

## The Reluctant Lover

Once upon a time there was a young man who was in love with a certain young lady. At least that's what he told his friends, except maybe to criticize her occasionally. Once a week, on his day off, he called on the young lady that is, if he didn't have a headache, have company, feel tired, have anywhere else to go or an opportunity to work that day. When he visited her about one hour of her presence was about all he could endure. He was terribly restless and fidgety when around her. She loved good music and great literature but he had no interest in either. When she desired to sing or read together, he just wouldn't do it unless he was really put on the spot. Why could he not stay longer or come more often? It seemed to her that one hour a week, and so poorly spent at that, was hardly an indication of love on his part.

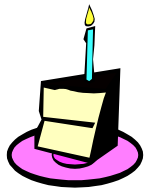
The trouble with the young man was that he was still carrying a torch for an old sweetheart. Though they had agreed to make a break, he was still spending several hours a week in her presence. It seemed they had so much more in common. They loved the same things and the same people and times together were always exciting. And yet he would admit no rift between himself and the woman he supposedly loved. When someone would cautiously inquire as to the propriety of the young man's actions he would usually puff up with anger and accuse them of meddling or worse yet "judging".

This study is a parable on the lukewarm and indifferent "Christian". Though he vows his love for the church, he spends time with her only reluctantly and sparingly. He does not enjoy her company, her people, or her interest. But that "old flame", the world, still tugs at his heartstrings. Much of his time is devoted to her and how they do enjoy their hours and days together. Oh, it's true that he, The Reluctant Lover, denies loving her, but his actions prove otherwise.

Leave the world alone! Just "minor" flirtations could rekindle a blazing fire in your heart. You just can't play around with fire — without getting burned.

*How strong is your love for the Lord and His church? — the Elders*

## Happy Birthday this week to:



David Wilcox—7/25  
 Madelyn Brown—7/26  
 Jeanny Gilpin—7/26  
 Danny Guard—7/26  
 Amanda Cook—7/29

### JULY ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS:

Instant sugar-free chocolate pudding and Sweet 'n Low packets. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



## WOW

The next regular meeting will be on August 10 at 10:30.



Daniel Ceglowski, Leah Durham's boyfriend, is at basic training for the Army National Guard.



Ty Stricklin has received his orders to Afghanistan in November.

**Team 2 (Garby)** - Herman and Norce Lowe are opening their house to a Lowe-down Hoe-down on Saturday, August 14th at 5:30 pm. Please feel free to wear country clothing such as jeans, bibbed overalls, etc. Sign-up sheet is posted in the west hallway on the team board. Hamburger meat will be provided.



## Discovery Club

Flying High with the Eagles

The Discovery Club will have a meeting at 4:00 in the large classroom today. They will be making a bird house or feeder.

## West Side Youth



Thanks to everyone who did so much to make VBS 2010 a success!

### Upcoming Events:

Please note the changes from the calendar.

Tonight - After church this evening, the youth group guys are having a guys' night at the LePlante's house. Please bring snacks for the evening and see me (Ryan) for further details.

Monday - Summer youth devotional at Dale Ridge. Meet at the church building at 6 PM.

After the summer youth devotional, the youth group girls will be having a sleepover at the Cook's home in Roanoke. The girls will be going to the sleepover immediately after the devotional. (Transportation will be provided to the Cook's house). Girls, please bring snacks and anything you will need for the night. Please see Mrs. Lori or Ryan for further details.

Wednesday - Family Movie Night at the Grandin Theatre. After church services, youth and their families will be going to see Despicable Me (PG).

Thursday - Service day - Meet at the church building from 1-4 PM.

Wednesday, August 4 - Ice Cream Dinner after church. Everyone (NOT JUST THE YOUTH GROUP) please bring your favorite home-made ice cream and join us for a short fellowship.

End of summer lock-in - Final date TBA (either Aug. 2 or 5)

Saturday, August 7 - Zip Line Tour - Please sign up on the youth board ASAP and pick up a waiver form from Ryan.

## Virginia Christian Camp

Craft needs (if you happen to see it on sale) felt backed vinyl tablecloths—we need at least 10 large rectangle size. See Jo Ann or Melissa.

## For Your Information

### TUESDAY NIGHT TALENTS

Tuesday Night Talents continues this week. Bring your dinner and join us for the work!

