



Wedgwood Community

The Wedgletter

Volume 46, Issue 2

February 2019

Publisher: Barbara Johnson

Editor-in-Chief: Ellen Brown

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Special envelopes for this offering will soon be in the pew pockets. Let's make 2019 one of our most generous contribution years for the America for Christ offering!



Sunday Feb. 17
Tuesday Feb. 26
Saturday Mar. 2



Potluck
Lunch Bunch at Wedgwood Broiler
Movie Night



12:30 PM
11:45 AM
6:00 PM



PASTOR SEAN'S ARTICLE

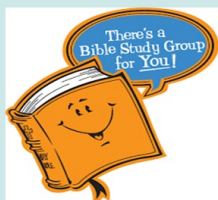
American culture esteems people who are complex. If someone has many possessions and much wealth, is hungry to acquire more, and is savvy about protecting the wealth already acquired, our society calls such a person “industrious,” “prudent,” or “ambitious.” Never mind that pursuit of these things creates great anxiety. Society considers that anxiety a bonus. We call it “risk taking,” and we praise the bravery of those who, despite their anxiety, dare to gobble up more resources. It is borderline fashionable to be considered a complex person in our materialistic culture. The more diversified our portfolio, the more irons we have in the fire, the more consequential we are seen as being.

Scripture rejects this portrait as being the ideal life. The Spiritual Discipline of simplicity is the Bible’s alternative to everything mentioned above. Richard Foster, author of the book *Celebration of Discipline*, observes that of all the disciplines, the Spiritual Discipline of simplicity is the most visible, and hence the most subject to corruption. Simplicity is subject to the corruption of legalism, where believers commit the error of downsizing and giving away most of their wealth and possessions simply for its own sake. Once they’ve parted ways with their stuff, they believe they’ve fulfilled this discipline. Unfortunately, no change of the heart occurs with such legalism. As a result, having given away their wealth, but still deeply desirous of it, believers become conflicted and miserable. This is why simplicity must simultaneously be both an outward *and* an inward reality, as Foster notes. It starts with Jesus’ plea to “seek first his kingdom and righteousness” (Matthew 6:33).

How does seeking first God’s kingdom and righteousness lead to simplicity? In the praise song *Jesus, Draw me Close* we sing: “Jesus draw me close, closer Lord to you, let the world around me fade away.” When we seek a right and healthy relationship with God (righteousness) and seek to embrace God’s ruling style (kingdom), the natural result is that our desire for worldly wealth, status, and prestige fizzles out. With such material and emotional clutter gone, with duplicitous thinking swept away, we are freed up to be singularly focused on being a blessing to others. Yes, in most cases this amounts to taking practical steps like owning fewer things, borrowing more things, owning less expensive goods, using things until they wear out, and being creative in how to refashion old things for new purposes. And in most cases it means making our possessions available to others. But in addition to this, it also means that we become complex in a different sort of way. Our anxiety for wealth being long gone, we are free to expend more mental and emotional energy on having that prophetic-like insight into the spiritual undercurrent of all things, shifting our focus outward, and thus making our perceptions sharper and more intense. In this way, simplicity directly leads to more depth in our thinking and more consequence in our actions.

Pastor Sean

Come, Join Us!



We have multiple adult education opportunities at Wedgwood Community Church. Every Tuesday morning in the Fellowship Hall from 10 to 11:30 AM, we have a Bible study where we go through a book of the Bible, chapter by chapter, verse by verse. We are currently going through the books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month in the Fellowship Hall from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, we have classes on theological topics. We have just begun a study on prayer. If you haven't been to one of these education opportunities, please come and check them out. They are an easy-going, laid back time of fellowship and learning.

Pastor Sean

RECENT BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



Women's Chorus Concert: The deadline for requesting a performance for Spring of 2020 is March 31 of 2019. Pastor Sean will submit a grant request for a Spring Concert.

Baptistry Rooms Cleanup: Items will be brought down little by little and displayed in the Fellowship Hall for anyone to take. Milt will dispose of those remaining items.

Evergreen Clergy Training Event will take place at Camp Burton on February 21 and 22. The LLT agreed to pay the \$250 cost for Pastor Sean to attend.

Spring Church Banquet: Instead of hosting a Valentine or St. Patrick's Day Banquet this year, the LLT agreed to have a Spring Banquet on March 23. Milt will inform Barb to place in Friday Notes and the Bulletin that the first committee planning session will take place at Church on Sunday, February 3. Anyone interested may attend the planning sessions.

