

Today Is Super Sunday!

Neal Pollard

(adapted to fit this year's date)

Almost everyone knows how avidly
I follow sports--I scour box scores
like critics eye paintings. I want to
know how the back up small for-

ward on a hopelessly losing team did, points, rebounds, assists, steals, turnovers, personal fouls, and all! Particularly spectacular to me are the championship contests, college and pro, in most major sports. Now, you know what today is? Right? Super Sunday!

After all, it was on Sunday that Christ was raised from the dead. Satan thought he had defeated the Son, but He arose (cf. Matt. 28:1,6)! It is the difference between heaven and hell for me. No resurrection, no life (cf. John 11:25). It thrills my heart to read that on the first day of the week the angels told the Marys and Salome, "Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here... Why seek ye the living among the dead?" (Mark 16:6; Lk. 24:5). It caused joy that day, and it does today! Each Lord's Day reinforces my faith and hope in God (cf. 1 Pet. 1:21).

It was on Sunday that the church was established (Acts 2:1ff). There is no group, institution, or coalition on earth any dearer or more special than the church. The people in this whole wide world I love the most of all are members of it. Jesus' blood that fateful Friday was shed to purchase it (Acts 20:28). In fact, it is His body (Eph. 1:22-23). I came into it when I was baptized in His name (1 Cor. 12:13). Every time I am with other members of it, to worship, to fellowship, to study, or to work, I am brought closer to heaven. It began on a Sunday! That's the most super gift of God this side of Calvary. **On Sundays, we study the Bible together.** Thanks to the wisdom of our elders (and elderships in churches of Christ throughout this nation and many places across the world), we have an "appointed time" to study the Bible in classroom setting the hour prior to worship. I cannot dream of sleeping through that glorious, stimulating time. Some of the best insights into truth I have ever received came from a teacher or class member on Sunday morning. Some of the fondest memories in my mental treasure chest were gleaned, starting back in the days of animal crackers and fruit punch, on Sundays in a Bible class. Only when God reads the record of my life will I fully understand the eternal impact of those Bible classes in getting me to heaven, if I am faithful when I die.

Each Sunday, we get to worship God twice. Mind you, once is thrilling! Yet, twice I get the opportunity. That is a booster shot to faith, a double portion of songs, prayers, and Bible. Twice as much time with my spiritual family. Twice as much time in special devotion before the very throne of heaven in group form. Shoulder to shoulder with the saints. On my knees, in spirit anyway, before the King of Kings. - cont.

Focusing on the Wrong Things

Although I do to try watch the Kentucky Derby each year (because of the fanfare and beautiful surroundings that come with it), I am not a horseracing fan. Like most others, I watched the news reports involving Barbaro, last year's Kentucky Derby winner, and his struggles to survive after he shattered his right hind leg at Pimlico. As you likely know, this three-year old colt was euthanized January 29th, 254 days after breaking his leg, because of complications from his injuries.

Although I am not an "animal rights activist," I do not believe in mistreating animals. Considering also the investment in him and the prospects of breeding dollars from him, I can understand why Barbaro's owners wanted to do all they could to save him. I can also understand the outpouring of sympathy and well wishes from millions of people who are horse fans. However, it is difficult to understand a society that gets so upset over the injury and subsequent death of an animal while at the same time allowing (and even fighting for) the destruction of thousands of innocent human beings.

It was just a week prior to Barbaro's being put to sleep (January 22nd) that the infamous Roe vs. Wade decision was marked by yet another passing year; another year in which some 4000 babies were killed each day. We are definitely focused on the wrong things in this country.

In the years 2003-2005, 240 racehorses died in the state of California while racing. Barbaro's death has brought a renewed interest in making horseracing safer and more humane. Even more tragic, it was in 2005 that the U.S. passed the 47 million mark in unborn babies killed by legal abortion. It is strange and tragic indeed when the death of a single animal garners more attention and more concern than the deaths of millions of human babies. As a nation, we have not only lost our focus, we have lost our way. — Eddy

Teens

*Congratulations to **Halle Edwards** who will be inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at Read Mountain Middle School.*

February dates to remember:

February 11—Youth Bible Study

February 17—Mock Bible Bowl

Winter Area Devotionals:

March 10—Lake Drive 6-7:30

Dates for Teens:

March 3, 2007 Southwest Virginia Bible Bowl

June 17-23, 2007 VCC

July 1-6, 2007 Horizons Senior Week

July 8-13, 2007 Horizons Junior Week

Today is Super Bowl Sunday—Cont.

