice cake
Feb. 08: Chicken breast, mashed potatoes/ gravy, mixed vegetables, rolls, & brownies
Feb. 15: Fettuccine Alfredo, chicken strips, fruit salad, bread, & banana pudding squares
Feb. 22: Meatloaf, potato bake, green beans, rolls, & dishpan cookies
Feb. 29: Pasta bake w/ sausage & pepperoni, Caesar salad, Wynn’s zippy bread & strawberry pretzel squares

6:00 PM: Choir Rehearsal (beginning February 8)

6:40 PM: Devotional & Prayer Time (adults); **Catechism** (children)

Please note: the kitchen serves food until 6:15 PM.

Men’s Fellowship & Prayer Breakfast:
Saturday, February 18th, 7:00—9:00 AM.



There is a Session Meeting scheduled for Monday, February 13th, at 7pm.



MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012!

The **February** edition of **TABLETALK** is available (free of charge) to all members and visitors; pick up your copy (in the narthex) today!

Greeters of the Month for 2012:
A ministry opportunity for the whole family!



Each Sunday, prior to morning and evening worship, our Greeters of the Month extend a friendly “hello” (and a bulletin!) to visitors (and members), welcoming them to Fellowship Presbyterian Church. We are in the process of scheduling Greeters for 2012; one family or two individuals are needed each month. If you would be willing to serve as a Greeter, **please sign the sheet in the narthex**. For more information, contact Bill Wilder (848-6434 or bwilder220@bellsouth.net). ~Thank you!



The Ladies’ Tuesday Morning Precepts Bible Study (an inductive study of the book of Romans) meets **Tuesdays, 9:45-11:15 A.M.**, at the church; nursery is available. Contact Wendy Richards (877-3267 or 399-9276) for more information.

In the interest of safety, parents please remind your children:

When exiting the building, **PLEASE USE the main/ front or side doors;** **DO NOT USE** the **exterior doors in classrooms, fellowship hall or sanctuary**, except in case of an emergency. ~Thank you!