



The Church Organ

March 2010/Volume 16 No. 3

From Your Pastor's Pen

Love is a Verb

"My command is this: Love one another as I have loved you."

(John 15:12)

Everyone wants to be loved, but not everyone is willing to love others as they want to be loved themselves. But to love one another as a follower and disciple of Jesus is not an option; it is one of the greatest commandments of our Lord. This has been at the center of God's commands from the beginning.

That love has been one of the foremost commandments is not hard to discover in reading Scripture. In fact, Jesus was asked that very question by one who considered himself an expert in the law. He asked Jesus, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?" The sense of the question is to discover the most important commandment. Jesus' answer is found in Matthew 22:37-40: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." If we are to live out the teaching of both

the Law and the Prophets, we must actively love God and love our neighbor.

Love was meant to be active rather than passive. All too often we, God's people, sit back and desire to receive the love from others, but are not willing to become active in loving others as God has commanded us. Yet, we can only truly find fulfillment in love as we give it away. We cannot hold the love to ourselves to truly experience love for ourselves. It is in the giving of love that we find its truest expression.

This is one of the things that Jesus tried to demonstrate in his own life. He showed us what love is. It wasn't that his disciples, or that the people he ministered to loved him first, but rather, that he demonstrated his love toward them so they could begin to comprehend what true love looked like. True love is not what we can take, but what we can give. Love actively seeks out its object whether that object is seeking it out or not. Love is not self-focused but other-focused.

That is what Jesus demonstrated for his followers, who were exhorted to take note and follow in his footsteps. Jesus was the Master, the Teacher, and the disciples were to be "learners" of his ways and wisdom. A true

disciple desires to become like his teacher. Therefore, Jesus gave the example of active love, and we are to learn to emulate that in our own lives and relationships, even when it is hard to do. Jesus told his disciples that others will know we are his disciples by our love for one another; "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35) Has the world seen a love among God's people that is truly compelling and causing them to consider that we are his disciples? We hear a lot about the hate that comes from the Christian community, but are we demonstrating a Christ like love that draws the unbeliever to the Savior? That is what I am trying to advocate for our church.

If we are to be known in our community for anything, why not let it be known for the kind of love that Christ has commanded among his followers. The kind of love commanded is a love in the example of Christ. The love that Christ had for his Church was a self-sacrificing love of the kind that found the Savior laying down his life for sinful and rebellious mankind.

Are we, as a church, willing to lay down our lives for others, even for one another? Are we willing to follow in Christ's example of love and actively give of

(Continued on the back page.)

"Has the world seen a love among God's people that is compelling and causing them to consider that we are his disciples?"



Branches on the Oak Lake Family Tree

For a long time many of us have enjoyed knowing and watching Andrew and Lindsey Bartsch be a part Oak Lake. I thought that it would be fun to catch up on their lives in the present. So let's take a few snapshots of their lives from the past to now.

Andrew's family moved to Lincoln when he was about three months old. (His parents are Greg and Joy Bartsch.) From those early days on he has attended Oak Lake. Lindsey's family started coming to Oak Lake when she was in junior high. (Her parents are John and Caroline Rezac.) The church had just moved to its present location and she and her family came to check out the "grand opening." They liked what they found, and so they decided to make it their church home.

Andrew and Lindsey really began to get to know each other through youth group in senior high. There were many informal sand volleyball games and swimming parties that took place along with regular youth group meetings. Andrew found that a certain young lady by the name of Lindsey made coming to these gatherings very enjoyable. They were married June 8, 2002 at Oak Lake.

Both Andrew and Lindsey graduated from high school in Lincoln. Andrew has worked in retail and data entry prior to their marriage. Lindsey received a certificate in Office Technology from Southeast Community College and worked for Lincoln Benefit Life prior to Zachary, their oldest son's birth.

Andrew is presently employed as a barista (coffee maker) and manager of Scooter's Coffeehouse at 11th and O Street. (This franchise is owned by Pastor Bryan and Julie Dahlberg.) Lindsey worked here for about a year part time until the birth of their daughter, Madisen, on May 15, 2009. Andrew says that business is good. A cup of coffee or hot chocolate often sounds appealing, but especially in the winter.

Andrew and Lindsey have three children. Zachary, age 6, is a kindergartner at Pershing Elementary. Jake, age 4, is in preschool two days a week at the Northeast YMCA. Their youngest child, baby Madisen, has a beautiful smile and is looking very healthy.

Madisen's health isn't something the Bartschs take for granted. Madisen was hospitalized for 10 days in December 2009 with a viral infection. In spite of many tests, the doctors were unable to pinpoint the cause of the problems. Most recently, Madi had tubes put in her ears to help ease her ear infections. God has been good, and she is doing well. In a few weeks Madi may rejoin her family at Oak Lake. But for the time being, Andrew and Lindsey are keeping her at home to help her avoid becoming sick again.



As a family, Andrew and Lindsey enjoy biking and camping. Andrew especially likes going skiing. Actually, they

(Continued on the back page.)

