

Shepherd Tuesday Happenings
for January 27, 2009

Dear Shepherdites and Friends,

We had a great weekend of services. Saturday night Missionary Debbie Hofferbert shared with us; Sunday we had a rousing Sunday School/Discipleship Ministries discussion and the Pastor brought a message to remind you that God chose us.

Just Thinking -- In the past, I have written about how the unusual stands out from the normal. Remember not seeing anyone smiling as they walked or ran across the Lake Murray dam; man bites dog, etc.

A couple of weeks ago we were in our nation's capital, Washington, DC. There were some normal sights that you would expect to see, like the Capitol, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and the Pentagon. These were exciting places to see and visit.

I did notice one type of bus that was running in the area. They appeared clean and new and each had a sign that extended along the entire top edge of the bus which said, "This bus is powered by clean, efficient natural gas". That should make the environmentalist, as well as the rest of us, feel good; however, as I started to notice these busses rush about, I began to observe that they were empty and their destination signs which were lighted up on the front & side. Every one that I saw, in big, bright letters said, "This Vehicle Out of Service". Wow, with all that fuel efficiency and thousands of people using mass transit, these marvelous vehicles were running about town, "Out of Service".



Sort of like some people that come to Christ, accept His forgiveness and should be, like these busses, ready to serve Him better and more efficiently; but alas they are out of service, when it comes to spreading the Word. *"Whoever does not accept the Son does not have the Father. But whoever confesses the Son has the Father, too."* (1 John 2:23 NCV)

Missionary Service – If you did not attend our missionary service and pot-luck dinner Saturday night, you missed a real blessing. The Batesburg Church joined Shepherd in welcoming Missionary to Brazil, Debbie Hofferbert. For those of you that have been around the district for a while, Debbie is the daughter of Rev. B.W. and Mrs. Leota Downing of Sumter.



Debbie Hofferbert

Debbie shared the great work and growth that is happening in the Nazarene Church in Brazil. Especially interesting was the manner some churches were being established by tithing of actual members of larger churches starting new works in their area of residence.

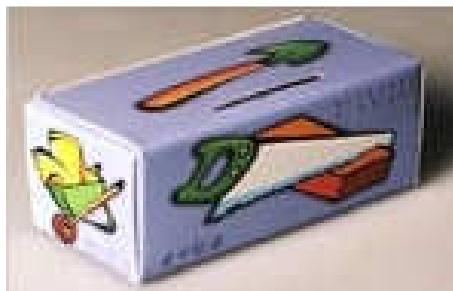
This Week at Shepherd --

- Wednesday @ 7 pm – Pray and Bible Study
- Sunday @ 9 am – Discipleship Training
- Sunday @ 10 am – Morning Worship
- Sunday @ 4:30 pm – Praise Team Practice
- Sunday @ 5:00 pm – Evening Worship

Wednesday night – We continue our study on the love of God. Visitors and snacks are always welcome. We meet Wednesday night at 7 pm in the fellowship hall.

Wedding Announcement – Jina Coleman and Geoffrey Johnson are getting married at Shepherd on March 6th. You are invited to the wedding and the dinner that follows. To ensure that your seat is reserved, please complete an R.S.V.P. form; they were in the bulletin last Sunday and are available at the church. You may send your e-mail response to the Pastor at pastor@shepherdnazarene.com ; be sure to include your name and how many will be attending.

Alabaster Offering – We will be receiving our semi-annual Alabaster offering on February 15.



If you don't have a box, they are available in the foyer at the church. However, cash and checks are always welcome.

Speaking of Missions – You may have noticed in the bulleting the past couple of weeks, that we need to raise \$2463 for Missions by the end of May. This is not a “here we go again” about money. The money for World Missions is usually raised by Faith Promise or Thanksgiving & Easter offerings. During the past few months of reorganization, we have not stressed special funds, but this remains our obligation. If you would like to help with fund, please mark your envelope and/or check “Missions”

Baptism & Membership – If you are interested in Church membership or Baptism, please contact the Pastor. There is no obligation to inquire.

Ushers Needed -- If you are willing to serve, see Troy Whitaker.

Finally -- Children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Christian school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. Someone had written a note and placed it next to the apples. It read, "Take only one, God is watching."

Moving through the line, to the other end of the table, was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies.

One little boy wrote his own note and snuck it next to the cookies,

"Take all you want, God is watching the apples."

Hummmm! Keep that in mind at the next pot-luck dinner. See you in Sunday School (Discipleship) and Church. Always remember, come home to Shepherd where you **ARE** family.

John

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