Miss Tara's Preschool Agreement: Before renewing the 2-year contract in September and the June discussion prior to renewal, research needs to be done to determine the current rates for non-profit independent preschools with similar space.

Easter Egg Hunt: The Girl Scouts will not be co-sponsoring the event this year but may assist. Candy will ask QFC to donate donut holes and juice. Hot dogs will not be offered, as last year's donations did not cover the food expenses. Colleen will be asked to supervise the seed-planting table. The event will be held on Saturday, April 20, from 10:00 am to noon.

Milton H Brown

Evergreen Association



On the Monday evening of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Evergreen Association held its annual MLK day service honoring this great man whom we American Baptists proudly call our own. Spirited music was sung by a choir numbering at least 50 people. We watched video clips of excerpts from Dr. King's various speeches and sermons. And the guest speaker was Dr. Marvin McMickle, President of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. Dr. McMickle's message was a challenge for all of us to work for inclusive justice for all rather than exclusive "just us" only for those we already feel comfortable being around. The way to do this is to be a witness for Christ as Acts 1:8 encourages. Being a witness includes three things. It means observing the injustices going on around you, speaking out about those injustices, and being willing to suffer the consequences of speaking out. If we are guided by the Gospel and in the power of God's spirit, all of us can be witnesses in this way. I know I left the worship service that evening convicted and inspired. If you have never attended the annual Evergreen MLK service, it's definitely worth the time to check out next year!

Pastor Sean



February

- 1 - Margueritte Nsimba
- 6 - Aimee Keith
- 15 - Betty Carter
- 19 - Mason Klein
- 20 - Gregg Romberger
- 24 - Ellen Jenner
- 25 - Bruce Wallace
- 28 - Austin Brown

March

- 7 - John Bigas
- 10 - Pat Kemp
- 14 - Nancy Darnell
- 14 - Shirley Harlow
- 14 - Sean Brown
- 14 - Lynn Francone
- 16 - Sura Charlier
- 17 - Gerry Zelaya
- 21 - Charlette Tapsoba

MOVIE NIGHT AND BOOK CLUB SELECTION



The film *The 100 Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* has been scheduled for showing on Saturday, March 2, at 6:30 PM. We gather at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share and a friend to enjoy an evening of entertainment!

The book club is currently reading *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*, a novel written by Mary Shelley. Everyone is invited to be a part of our group. Come join us. As you can see, we read a variety of books!

CHURCH HUMOR



How To Get Rid Of Bats In Church Attic! Author Unknown

Three pastor friends were having lunch in a diner, discussing various problems of their churches.

One said, "You know, since summer started I've been having trouble with bats in my loft and attic at church. I've tried everything -- noise, spray, cats -- nothing seems to scare them away."

Another said, "Me too. I've got hundreds living in my belfry and in the narthex attic. I've even had the place fumigated, and they won't go away."

The third pastor said, "I baptized all mine, and made them members of the church. And I haven't seen one back since!"



The *Wedgletter* has been posted for people to access online at:

<http://www.wedgwoodchurch.org/wedgletters.htm>. To hear sermons, click on the Sermons link.



Two daily devotional booklets, *The Secret Place* and *Our Daily Bread*, are available in the narthex. Be sure to pick up a copy of one or both for an inspirational way to start off the day!

BULLETIN BOARD

Opportunities to Support our Greater Community



Just a reminder that used eyeglasses are still being accepted at Woodlawn Optical located at 8032 - 35th Avenue NE. Glenn will then forward them for use by those in need, both in mission areas here in the states, as well as out of the country.

Please continue to "feed" our food barrel. Pickup is the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Check the list below for other things needed besides food. At every pickup, much thankfulness is expressed for our kindness.

Marilyn Potts

Wedgletter Contribution

If you have a personal experience for *Journey Talk*, a book review, or an article you would like to share with us, please let Ellen Brown know by the 15th of the month and submit it to her by the 23rd.



**University
District
Food Bank**

Items Currently Needed

Food

Canned Fruits
Canned Soups & Stews
Canned Protein Items (tuna, corned beef hash, chili, peanut butter-especially crunchy)
Soy Milk/Rice Milk
Vegetarian Items (tofu, canned beans, soups, chili)
Pasta and Rice
Canned Vegetables (pasta sauce, peas, olives, etc.)
Cooking oil

Other Items

Bar Soap Toothbrushes and Toothpaste Toilet Paper
Shampoo Deodorant
Pet Food
Paper and Plastic Grocery Bags
Baby Diapers, Food, Formula and Wipes