

*There's always more to do.* I imagine most of us have some sort of 'to-do' list at home, right? We probably have them at work, too. And whether it's a list of chores or tasks that we've created ourselves or has been dutifully provided for us by a loved one, the list never seems to be completed. And as nice as it feels to check them off of the list as they get completed, I always am reminded that for every one that gets removed, another one (or ten) get added.

And so, as I work to accomplish one task or chore, I see several more things that need to be worked on and they go on the list. And sometimes that's maintenance and keeping up with stuff around the house or at work, but sometimes as I finish a larger project I (for some insane reason) think I need another project to start. And part of that is to keep busy but part of it is just my mind keeps coming up with these projects that (at least initially) sound fun and exciting.

And, I suppose, that's life. And I hope I always continue to have those ideas and projects to keep me busy until my mind or my body doesn't allow me to because having those goals keeps me motivated and driven. However, it's not just the physical, external things through chores and projects in our world that we should continue to keep working on. We should also be working on ourselves as well.

And there's a physical aspect to that for sure. Whether it is diet and exercise or working with our hands in some way, those physical things are important to keep active. But even more than that is the relational and spiritual aspects of our lives that need to be on our 'to-do' list.

Relationally we need to continue to strive to engage and connect well with those around us. And not just our family who we often get along with a little easier, but engaging those in our

community and church as well. And this means finding ways to be intentional on how we relate. Looking at the fruits of the Spirit are good measures of that growth (*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control*). And each of those fruits is like a muscle, the more we practice them and stretch them, the greater they can grow.

But tied with that is the spiritual growth that we should continue to work at. Paul gives us an interesting command in **Philippians 2.12-13** where he writes, *"Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him."* (NLT) Paul tells us here to work hard, diligently even, at obeying God and his desires for us so that it reveals our relationship with him. And doing so with reverence and fear; not fear of punishment but more the fear of falling short of his standard. And though we won't ever be able to live fully up to his desires for us, we continue to work at living a life filled with him. And in our efforts, we see how God works in and for us so that we have the strength to do even more than we could imagine.

And so, as you work on your 'to-do' or 'honey-do' list this week, keep in mind your 'God-do' list. And while we work on our hearts and minds to draw closer to him, he will meet us there and guide us to even greater acts, greater relationships and greater works. Serving Him and you, Matthew

## *Ladies' Fellowship*

Ladies fellowship will meet again on **Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm** for all ladies' interesting in attending. This will be a monthly event on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

## *Lenten Service*

On **Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm** we will be having a Community Lenten Service at Woodland Church of the Brethren. This begins the season of Lent and leads us up to Easter. This will be a simple, traditional service with hymns and Matthew bringing the message.

## *Easter Series Devotional*

To help prepare us for Easter this year, we will be walking through a devotional by Henri Nouwen during our sermons. If you'd like a daily devotional to coordinate with these messages, please let Matthew know. They are \$6 for a used one and \$10 for a new one. They'll need to be ordered ASAP to get here in time.

## *Directory Updates*

We are working at updating our directories again. If you have any updates, please get them to Matthew by the end of February. Forms for updates are in the back of the sanctuary.

## *Kid's Conference*

We will again be attending The Light Kid's Conference in Peoria on **Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**. We will leave around 8am and return home around 4pm. This is for kids in grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> and cost \$30. If you're interested in attending, there are sign up sheets in the back of the sanctuary.

## *Prayer List*

Sharon Blakley's mom – cancer  
 Bill Danner – continued healing, dialysis  
 Jody Dean – treatments  
 Mike Grater – cancer  
 Salina Gilson (Marion's daughter) – health issues  
 Alvin Hootman – torn ACL, surgery  
 Aaliyah Haney – health issues  
 Tabby Huffman – pregnancy, health issues  
 Gary Hulett – heart failure  
 Danny Jones – new treatment  
 Rita Jones – nursing home  
 Danny Kendrick – heart attack, doing better  
 Sue Lindsey – nursing home  
 Clyde Prater-cancer, experimental treatments  
 Carol Riley - cancer  
 Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver  
 Dale Roberts – back surgery  
 Gale Roosa – cancer  
 Dakota Shelton - surgery  
 Marion Trone – knee replacement soon  
 Becky Watson – cancer treatments

### **Condolences:**

Wanda Daniels family  
 Bobby Musson family  
 Judie Gorsuch family  
 Patricia Nelson family  
 Willy Mayes family  
 Ike Weishaar family  
 Larry Stambaugh Sr family

## *January Financials*

	<b>Weekly Actual</b>	<b>Yearly Actual</b>	<b>Yearly Budget</b>
Jan 1st	\$353.00	\$353.00	\$1,093.27
Jan 8th	\$1,216.00	\$1,569.00	\$2,186.54
Jan 15th	\$752.00	\$2,321.00	\$3,279.81
Jan 22nd	\$511.80	\$2,832.80	\$4,373.08
Jan 29th	\$764.00	\$3,596.80	\$5,466.35

You Are Welcome At  
Our Services!

Sunday  
Morning Worship.....9 a.m.  
Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

Wednesday  
Family Night.....6:00 p.m.

**Events:**

**Wed, Feb. 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd-**  
Family night 6-7:30 pm

**Sat, Feb 4th-**Rittenhouse Diaper  
shower @ 2 pm

**Sun, Feb. 12th-** Board Meeting @ 6  
pm

**Wed, Feb. 14th-**Man Up @ 6:30 pm

**Tues, Feb. 21st-**Adult night out @ 6  
pm

**Thurs. Feb. 16th-**Ladies Fellowship 6  
pm

**Sun, Feb. 22nd-** Ash Wednesday @  
10 am

**Sun, Feb. 26th-**Worship & Prayer @  
6 pm

All  
keep  
contact to change. Please  
checking the bulletin,  
page or website.

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