

The Spotlight

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Getting to Know Our Church Family



Linda Pierson

Linda was born and raised in North Dakota and has worked in accounting most of her life. She worked as assistant controller for the Jewish Country Club in Rancho Mirage, CA for the past 17 years before retiring. She married Pat in 1964. They moved to Rochester this past summer to be closer to family as Pat's sister lives here and they have other family here in Minnesota and in North Dakota.

Linda's hobbies include knitting, cross stitch, needlepoint, sewing, and quilting along with cooking and baking.

Linda has been a Christian since 1980 due to the prayers of her mother. She has been attending SRCC the past few months and likes the size of our church and that it is close to where they live.

Christmas Reflections

Christmas can be one of the highest points of the year or it can be one of the lowest. It can produce great joy or create tremendous stress.

My family has been moving toward the great joy, low stress side of the equation for a number of years now. We do this by de-emphasizing the materialism of this season so evident all around us.

I have to admit that the first 35 years of my life were given to the material side, and it is still hard not to get caught up in the rush over these past 20+ years. But I resist the urge.

The hardest times were when our children were younger and we quit giving them lots of presents at Christmas. When their friends would come over to see what Santa had brought we'd often hear them exclaim, "Is that all you got?" And then when our kids would go to their friends home and see all the 'stuff' they had received, ours would often

feel short-changed.

But we persevered against the cultural and social pressure to spend just to be spending. We'd remind our children that Christmas was the Lord's birthday not theirs and when their birthday came around we'd make it special for them.

Now that my kids are adults, they have come to appreciate the season a lot more as 'family time' rather than 'gettin' time'.

Last year was the first year in our family's history that none of our children were home for Christmas. Due to jobs, distance, and economics our children celebrated the Holidays where they were living and with the friends they had made. The results? They were lonely and missed their family.

It was a good experience for them and has made them more sensitive to others who are lonely at this time of year. Thus, Andy is bringing one of his 'girl' friends with him who

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A New Adult Sunday School Class Starts January 6th: *The King, The Kingdom and The Covenant*

Since the founding of the United States of America, the thought that a kingdom is superior to a democracy has been almost erased from our conscious thought. Is there even a possibility for a kingdom to be more desirable than a democracy? Oh, yes! The Bible is all about God's Kingdom and His Covenant with its citizens.

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. *Mark 1:15 NASB*

...unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. *John 3:3 NASB*

To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, *Luke 8:10 NASB*

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; *Matthew 16:9 NASB*

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. *Matthew 6:33 NASB*

He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God,

Luke 8:1 NASB

He sent them [His disciples] out to proclaim the kingdom of God *Luke 9:2 NASB*

On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, *Genesis 15:18 NASB*

He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant," *Matthew 26:27-28 NASB*

What do The KING, the KINGDOM and the COVENANT have to do with me? Failure to comprehend the nature and importance of this Kingdom dulls our understanding of Scripture, inhibits our relationship with God and hinders our ability to serve. Come and let The KING, the KINGDOM and the COVENANT sharpen your perspective of Scripture and strengthen your walk with God.

~ Jerry Huebner

Let Us Pray for One Another

In the past we have had secret prayer sisters at Salem Road. We would like to open the prayer partner idea up to men also. It will not be secret, nor will there be gifts or any get-together time. Men can have a man praying for them. Women can have a woman praying for them. If it makes no difference, we'll accommodate that. Whoever draws your name would let you know so they could pray specifically for you all year. The idea is to pray for one another regularly, daily if pos-

sible and to pray for specific and general needs. When I had cancer, it was such a comfort to know that besides family and friends, I had another woman praying diligently for me. We all have needs and concerns. Think of how our relationships with each other will blossom through prayer. It would always be confidential so we don't need to be concerned about others talking about our needs. A box and papers for you to complete will be on the hall table in mid December. We'd like to draw names by mid January.

Margaret Huebner and Marge Pratten

High School Christmas Dinner

All high school students are invited to the Christmas dinner on December 8th at 6 p.m. at Dave and Lynda Capps. RSVP to Alice Zerbe (285-1087) asap.

Middle School Christmas Party

All Middle School students are invited to a Christmas party and lunch on December 15th from 11:00 - 2:00 in the youth building. RSVP to Lisa Lucas (285-5074) by December 10th.

SWAT Day Set for January 5

Please join us in caring for the elderly in our community at our quarterly SWAT (Service With A Tool) work day. We will begin with donuts, coffee and prayer at 8:00 at church and head out to serve. Mark your calendars today! Contact Deb Dewanz with questions. deb-dewanz@charter.net or 285-1747

High School Winter Retreat at LBBC

January 11-13 is the weekend! Jeremy Sohlstrom is the speaker. Jeremy has had numerous adventures in Antarctica, Egypt, Africa, China, Turkey, and more. Pick up a registration brochure in the hall rack. See www.jeremysohlstrom.com.

Congregational Annual Meeting - January 13 at 6 pm

Mark your calendar for this meeting as we gather to approve the 2008 budget, elect people to the positions of elder, auditor, and nominating committee, and reflect on the past year and plan for the future.



