

Shepherd Tuesday Happenings
for February 17, 2009

Dear Shephardians and Friends,

What a time we had in both services. We learned how God asked questions of Elijah (More on that later) and how we should always ask ourselves if it is God's will. Sunday School/Discipleship Training was outstanding; way to go teachers!

Just Thinking -- Last Sunday the Pastor spoke from the Book of 1 Kings, one of my favorite books in the Bible. He told about how Elijah, after the great victory over the priest of Baal, he had been threatened by Jezebel and ran for his life. How the Lord came to him as he hid in a cave and asked, "Why are you here?" After the earthquake, wind and fire, God spoke again and asked, "Why are you here?" The Pastor explained that the Lord knew why Elijah was there. I just wonder if Elijah really knew why he was there, until the Lord explained it to him.

Have you ever found yourself in a place, not to your liking and seriously asked yourself, "Why am I here"?

Many years ago, as a young Correctional Officer, I was nearing the end of my shift when another officer called for assistance on the radio. Now anyone that has ever been in law enforcement knows, when a fellow officer is in trouble, you respond with all possible speed. All five foot seven, 150 pounds of me took off running to the area that officer J.B. was in, to find him confronted by two very large inmates engaged in a fight. One inmate had an iron door handle and the other a pair of scissors. Before I knew it, I was between the two combatants, who were still in the "name calling" stage. When I looked around, the man I came to assist, Officer J.B. (not his real name or one I thought of giving him), was nowhere to be found. It was at that point, I was asking myself, "Why am I here?" Following my training, I began giving orders to back off and drop the weapons, which they eventually did. When I got them back to the office, there was Officer J.B. sitting waiting on us like nothing had happened.

You see, if the truth was known, those two inmates, either of which could have harmed me, were probably looking at the other and his weapon, wondering "What am I doing here?" and looking for a manly way out, hurting me was not their objective.

Sometimes I guess we get backed in a corner in our spiritual life, when things go wrong and ask, "Why am I here?" That's when we can be most open to hear what God has in mind for us and not necessarily the most popular way out. The Bible tells us, "*Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live.'*" (James 4:14-15)

By the way, Officer J.B. decided on a career change soon after that incident. I guess he was also wondering "Why am I here?" (I suppose that I was asking the same question about him at the time.)

Yesterday we observed Presidents' Day; do you suppose that any of the 44 men that have held the office of President of the United States ever asked himself, "Why am I here?" My guess is more than one has and many have more than once.

This Week at Shepherd --

Wednesday @ 7 pm – Prayer 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 – Ray concludes our study of “Rendezvous” this Wednesday night at 7 pm. Even if you have missed some or all of this study; you need to be there for the conclusion of this series about a loving God and our love in return. Visitors and snacks are always welcome.

Happy Anniversary – We had 2 couples in service Sunday representing 110 years of married life and strangely enough, they were married on the same date.



Bob & Suzy Coleman



Phil & Hilda Ellisor

Bob and Suzy Coleman celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary on Monday, they were married on February 16, 1956.

Sunday night we had Phil and Hilda Ellisor, the parents of Larry Ellisor; they celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on Monday; they were married on February 16, 1951.

Congratulations to these “like newly-wed couples” and we wish you God’s blessing for many more anniversaries together.

Bridal Shower – Don’t forget the bridal shower for Jina Coleman on March 1 from 2 – 4 pm. It is a gift card theme, as she, Geoffrey, and Wyatt will be moving to Norfolk after the wedding. Location and directions are in the foyer at the church or see the February 10 *Shepherd Tuesday Happenings*.

Alabaster Offering – The Alabaster Offering received Sunday way \$288.43. It’s not too late, if you missed, you can still turn in your Alabaster offering for the next 2 weeks. Just make sure that you mark it as such. Thank you to all that participated in this fund that builds new churches throughout the world.

Membership and Baptism – If you would like to be a member of Shepherd Church of the Nazarene or receive the sacrament of Baptism, contact the Pastor for information.

Thank You Pastor Coleman – The church board voted to increase Pastor Coleman’s benefits during the meeting on February 12. We appreciate the job that he is doing and the progress that the church has made under his ministry.

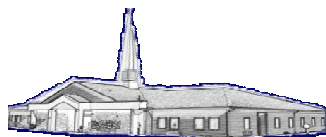
Easter Offering – The Easter and Thanksgiving offerings go toward World Missions and we are currently running about \$1900.00 from our goal, which must be paid by the end of May. If you will help, please mark your offering or check “Missions”.



Revival Services – We will be having Revival Services with the Rev. Mickey Smith as our evangelist. The services will be at the end of April, but it isn't too early to start praying.

Annual Church Meeting – The annual church meeting and elections will be on May 3.

Old Friend in the News – We just heard from Chris Rude, a former Shepherdian. He has formed a musical group for young people and they will be playing at a gathering on the Georgia District this weekend. We pray that God will bless this ministry; young people will be drawn closer to God, and for safe travel to and from Tennessee.



Shepherd Tuesday Happenings

Newsletter Changes – With this edition of *Shepherd Tuesday Happenings* you have options.

1. You can continue to receive the text only edition; you have to do nothing.
2. You can receive the full version, with pictures and graphics, as an e-mail attachment. Just send an e-mail reply to this address (news@shepherdnazarene.com) with your name & e-mail address only and we will add you to the growing list.

Shepherd Tuesday Happenings is also available on-line as well as previous editions at www.shepherdnazarene.com, just click the link on the left that says Shepherd Tuesday, and then click on the date.



Finally -- A pastor was shaking hands at the church door, "Thank you, Bro. Creech, for being a part of our church. I wish I had twenty members like you."

"Wow, it's nice to hear that, but I'm kind of surprised," admitted Creech. "You know that I complain about your sermons and don't always remember to pay my tithe."

The pastor said, "I'd still like twenty members like you. See, the problem is right now I have two hundred."

See you in church and Sunday School. Remember to come home to Shepherd where you ARE family.

John

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