March 2010

Oak Lake Evangelical Free Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
	1 Elders' Meeting 6:15 PM	2 John & Dorothy Juhl - 1996	3 Choir 5:30 PM AWANA 6:55 PM ELL 7:00 PM	4 Investigative Bible Study 1:15 PM Food Distribution 3:00 PM	5 Men's Bible Study 6:30 AM Phares' Small Group 7:00 PM	6 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:15 AM Double Nickel @ Bussey's 3:00 PM																																																																																																		
7 Communion AM Young Adults @ Steiners	8	9 Benjamin Church Ladies' Bible Study 9:00 AM	10 Choir 5:30 PM AWANA 6:55 PM ELL 7:00 PM	11 Investigative Bible Study 1:15 PM Food Distribution 3:00 PM	12 Men's Bible Study 6:30 AM Tony Valenti	13 Music & Worship Committee 8:30 AM																																																																																																		
14 Jacd Sarkar Barry Masten	15 Elders' Meeting 6:15 PM Connie Masten	16	17 Choir 5:30 PM AWANA 6:55 PM ELL 7:00 PM Aubrey Townsend	18 Investigative Bible Study 1:15 PM Food Distribution 3:00 PM Jacob Bartsch Russell Edwards Sarah Tripp	19 Men's Bible Study 6:30 AM Phares' Small Group 7:00 PM Jon Lee	20 Marion Briese Tom Sherwood																																																																																																		
21 Carry-In Dinner	22	23 Ladies' Bible Study 9:00 AM	24 Choir 5:30 PM AWANA 6:55 PM ELL 7:00 PM	25 Investigative Bible Study 1:15 PM Food Distribution 3:00 PM Vern Steiner	26 Men's Bible Study 6:30 AM Colby Oppelt	27 Amy Tucker Seth Reighard																																																																																																		
28 Slearra Bridgmon Tony & Laura Ceraolo - 1992	29	30 Sarah Tlamka Viktoriya Townsend Dave & Linda Neil - 1968	31 Choir 5:30 PM AWANA 6:55 PM ELL 7:00 PM	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Feb 2010</th> <th colspan="7">Apr 2010</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Feb 2010							Apr 2010							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	28							25	26	27	28	29	30	
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Oak Lake Activities and Digest

Jim Hart Says "Thanks"

Jim Hart, a member of Oak Lake, is incarcerated at a federal prison in Forest City, Arkansas. Many of you sent a Christmas card to him. Below is a thank you note which we recently received from him:

Oak Lake Members,

Thank you so much for the Christmas cards I received. I appreciate your thoughts and prayers. Christmas time is a rough time for those like me that are incarcerated. It is also a rough time for your service members (military) that are overseas away for their families. Please keep my fellow inmates and myself in your prayers. And keep those who are fighting for our country in your prayers. Even though it is past the holiday season, we are all still far from our families.

May God Bless You All!

Jim Hart

PRISONERS IN THE BIBLE FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT
SUDOKU

To solve this sudoku, fill the blank squares with the names listed below the puzzle, arranging them so that each row and column and each of the 3x3 grids contains all nine of the names.

Solution is on the back page.

		JOSEPH				SAMSON	DANIEL	SIMEON
		DANIEL	SAMSON	HANANI			MICALAH	
BAKER		MICALAH	DANIEL		HOSHEA			
MICALAH	SIMEON		HOSHEA					
SAMSON				MICALAH				HANANI
					HANANI		SIMEON	SAMSON
			HANANI		SIMEON	JOSEPH		BAKER
	HANANI			DANIEL	BAKER	BUTLER		
JOSEPH	BAKER	BUTLER				SIMEON		

JOSEPH Gen 39:20-23	SIMEON Gen 42:24	SAMSON Judg 16:21	HOSHEA 2 Kings 17:4	HANANI 2 Chron 16:7-10	DANIEL Dan 6:16-17	MICALAH 1 Kings 22:27	BUTLER Gen 40:1-3	BAKER Gen 40:1-3
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(Pastor's Pen continued.)

ourselves to others and for others? Are we willing to show the world around us that Christ has risen from the dead and he is alive in his people who are the "body of Christ?" Until we are actively doing so, we are falling short of Christ's command. May the Christ life live in us!

--Pastor Dale

(Branches continued.)

both agree that they enjoy doing anything "outdoorsy."

Andrew and Lindsey both became believers as young children. Andrew says that he prayed with his mother, Joy, after an evening service where heaven and hell were talked about. Lindsey says that she prayed to ask the Lord to be her Savior in the third grade with her Sunday school teacher.

Andrew's favorite verse is Romans 12:1-2. It says, "Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Lindsey enjoys I Corinthians 9:24-25 which says, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever."

New Cell Phone Numbers:



Sherry Koenigsman : (402) 802-1048

Bruce Koenigsman : (402) 770-6888

Koenigsmans have removed their land line (489-2621).

HANANI	BOSEBA	JOSEPH	BUTLER	BAKER	NICALAN	SAMSON	DANIEL	SIMON
SIMON	BUTLER	DANIEL	SAMSON	HANANI	JOSEPH	BAKER	NICALAN	BOSEBA
BAKER	SAMSON	NICALAN	DANIEL	SIMON	BOSEBA	HANANI	JOSEPH	BUTLER
NICALAN	SIMON	HANANI	BOSEBA	SAMSON	BUTLER	DANIEL	BAKER	JOSEPH
SAMSON	JOSEPH	BAKER	SIMON	NICALAN	DANIEL	BOSEBA	BUTLER	HANANI
BUTLER	DANIEL	BOSEBA	BAKER	JOSEPH	HANANI	NICALAN	SIMON	SAMSON
DANIEL	NICALAN	SAMSON	HANANI	BUTLER	SIMON	JOSEPH	BOSEBA	BAKER
BOSEBA	HANANI	SIMON	JOSEPH	DANIEL	BAKER	BUTLER	SAMSON	NICALAN
JOSEPH	BAKER	BUTLER	NICALAN	BOSEBA	SAMSON	SIMON	HANANI	DANIEL

**Solution to "Prisoners in the Bible
From The Old Testament"**

By Jim Hart
Sudoku