

God's Community of Love

I love the Church because It is God's community of love. God created people to live in love and fellowship with one another. This was His original plan in the garden of Eden. He said about Adam, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Genesis 2:18). Marriage was the immediate application of this pronouncement, but the church was the ultimate goal and purpose that God had in mind (Ephesians 3:11, 5:32). God wanted a community of love to exist in which He Himself would participate. He created that initially, but Satan spoiled it when man sinned. The story of the Bible is God's work in rebuilding that community through His sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ. In Christ, God has finished the work that He began and created the new Eden. The church is the fellowship of humanity and God in one body, Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:16-22).

The community of love is exclusive. God does not extend fellowship beyond His body, the church. This is where He dwells with His people today. That is the point of Ephesians 2:21-22. "In whom all the

building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." God lives in and with His people, the church, the body for which Christ died and shed His blood, and He will not dwell in any other. Jesus Christ is His habitation (John 1:14) and His bride is the body of Christ (Ephesians 5:23). This makes the church God's unique and only dwelling place. It is God's community of love.

As a human, I have a need to love and be loved. My need extends to God and other people. Given that the church is the unique community of love in which God dwells, I need to love and participate in the church. Moreover, I need to love God and have a relationship with Him by Jesus Christ. The church is where God fulfills these needs that He created. When I choose to love God and His people, my need to love and be loved is satisfied and God's purposes are fulfilled in me, and God achieves atonement. There is no other place where this unique mix of love, community, fellowship, and unity with God and His people exist.

Article by: Kevin Cauley

YOUTH GROUP



There will not be a Youth Devo this week. If you would like to host, there is a sign-up sheet on the back Bulletin board.



GALS Luncheon

(Growing And Loving Servants)

Ladies, please make plans to join us on Saturday, March 1st from 11:30-1:00 pm. There will be food, fellowship and discussion on how we can serve our congregation through our ladies ministry.

WE NEED YOU



We are in need of men to sign-up for a 3-5 minute devotional on Wednesday nights! There is a sign up sheet on the back bulletin board.

REACH Team 2 is collecting socks, travel size Kleenex and Chapstick, to make care packages for the local nursing home. If you are able to help with any donations, there is a basket in the foyer. If it is easier to make a money donation, the church staff is happy to collect and pick up the items for you.

Please have all donations in by this Wednesday, February 12, 2025.



Please Pray

Lucille Hudgins brother in law passed away... Kathy Faul (former member), is suffering from shingles. Her husband (also former member) Farrell Faul has a heart blockage and is awaiting an angioplasty.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

Pat Arnold, Dorothy Booth, Kannika Bun, Mike Cox, Betty Debose, Gary Faycosh Sr., Matt Foley, Cindy Gernand, Jeanie Granger, Barbara Hernandez, Erin West Janki, David Johnson, Frank Kita, Danny Lewis, Shelia Mac, Jo Anne Maywald, Kyle Teat, Kelly Miller, Case Opperman, John Shaw, Kyle Teat, Linda Timaeus, Phil Timaeus, Maggie Walker, Audrey Ware.