



FEBRUARY 2024

THEME: LOVE



## MORATTICO BAPTIST CHURCH

# THE HILL

### PASTOR'S CORNER

February is the one month of the year that I cannot wrap my mind around. It's the beginning of the end of winter but it can be the worst weather month of the year. Snow, sleet, and freezing rain join with wind and frigid temperatures, to make it often unpleasant. Yet, it also is the last month before the spring transition in March. So I don't know how I feel about the month of February. I guess it depends on the weather!! Just in case you aren't aware, I do not like or appreciate cold weather.

As I write this we are anticipating the first snow of the season. It doesn't look like much is coming but there is a certain excitement in our home that comes from anticipating snow. We joke about the easy job of being a weather forecaster. You can be wrong fifty-percent of the time and nobody blames you for doing a poor job. In fact, I think we are more surprised when they get it right than when they get it wrong. Unlike any other profession, weather forecasters never get fired for being wrong all the time!

Continued on page 4

### LOVE

The last time I offered a theme for The Hill in June 2023, JOY was the idea I quite enJOYed suggesting. This month I am thinking that LOVE is in the air with Valentine's Day. Of course, love is actually the main theme of the Bible. It appears hundreds of times because God is LOVE. It is an action verb. It creates so many opportunities for each one of us. Look around and see everywhere people who are very much in need of receiving love. Jesus is the prime example of sacrificial love. He pours it into us as believers.

I carry in my purse a poem which I have sung at church. It begins with:

*It's all right to say "I love you!"  
To someone every day,  
To obey our Lord's commandment  
In a real and vital way.*

Clay Harrison, the author, used John 13:34 as his model:

*A new commandment I give you: love one another.*

Continued on page 3

# Prayer List



Margaret Ambrose  
Jennifer Amirault  
Jane Austin  
Page Carlson  
Marion Cockrell  
Eddie and Connie Dawson  
Eleanor Delano  
Alice Fallin  
Bill and Mary Fletcher  
Steve Garcia  
Lynn Carter Gordon  
Mary Herndon  
Stephanie Hudson  
Cathy Kellum  
Ben Little  
Shirley McNeal  
Donald Morgan  
Sammy Newton  
Pat Patterson  
Charlotte Pierson  
Richard, Rosie and Rich Pruett  
Jonell Robertson  
Sylvia Saunders  
Lewis and Mae Shelton  
William Scott Smith  
Pattie Ruark Sobieski  
Sue B. Staton  
Fran Stout  
Tommy Thompson  
Those with mental illness


*Please give us updates on whether to keep praying or rejoice in being able to remove someone from this list.*

*When adding someone to our prayer list, please provide an address so we can send a card.*

*Prayer list contact  
Mae Shelton at 804-366-3817*

# FEBRUARY

*Birthdays and Anniversaries*



3	Peyton Smith
7	Brenda Gilbert
7	Jo Ann Fickling
8	Rachel Barnes
8	Dixie Wood
8	Sean Stout
16	Steven French
20	Joshua Abbott
20	Linda Cornwell
20	Richard Fickling
20	James Kendrick
22	Abby Souders
22	Carol Kratt
23	Susan Humphreys

February 3, 1980  
Wayne and Belinda Starling

February 28  
Ray and Amy Britt

## CLOTHING DRIVE

Chris Love's Sunday School class is collecting new or used clothing for Caritas shelters in Richmond. They will accept any adult clothing but are particularly in need of men's winter coats (especially larger sizes ~ L to 3XL). They also provide workplace appropriate clothing for the graduates of their programs so any business and business-casual clothes are welcome.

Please bring clothing to the church, where it is being collected in the Sunday school room across from the History Center. If you need to have boxed coats and/or clothing picked up, please contact Ginny Barnes at 804-724-3841.

## Building and Grounds Committee



In 1856 the current church was built and the bricks used were made on site. The mortar was a mixture of local sand and lime. This was prior to the development of mortar containing Katie's Portland cement.

