

Don't Blow Out My Candle

Steve Higginbotham

Steve Higginbotham Probably all of us are familiar with the children's song, "This Little Light Of Mine." I have specific memories of enthusiastically singing it as a child, and I still sing it today with Matthew. The song teaches the importance of our Christian example and how we need to demonstrate Christ to our communities through the way we live our lives.

In particular, one verse of the song says, "Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine..." The danger of allowing the Devil to "blow out" our lights is very real. Through enticing temptations, Satan can, in a moment, destroy our influence in the eyes of our community. Through sexual temptation, alcohol, drugs, dishonesty and greed, our Christian light can be "blown out." That's not to say we are helpless from then on out. It is to say, however, that re-lighting your candle so that it shines brightly before your neighbors and peers is often difficult. It's like trying to start a fire going, but it will probably take time. Yes, the Devil can through worldly devices, "blow out our candles."

But that's not the half of it! Not only can the Devil use worldly devices to destroy our example, he can use my very own brethren to accomplish the same thing. Allow the Devil to get a grip in the lives of some members of the Lord's church, and just see what damage he can do!

Let the Devil get a hold of some brethren and see what harm they can cause through gossip. Many faithful children of God have been ruined in a community because of some scandalous gossip that was perpetuated by their own brethren. Please, don't blow out your brother's candle.

The Devil sometimes gets a hold of some brethren and uses them to cause discontent within a congregation. When this happens, brethren are often so blinded by this spirit of discontent that they can see no good. Consequently, brethren who are working as hard and diligently as they know how for the cause of Christ become discouraged and disheartened. Please, don't blow out your brother's candle!

We need to do our best to let our lights shine before the world that the world might glorify Christ (Matthew 5:16). It's hard enough on all of us to keep the Devil from blowing out our candles. We certainly don't need our own brethren trying to do the same. Let's be sure we stand together, shoulder to shoulder and hold forth our candles and let our lights shine for Christ. But let's also be sure that while we are standing shoulder to shoulder, we're not trying to blow out each other's candle.

I've done some rearranging of the inside of the bulletin this week. Please make note of the sick/prayer list. It has been moved to the tear off section so you can keep it on your desk or nightstand to remember all those who need prayers. Also it has add more space in this section. If you have a short article or saying you would like to submit for this section please leave in the box on the media door, e-mail or give to Jo Ann. It will be greatly appreciated!



Teens

April Events

April 18—TBS

VCC (June 20-26) registration forms are located in the foyer—deadline is May 15. WS pays 1/2 of member registration fees.

Horizons (July 4-9) forms are also located in the foyer. Bus forms will be there in the next few weeks!

Send Ryan your ideas for Summer
ryan.davis@students.fhu.edu

Happy Birthday this week to:



Lisa Valentine—4/18
Kirk Gilpin—4/19
Annette Shrader—4/20
Wanda Mickens—4/21

APRIL ITEMS FOR THE

STAFFORDS: Kashi Go Lean Cereal, Cheerios, non microwave popcorn. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



Three Views of Life

One lived because he was afraid to die —
No hope inspired his soul;
Life in this world was all he sought;
He had no other goal.
He had no thought of Hell's dark depths
Or Heaven's glory bright;
He stepped from this life's lowly scene
Into eternal night.

Two died because he was afraid to live.
Life's heavy burden's store
Weighted greatly on his weary soul —
'Till he wanted life no more.
He took the life he could not bear
And snuffed the candle out.
And walked death's valley, dark and deep,
Because of fear and doubt.

Three lived because he sought life's hope
And thought of God's great love,
And treasured all Christ's blessings here
And Heaven's home above.
And when the death call bade his soul
To heaven's golden shore,
He went to live with God above
In peace forevermore.

-Owen Cosgrove

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□



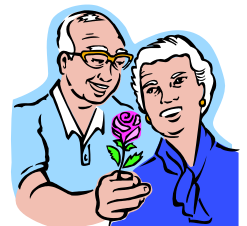
The Discovery Club met yesterday to start on this year's garden!

Be sure to pick up your copy of the Discovery Club Newsletter located in the foyer if you didn't get one from your e-mail!



Upcoming Events:

Team 3 (Valentine) will be having a Spring Get-Together at Tom & Melissa Rogers home on May 2 after morning services. A sign up sheet is posted on the board in the hallway. The Rogers are providing pork BBQ. Sorry this date keeps getting changed!!



WOW

The next regular meeting will be on May 11

Senior Servants

For Your Information

GOSPEL MEETING

John Shannon will be here May 9-12. Address labels are available in the foyer to send him words of encouragement! And flyers are available in the foyer—make sure you grab some and pass them out to your friends and neighbors.

AREA WIDE PREACHERS MEETING

The Area Wide Preacher's Meeting will be held at the Blacksburg congregation on April 19 at 10:30 with Tim Canup and Bill Haywood as guest speakers.

LADIES DAY

The Dale Ridge Congregation will hold a Ladies Day on April 24. You need to register with Dale Ridge (directions on board) and if you want to car pool, there is a sign up sheet on the board.