At 10:30 AM, only the biggest or most contagious amoeba or bacteria can tie me down to the bed and keep me home. Only the fattest and laziest of ditch-ridden oxen can deter my presence from the Prince of Peace. Ditto for 6:00 PM! I have never once--EVER--considered either of those two services (A) More Important or (B) Less Important than the other. I credit some slack-jaw jack-leg ne'er-do-well malcontent half-hearted skin of the tooth brother, who will remain infamous and anonymous, for spreading that untruth. Give me twice the opportunity to worship the King, all glorious above!

Every Sunday, I follow Divine instructions to give and remember Christ's death. Forgive my redundancy for mentioning these two specific items that fall within the worship hour each Sunday. I was prompted to do so by Acts 20:7 and 1 Corinthians 16:1-2. With one, I yield my mind and with the other I yield my money. With both, I move on the motive of faith. With one, I see His sacrifice. With the other, I test my own will to sacrifice. With one, I remember that my Lord was put to death for me. With the other, I remember that I must put myself to death for Him (Gal. 2:20). We love Him because He first loved us (1 Jn. 4:19). We give because He gave. We live because He died. We die to Him so that we can live with Him forever. I know that Tuesday and Friday. I experience it most fully and uniquely on Sunday!

What's that? There's a major sports championship kicking off about the time of our evening services? Sure, I heard about that. As soon as I visit with my brethren after the last "Amen," I am going home to watch it. It promises to be a great game! Yet, I would never miss a second of Christian fellowship and offering praise and adoration to my Maker and Redeemer for any reason in the world, much less an old ball game. Do you know what I mean? - the Elders

West Side's Older Workers

The WOW Group will be going to Harbor Inn today after morning services.

The next WOW meeting will be Tuesday, February 13 at 11:00 at Famous Anthony's.

Ruth Stanton's new address: 615 Poplar Avenue, Salem, VA 24153

Team Events

New Team events are going on!!! Check here every week for activities your team will be doing!

Team 1 - Tom Duff

There will be a Sweethearts Dinner for all West Side Sweethearts on February 10 at 6:00. Team 1 will be sponsoring this event and inviting the whole congregation. Please sign up on the board so we will have a count.

Team 2 - Bob Garby

Team 3 - David Brown

Team 4 - Tom Rogers

Team 4 will be having a Spring Get Together on March 3. Mark your calendars,

TEAM LEADERS: This section will be in the bulletin every week. E-mail any events to the office before Friday 8 AM.

IRS REQUIREMENT

Effective 1/1/07, the IRS will begin requiring a receipt for any charitable donations given in cash that you wish to claim as a deduction on your tax return. If you currently give your contributions in the form of a check, your cancelled check will suffice as a receipt. If you currently place cash in the plate and still wish to claim the money as a deduction (or even wish to claim the standard deduction) you will have to obtain receipts from the church to provide to the IRS. In order for the office to be able to keep track of the funds and provide receipts, all cash donations need to be placed in an envelope with your name on it before being placed in the collection plate.

SICK

Several of our members are out with various colds and viruses.

Oliver Majors will be undergoing tests for his current medical problems.

Sam McNeil, **Luetta's** brother, is in Memorial Hospital.

Dan Hudgins is now under Hospice Care. See Tom & Melissa if you would like to help out with calls, visits and food.

Donna Sowards, friend of **Shree Lowe** is undergoing chemo treatments as well as the mother of Lauren Kelly, friend of **Bridgette Bush**, who is undergoing treatments for the second time.