December Birthdays

- 1 - Chuck Lucas
- 1 - Danielle Hanson
- 2 - Grant Reimer
- 7 - Lee Bredeson
- 16 - Marty Wolfe
- 17 - Lynda Capps
- 19 - Shaylan Johnson
- 19 - Seth Robinson
- 27 - Marilyn Riegler
- 30 - Charles Taylor

December Anniversaries

- 23 - Dave & Jeannie Byer
- 27 - Lee & Tricia Bredeson
- 27 - Matt & Patty Iott

Births

Orry Benjamin born on November 2nd to Ken and Sara Landolt
Grandparents: Den and Fran Cox

New E-mail

Seth & Donia Robinson -
gtrobinsons@gmail.com

<u>Set Up</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
2 - Reinhart	Reimer	Driscoll	Stewart
9 - Riegler	Gillis	Heikes	Robinson
16 - C. Roberts	Therneau	Heikes	Evinger
23 - Robinson	Hanson	Douskey	Roberts
30 - Stewart	Engstler	Douskey	Reimer

Women's Winter Bible Studies

Jesus the One and Only by Beth Moore

Morning Class: Jan. 30 - April 9 (11 weeks)

Wednesdays / 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Fireside Room at SRCC

Childcare Provided

Evening Class: Jan. 10 - March 20 (11 weeks)

Thursday evenings / 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

MaryAnn Capp's home

2403 Pinewood Rd. S.E.

No Childcare

Cost for Book: \$16.50

Contact to sign-up: Lisa Lucas (morning class)

285-5074 or chelliglo@chartermi.net

MaryAnn Capps (evening class) 281-0067 or

mollymac2@hotmail.com

Please sign up as soon as possible for the evening class and by January 6th for the morning class so books can be ordered.

The Star

The following entry is found in the Astronomy Records of the Book of the Han Dynasty from the second year of Jian Ping of Emperor Xiao Ai [reigned B.C. 7-1]:

"In the second month of the second year, the comet was out of Altair for more than 70 days. It is said, 'Comets appear to signify the old being replaced by the new.' Altair [the brightest star in the constellation Aquila], the sun, the moon and the five stars are in movement to signify the beginning of a new epoch; the beginning of a new year, a new month and a new day. The appearance of this comet undoubtedly symbolizes change. The extended appearance of this comet indicates that this is of great importance." A second entry in

History of the Former Han Dynasty, states: "In the second year of Jian Ping of Emperor Xiao Ai, in the spring, the first month, a bei comet [comet with no tail] was found at Altair."

So, approximately 13 months after the extended appearance [spring of 6 B.C.] of a comet in the constellation Altair another comet appeared [spring of 5 B.C.] for a short time in the same constellation. The Chinese call this constellation "the bull" and correlate it to sacrifice. The Chinese astronomers were so impressed with this event that they changed the name of that year to "the Grand Beginning" for a short period of time.

Can you correlate these Chinese records to the Gospel record of the star of Bethlehem found in Matthew?

Ron Peterson

Bible Quizzing News

Here are the results of the November Heartland Tournament held in Stewartville:

Little League Individual Placings

Grace placed 1st

Kohl placed 2nd

Ashton placed 5th

Faith placed 9th

Little League Team Placings

Grace and Faith's team, the *Phillies* placed 1st. Ashton, Kohl, and Taylor's team, the *Imitators of the Lord*, placed 2nd.

The December Quiz is on the 8th from 1-5 pm at Emmanuel Baptist, 2911 18th Avenue NW.

Fellowship and Service Update

“Good, better, best. Never let it rest. ‘Til your good is better and you better is best.”

This quote, attributed to St. Jerome, is my motivator for Fellowship and Service this year. As good Christians do, we offer to help our friends and neighbors when needed and get together socially when we can. We are friendly and do nice things for others because that’s the way we want to be treated. Sometimes we need to be more organized to accomplish bigger tasks, e.g. the Christmas Dinner. The committee has been working since September brainstorming, researching, making phone calls, sending e-mails, visiting coffee shops, shopping, talking and plotting to make our annual Christmas dinner an event not to miss. I think we have a fun and festive evening

Salem Road’s Annual Adult Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 9th at 5:30 p.m.



If you haven’t already replied to your invitation to this fun night of holiday celebration, December 2nd is the final day to reserve your place! Good food, fun music, and prizes – the more who come, the better the party, so please join us! Find something red, green, black, and/or white to wear so that you can be part of the décor!

planned and believe that the committee should feel very good about it. Special thanks to Tricia Bredeson, Karen Danielson, Linda Lewis, Jeanette Lorang, Nancy Naatz, Jodi Ouverson, and Alice Zerbe for making this happen.

Too often because of busyness or fatigue, though, ease trumps effort. Creativity and style are stifled, and the lowest common denominator is the result. We rob ourselves of the joy and satisfaction of a job well done when we do just enough to get by. My hope is that throughout the year as opportunities arise to give time and service whether it be coffee hour, potlucks, meals for the sick, decorating, cleaning, etc. that you will look on the task as an occasion to show you care by doing your best and serving with gladness.

Melinda

Christmas Reflections (cont. from p.1)

comes from a broken home and had no place to go this year.

My adult kids are now more interested in the things that really matter - family, friends, and the Lord.

Melinda and I also find it so much more relaxing just to be together enjoying good food, good conversation, and a good night’s rest on Christmas Eve!

Gone are the frustrations of trying to find something that has been sold out for months; gone is the exhaustion of trying to cram too much into a few weeks that should be more relaxing and enjoyable; gone is the guilt of going contrary to what we believe is the right thing to do at this time of year; and coming is the excitement of seeing our children and enjoying their company as adults.

Merry Christmas, Pastor Mark