After 167 years of the building being subjected to all of Mother Nature's abuse the majority of the mortar is still doing its job. However, a small amount of the mortar joints were missing and others were just showing their age. In the fall of 2023 it was about time to do some repointing of the brick.

Finding someone that was knowledgeable in restoring brick work from the mid 1800s was not just looking in the Yellow Pages. I went to see Mr. Robert Teagle from Christ Church in Weems. He was extremely helpful giving us a few names of people that could help with our restoration project. I contacted Charles Rackley, a restoration contractor knowledgeable in masonry restoration. Mr. Rackley visited our church and looked at the brick. He was able to mix a mortar to match the existing mortar.

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## Building and Grounds Committee

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He restored the worst areas where the joints were missing. There are still a lot of joints that need to be repointed so this will be an ongoing maintenance job but it will make sure that in another 167 years our church will still be "The Church on the Hill".

~Ed Kratt

## LOVE

Continued from page 1

Love comes in many forms. It could be a smile or a hug. It could be financial help or just some sound advice. It might be delivering a meal or offering a ride. Jesus gives us many examples to follow. He took time with outcasts, ate with people others avoided, and noticed people in odd places - Zacchaeus called down from up in a tree! Every day we have opportunities to share the love of God. Jesus is the best example I know of patience, compassion, grace and mercy. I thank God for this church fellowship William and I get to be a part of as we all put love into action.

~Patricia Taylor



## PASTOR'S CORNER

Continued from page 1

It is good that Jesus didn't hold His twelve disciples to a strict standard of knowledge and performance. These hand chosen students frustrated their teacher over and over again. I was reading Matthew this afternoon and as I read chapter 16, I was reminded of this fact. "The Pharisees and Sadducees came and to test Jesus, they asked Him for a sign from heaven. He answered them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times." Jesus gave us a weather lesson that seafarers have used for centuries, 'red sky at night, sailors delight. Red sky at dawn, sailors take warn.'

But what happens next is what caught my attention. When the disciples had gone to the other side of the lake to the region of Magadan, they realized that they had no food. I can imagine them standing on the shore, near the bow of the boat, discussing who was supposed to bring the bread and blaming each other for forgetting! Jesus in the meantime was nearby listening to the conversation. Then Jesus teaches them a lesson. He says, "Watch out and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Just a little earlier Jesus had been tested by the Pharisees and Sadducees and He is letting them know that they should not trust that group of religious men. The response of the disciples to the teaching of Jesus was this, "It is because we have brought no bread."

The disciples couldn't think past their empty stomachs to the teaching of Jesus and so He had to admonish them. "Do you still not perceive?" In today's parlance that would be

Continued right

## PASTOR'S CORNER

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a comment like ~ "wait...what? Were you listening to me?" After Jesus explained His statement, Matthew records, "Then they understood that He had not told them to beware of the yeast of bread but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

It is important that we stop and listen closely to the Words of Christ. Don't frustrate Jesus by praying or reading your Bible in front of the television or when your mind is swirling with thoughts and plans. Dedicate yourself to prayer and Bible reading every day at a time when you can be present with the Lord. Yes, Jesus is patient and understanding with our inattentiveness but we rob ourselves of the blessing of His presence when we are preoccupied when we enter His chambers.

Fair winds and following seas!!



**SEE ARTICLE ON  
PAGE TWO**

Contact  
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804-724-3841



**THE HILL**, Morattico Baptist Church newsletter is owned and operated by YOU. We want your input. If you have ideas, suggestions, family news, articles or photos, submit them to [newsletter@moratticobaptistchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@moratticobaptistchurch.org) or call Kathy Pittman at (804) 761-2441.

**Deadline:**  
**10<sup>th</sup> of each month**



**PENCIL IT IN**

Sunday: 8:45 am Sunday School (adult)  
10 am Sunday Service

**Calendar events:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Groundhog Day  
11<sup>th</sup> Transfiguration Sunday  
14<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day  
14<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday  
19<sup>th</sup> Presidents' Day



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