

Thoughts from Tom

Tracking Time

As we enter the bleakest part of winter, it is refreshing to know that February is the shortest month of the year; that a certain groundhog in Pennsylvania can predict whether spring is around the corner; and that love is in the air on the 14th. The first of February is often filled with winter storm advisories, but by the end of the month the days are longer; the sun is warmer; and the coldest part of the season is over. February is a month of change and promise.

Have you ever noticed how time-conscious we are? Our lives are governed by clocks, calendars, and special dates. In spite of this (and because of this!), it is comforting to know that God needs no special event to show or express His love for us. Likewise, we should not need to be prompted by such things as Valentine's Day to let our loved ones know how special they are. As busy and complex as our lives get, we tend to take the most important things for granted; things like the love of God or our relationship with Christ. Psalm 118 admonishes us to remember God's enduring love:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
His love endures forever.
Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."
Let the house of Aaron say: "His love endures forever."
Let those who fear the Lord say, "His love endures forever."

Please remember, in this short month, the immeasurable length of God's love!

Could we with ink the oceans fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade:

To write the love of God above
Would drain the oceans dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.

Oh love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure,
The saints' and angels' song.

Amen! His love endures forever!



First Church of Christ

300 W. Spruce Street, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Know Jesus • Follow Jesus • Share His Love

February 2018



The Annual His House Spaghetti Lunch! February 18th after church

**This year's mission will be Beach Reach
in Panama City, Florida!**

*The lunch is by donation to help our His House students
and staff as they embark on their yearly mission trip.
They will be bringing God's love to students on the
beaches and in town during their spring break.
This is a wonderful outreach!*

Come and support our His House crew!



Attender Updates!

Once a year FCOC updates our attender files with new attenders, new addresses, phone numbers, emails, children, etc.

Attached is the Attender Form for your convenience.
Simply email any changes you have to the church office at fcoc@saultchurch.com, or bring the form to church and place in the basket by the office window. The forms will also be in the bulletins at church for the month of February.

If you have never placed your membership with FCOC and would like information on how to do so, please let us know in the space provided on the update form.

Announcements

The Simply Give Campaign numbers are in!



With all donations and Meijer's matching funds, the
FCOC food pantry will receive
\$4,910 in gift cards
for Meijer food purchases!

Thanks to everyone who donated and helped support our pantry!



Funeral Dinner Ministry

If you can help with set-up, clean-up, and/or making food for funeral dinners in support of our members during times of loss, please sign up in the lobby.

Please see Diana Vert or Nancy Darling for more details.

Promise Music Camp at Great Lakes Christian College!



Promise is a 2 week music camp designed as a strong musical and spiritual growing experience for high school students. They practice for a week and then go on tour to different churches and share their program of music and drama.

Vocalists audition by recording a contemporary Christian song or worship song to CD at your home church, which is then sent to GLCC.

If you would like to audition as an instrumentalist, record a song which shows your ability.

Dates are June 17-29. Tuition is \$350 before February 1 and \$400 after that until the deadline of April 1. This includes all meals, housing and activities.

See Randy Peasley for more information and application.

Giving Information

January	Giving
7	\$5,061.50
14	\$4,160.50
21	\$4,315.80
28	\$3,023.75
Average	\$4,140.39

Prayer Concerns (Please call the church office with updates)



Our country and those serving in the military, those adjusting after service
Elaine & Helen Carrier—In Tendercare
Kevin Farrar—Breathing issues due to RA, RA flare-ups
His House Ministries
Kenn Filkins—Serious health issues
Hannah Grace Monroe—Continued prayers for her feedings and health
Jeannine Kelly (Therese Boucha's mother) - Parkinson's Disease
Gary Matheny (Dave's brother) - Hoping for a lung transplant soon
Jim Strange (Mark's dad) - Heart problems
Trevor Welker (Kelsey Hill's brother) - Difficult divorce
Amy Fraser—Chemo for stage 2 breast cancer
Kiki (Nancy LaCrosse) - In remission from eye tumor, watching closely
Kendall Hicks—In rehab for brain injury
Mike Zimmerman—Continued recovery, upcoming hip surgery
Mona Staggs (LaCrosse) - Breast cancer, now in lymph nodes
Bev Vandergeest (Brenda Brown's mom) - Health concerns, at Mayo for treatment
Gary Korman (friend of Dave Weir) - Health issues
Trudy Ranta (Pam Postma) - Melanoma has advanced
Ron Atkins (Pam Postma's brother) - Praise that there is no lung cancer! Has liver/pancreatic cancer—to Mayo for treatment options
Mary Elliott—Seeking treatment for paralyzed leg
Gary Ferns (Mary Armstrong) - Lung tumors growing and multiplying
Sara Rogers (Marion Roger's granddaughter) - Life decisions & coming to know God
Josh Cochran (Hachigian) - House fire, family and pets safe, prayers for housing
Sean Stiles—Stomach difficulties, needs testing
Micah Corbiere—Doing better with shingles, still has facial paralysis
Sarah (Friend of Lisa Corbiere) - 3 year old Amish girl who is at DeVos with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
Laura Conroy and family—Baby son Benjamin died of SIDS
Family of Timothy Vollstedt—Ward's minister in Florida passed away last week
David Mitchell (Ann Abbott's nephew) - PRAISE! Tumor surgery successful!
Taylr Bumstead (Marion Rogers' g-son) - PRAISE! Diagnosed problem, doing well!