TURN, TURN, TURN

The next meeting of the T3 planners will be April 25 at 4:30 in the teachers' workroom.

PRIMARY TEACHERS MEETING

The next Primary Teachers Meeting will be held May 2 at 4:30.

VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CAMP

Registration forms are located in the foyer. Deadline is May 15. Sign up early and remember WS pays 1/2 of the fee for its kids that go!

Upcoming Meetings & Lectureships

April 18-21—Christiansburg with Bill Haywood

April 18-21—Fort Chiswell with Tim Canup

April 18-22 —Seven Hills Gospel Meeting, 7 PM Monday thru Thursday with Brandon Britton of Pulaski, Tennessee.

April 24—Harrisonburg Ladies Day with Pat Reynolds

April 24—Dale Ridge Ladies Day (WS will be car pooling—see Jeanny)

Check the board in the hallway for more details!

*Lynn Anderson
Norma Biller
Betty Buckner
Marguerite Charles
Jim Dorsett
Al Furrow
Collin Gregory
Walter & Betty Jenkins
Martha Keith
Margaret Kratz
Miriam Majors
Jo Musgrove
Elsie Smith
Ruth Stanton
Evelyn White
EV Wimmer
WJ Wood*



- **Grace Myers** spent some time in the hospital last week. She will have a procedure this week.
- **Dee Ritter**, Becky Cooke Francis' mother-in-law, had surgery last week and is doing well.
- **Kathleen Soliday**, Sandy Garby's mother, is in the hospital in Pennsylvania.

Work as if you were to live a hundred years.
Pray as if you were to die tomorrow.

Benjamin Franklin

April 2010

A Tale of Two Men

Announcements Danny Guard
Song Leader (AM) Charlie Gwaltney
Opening Prayer (AM)
 4/4 Greg Edwards
 4/11 Collin Gregory
 4/18 Josh Whitlow
 4/25 Charlie Maness
Preside at Communion Tom Richardson
Serve Table
 Tom Rogers, Squeaky Valentine
 Mike & Garrett Durham
Closing Prayer
 4/4 Jim Harrington
 4/11 Adam House
 4/18 Glenn Gabbard
 4/25 David Brown
Song Leader (PM) Josh Whitlow
Opening Prayer (PM)
 4/4 Eric Earnhart
 4/11 Ethan Rogers
 4/18 Herman Lowe
 4/25 Fred Altizer
Scripture Reader Bradford Durham
Closing Prayer (PM)
 4/4 Glen Hartman
 4/11 Nathan Pelfrey
 4/18 Cameron Brown
 4/25 Barry White
Serve Table (PM)
 Jeremy White, Mark Brooks
Song Leader (Wed) David Brown
Prayer (Wed)
 4/7 Bradford Durham
 4/14 Mitch Jearls
 4/21 Sam Valentine
 4/28 Charlie Gwaltney
Open/Close Bldg Jim Harrington
Greeters Cooks, Bakers
Nursery Attend
 Sandra Neighbors (AM)
 Shree Lowe (PM)
Ushers Norris Gearhart John Black
Handouts Jeff Guilliams, AC Janney
 N. Laplante, Ch. Jearls
Prepare communion
 Marsha Cooke, Jackie Dixon

This past weekend the 74th Masters Golf Tournament was played. For those unfamiliar with the game of golf, the Masters is the first of four of what are considered major tournaments played each year (along with the U.S. Open, the British Open and the PGA). Even if one is not a golf fan, the beautifully-landscaped course at Augusta National is reason enough to watch. This past weekend's event was won by Phil Mickelson.

As I watched the recorded ending of the tournament late Sunday evening, I could not help but think that it was really a tale of two men. One (Phil Mickelson), who has been by his wife's side every step of the way during her year-long battle with breast cancer; and the other (Tiger Woods), who has tainted his reputation and harmed his family immensely with his sordid extra-marital affairs. Sure, Mr. Woods has apologized and even entered into "treatment" for his actions. However, the consequences of sin will continue to haunt, as they almost always do.

As I watched this tale unfold it was interesting to see Tiger approach the 18th green on the final day to a thunderous applause of the spectators in the galley. However, there was no adoring wife to greet him or family to cheer him on. In contrast, although there was likewise praise from those who watched when Phil Mickelson completed his round, there was also the very emotional setting just off the green as his wife, Amy, appeared in the crowd to greet and congratulate her husband. Here was a man who had stood by and was continuing to stand by his wife "in sickness and in health." The other was a man who had been unfaithful to his marriage vows and caused tremendous shame to his family. Indeed a stark contrast in this tale of two men.

Many golf fans adore Tiger Woods. He is a master at the game and has doubtless brought it great renown. However, I could not help but cheer for the other man in this story- the one who had not gotten the publicity for faithfully standing by his wife; the one who stood in contrast to the one who had garnered much publicity because he had not. Although he may not be the better golfer, on this day he stood as the better man. I don't know about you, but I would rather be the latter. Way to go, Phil!

-Eddy

Last weeks attendance 4/11&14/10

Bible Class— 127 Worship Service—149
 Sunday Eve.— 117 Wednesday Eve.—130
 Contribution—\$5550