

A Word From The Pastor

Not long ago, I was listening to a popular radio station. The station was playing a “love” song. The vocalist sang the phrase “and we know, our love will grow.” That phrase got me to thinking, how does our love as husband and wife grow?

If we are honest, we would probably have to confess that our love for each other began with “we liked what we saw.” In other words, there was a strong physical attraction that brought us together. For many people that is the basis for their marriage – a strong physical attraction. Now there is nothing wrong with having a strong physical attraction to our mate. After all, that is the way God made us.

But is our love for one another supposed to stay there? We all know what happens to our physical attributes as we grow older. We put on a few pounds, our hair begins to turn gray – that is, if we have any hair left. Our bodies begin to sag and slow down. Wrinkles and age spots begin to appear. If the physical attraction is all that *love* is – we will all be in trouble one of these days when “the old gray mare ain’t what she used to be.”

The truth is, our love is supposed to grow. The Apostle Paul challenges us with these words: “Husbands, *love* your wives, just as Christ *loved* the church.” Let’s focus upon the word *love*. In the Greek language there are four or five words used to define what we call *love*. The word that Paul uses here is NOT the word for loving each other physically. Instead this is a word that challenges us to move beyond that physical attraction for each other. This kind of love between husband and wife challenges us to commit ourselves to *give of ourselves sacrificially for our spouses*. We are to look upon our spouses as if they were a “one of a kind” – and they are! We are to prize and value our spouses to the extent that we make sacrifices of our time, energy, and money for their betterment.

Here, beloved, is the real challenge to grow in our love toward our spouses. For Christ loved the church and GAVE HIMSELF FOR IT. Christ died upon the cross for the betterment of those whom He loved. He spared nothing, not even his own life to meet the needs of the church. Hence, when we ask ourselves if we are growing in our love for our spouse, Christ needs to be the measuring stick. We need to ask ourselves, “Do I love my spouse, as Christ loved the church?” In striving to meet the standard set by Jesus is exactly where we can really grow in our love for our spouses. When we have loved our spouses to the extent that we give ourselves for them, then we have met the standard. But until then, let’s strive to model our *love* after the *love* of Christ for the church.

In Christ,

Dr. James L. Fleming

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN’S VALENTINE PARTY

The children’s Valentine Party will be held on Sunday, February 4, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon for children 5th grade and under. See Vanessa Small for more info.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Our Souper Bowl luncheon will be Sunday, Feb. 4, after the morning service. Sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend. Decorate a table with items from your favorite team! See Dee Thompson for more info.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY

The Women’s Ministry will meet Saturday, February 17, at 9:00 a.m. All women are encouraged to attend.

CHILDREN’S WINTER OLYMPICS

The College Park Winter Olympics will be held on Sunday, February 18, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon for children 5th grade and under. Please see Vanessa Small for more information.

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

There will be a specially called business meeting on Sunday, February 18, after the morning service to discuss the Building Fund.

**COLLEGE PARK
CHURCH OF GOD**

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You can also find us on Facebook

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Senior Pastor

Dr. James L. Fleming

Children's Director

Vanessa Small

Youth Director

Clay Parton

Music Director

Tambry Green

OUR SUNDAY SERVICES

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays

1:00 p.m. - Small Group

Wednesdays

5:00 p.m. - Worship Practice

6:30 p.m. - Pastor's Bible Study

Thursdays

6:30 p.m. - Youth Group

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

First Tuesday - February 6

Prayer Group at 10 a.m.

Last Sunday - February 25

Food Drive Collection

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

9:00 a.m. to 3:00/4:00 p.m.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAPTAIN MIKE'S RIVER CRUISE

Take a cruise down the Withlacoochee River on Thursday, February 22, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person. Sign up in the narthex.

FOOD DRIVE

Sunday, February 25, is the collection day this month for our Community Food Drive. Please place your donations of nonperishable food items in the narthex.

TUESDAY SMALL GROUP

Everyone is invited to a weekly Bible study on Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. at the Clemmings' home. Pastor Fleming leads us as we review the previous Sunday's sermon.

PASTOR'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Jim's Bible study meets Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. They have started a series on the book of Galatians. You are welcome to join the class any time. For those who do not have books, lesson can be picked up ahead of time in the narthex.

YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 6-12)

The youth group meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. If you are willing to provide a meal for the youth on a Thursday night, please see Clay Parton.

DONATIONS FOR KIMBERLY'S CENTER

The Women's Ministry is continuing their mission to help Kimberly's Center by collecting items such as diapers, panties, art supplies, notebooks, pens, toys, etc. There is a box in the foyer to collect these items. See Irene Rogers for more info.

DONATIONS FOR SALVATION ARMY

The Women's Ministry is collecting plastic grocery bags for the homeless mats they are crocheting to give to the Salvation Army. They also need men's and women's toiletries. There is a box in the foyer for these items. See Irene Rogers for more info.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Florida's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program seeks to improve the quality of life for all long-term care residents by advocating for and protecting their health, safety, welfare and rights. They need volunteers who can give a little of their time to this rewarding cause. Contact Barbara Bristol at 352-620-3088 for more info.

Happy Birthday!

- 01 - Charles Ray
- 04 - David Reynolds
- 08 - Peggy Campbell
- 12 - John Gardner
- 12 - Vince Small
- 13 - Hope Marchese
- 16 - Mabel Keiser
- 17 - Zachary Souders
- 17 - Carol Aldridge
- 18 - Charles Dagnan
- 18 - Vanessa Small
- 19 - Pat Struzzieri
- 25 - Grace Edwards
- 25 - Mary Essmann

Happy Anniversary!

- 01 - Wayne and Grace Meiser
- 19 - Jean and Bernadette Toan



If you would like your birthday or anniversary added to this list, please contact the church office.



In Memory of
**Polly
Richards**





Christmas Eve



2017





Christmas Eve 2017





Water Main Break—January 2018