Remember the following in prayers: **Effie Wimmer, Danny Guard, Betty Jenkins, Donnie Montcastle, Josh Whitlow, Peggy Simpkins.**

Happy Birthday this week to:

Curtis Oakes—2/4

Nathan Pelfrey—2/4

Adam House—2/5

Ruth Stanton—2/8

Jim Bush—2/10

MILITARY: Ty Stricklin at 29 Palms Marine Base, **Jonathan Simpson, John Shannon** and **Gabriel Hayes** who are in Iraq. **Jonathan Chumley**, Kosovo.

If you know these soldiers please let JoAnn know about their current situations.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY ITEMS FOR STAFFORDS: Pepperoni and Crystal Light (assorted fruit flavors). Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!!

Special Notice Regarding the Teachers' Workroom: The Teachers' Workroom is not to be used during Bible Class and Worship hours. If you need to use the Teachers' Workroom, please make arrangements to do so at other times during the week. It is available for all teachers and assistants for use in preparing material for classes. We encourage you to use it as frequently as you need to do so. However, every member should be in a Bible Class and in attendance at every worship service. - The Elders

ELDERS/DEACONS/PREACHERS MEETING

There will be an EDP meeting today at 4:00.

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday Fellowship will be on Feb.7. Menu is chili, salad and sandwiches. Sign up today and pay an elder \$5.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The monthly Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday, 2/10, at 8am at Famous Anthony's.

SWEETHEARTS DINNER

Team 1 is hosting a Sweethearts Dinner for all West Side sweethearts on Saturday, February 10, at 6:00 pm. Dinner will be provided so please sign up today.

EVENING AT WEST SIDE

There will be a meeting for all ladies interested in hosting a table for the Evening at West Side Dinner next Sunday, Feb. 11 at 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

EDUCATION BANQUET

Please sign up for the Education Appreciation Banquet as soon as possible on the hallway bulletin board. The banquet is Saturday, Feb. 17 at 5:45. ALL Bible class teachers, helpers, workers in the teacher workroom are invited including spouses and friends. The meal will be catered. Please come for great fun, food and fellowship.

MAKING MARRIAGE MORE MEANINGFUL

There is a sign up sheet on the board to sign up for this event. We realize it isn't until the end of April. But plans are already in the works and we need to know how many West Siders will be here for workbooks, kits, décor, and food. Invitations will be sent out to area congregations soon. Please sign up today!

LADIES NIGHT OUT

We still have openings for hostesses in February and April. If you're interested sign up on the board or contact Jo Ann.

BRIDAL SHOWER

There will be a Bridal shower for Erin Leddy (future Mrs. Andy Duran) on March 25. If you would like to help host this event see Jeanny.

February 2007**Announcements** Wayne Dixon**Song Leader (AM)** Jeff Durham

Opening Prayer (AM)
2/4 Eric Earnhart
2/11 Charlie Gwaltney
2/18 A.C. Janney
2/25 Fred Altizer

Preside at Communion Eddy Gilpin

Serve Table
 B. Martin G. Benefield
 L. Guard A. House

Closing Prayer
2/4 Tom Richardson
2/11 Mark Brooks
2/18 Charlie Puckett
2/25 Gary Sartain

Song Leader (PM) Paul Mays

Opening Prayer (PM)
2/4 George Mellon
2/11 Roger Mays
2/18 Bob Garby
2/25 Murphy Scott

Scripture Reader Garrett Durham

Closing Prayer (PM)
2/4 Claude Crowe
2/11 Crawford Keith
2/18 Glen Hartman
2/25 Walter Jenkins

Serve Table (PM) D. Guard D. Brown**Song Leader (Wed)** David Brown

Prayer (Wed)
2/7 Jim Cooke
2/14 Ethan Rogers
2/21 Paul Faw
2/28 Jim Harrington

Door Man Mike Durham**Greeters** J. & R. Bush McFalls**Nursery Attend** Dee House Judy Durham**Ushers** Greg Edwards Richards Simms

Handouts
 Tom & Weston Rogers
 Ed Argabright & Dylan Tyler

Alternates Curtis Oaks**Prepare comm.** S. Neighbors S. Altizer**Last weeks attendance** 1/28 & 31/07

Bible Class— 136 Worship Service—166

Eve. Worship—134 Wed. Service—132

Contribution—\$5904