### SUMMER SERIES

This week's summer series speaker will be Keith Hovis from Lebanon.

### EDP MEETING

There will be an EDP meeting on August 1 at 4:00 in the fellowship hall.

### COLLEGE SEND OFF

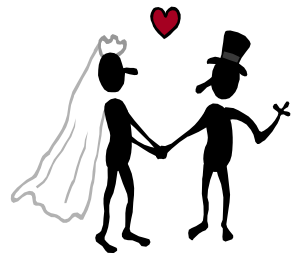
It almost time to send our college students back to school. Please join us after evening services on August 8 to send them off with our best wishes.

### CTS AUDIO LINK

This year's CTS session are available on the following web site until July 31: [www.clearcomconnect.com/cts2010](http://www.clearcomconnect.com/cts2010)

# Senior Servants

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  
Grace Myers  
Evelyn Scott  
Elsie Smith  
Ruth Stanton  
Evelyn White  
EV Wimmer  
WJ Wood



### Wedding Bells

Nancy Birney and Tom Richardson will be married on July 31 at 2:00 in the afternoon at the Spring Hill Church of Christ in Spring Hill, Tennessee. If you are unable to attend, they request your prayers as they start their new life together.

NOV



### Fiftieth Anniversary

Norris & Velda Gearhart will celebrate their 50th Anniversary on August 14. They are inviting you to join in their celebration from 2-4 at the West Side Church of Christ Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP by August 8 by signing up on the board.



- Annette Shrader will have surgery on August 6 at UVA.
- Lynn Anderson has been moved to Richfield Recovery and Care Center, Room 305, 3615 W. Main St., Salem 24153
- Kathleen Soliday had successful heart surgery last week.

Continue in prayer: Ruth & Glenn Hartman, Claude Crowe, Shannon VanRavestain

August 2010

**Announcements** Jeff Durham  
**Song Leader (AM)** Charlie Gwaltney  
**Opening Prayer (AM)**  
8/1 Garrett Durham  
8/8 Mike Durham  
8/15 Jim Harrington  
8/22 Charlie Maness  
8/29 Wayne Dixon  
**Preside at Communion** Bob Garby  
**Serve Table**  
Barry White, Jeremy White  
Gene Benefield, David Brown  
**Closing Prayer**  
8/1 Bradford Durham  
8/8 Jim Cooke  
8/15 Herb Baker  
8/22 Marc Laplante  
8/29 Ethan Rogers  
**Song Leader (PM)** Josh Whitlow  
**Opening Prayer (PM)**  
8/1 Herman Lowe  
8/8 Tom Rogers  
8/15 Bob Martin  
8/22 Barry White  
8/29 Greg Edwards  
**Scripture Reader** Nathan Pelfrey  
**Closing Prayer (PM)**  
8/1 Don Pettit  
8/8 Charlie Gwaltney  
8/15 Mitch Jearls  
8/22 Glenn Hartman  
8/29 Sam Valentine  
**Serve Table (PM)**  
Andrew Gibson, Cameron Brown  
**Song Leader (Wed)** Garrett Durham  
**Prayer (Wed)**  
8/4 Ron White  
8/11 Collin Gregory  
8/18 Jimmy Harrington  
8/25 Danny Guard  
**Open/Close Bldg** Fred Altizer  
**Greeters** Bakers/Guilliams  
**Nursery Attend** Michelle Earnhart  
Dorothy Mays (PM)  
**Ushers** Squeaky Valentine, Norris Gearhart  
**Handouts** M. Brooks, J. Harrington  
**Prepare communion**  
Dee House, Hazel McFalls

## “But God...” (11)

Of the 44 times the phrase “but God” appears in the King James Bible, 25 occur in the New Testament. As noted previously, it is a phrase of contrast showing that something was said, done or had occurred which was followed by something God said or did that changed the matter entirely.

Luke 16 records a sermon by Jesus which concluded with the words, “No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Lk. 16:13). Present in the audience were some covetous Pharisees and they were heckling the Lord (Lk. 16:14). Jesus stated to them, “Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; **but God** knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God” (Lk. 16:15).

It was because of the fear of the Pharisees (and being put out of the synagogue) that many would not follow Christ, even though they believed on Him (Jn. 12:42, 43). The Pharisees were haters of truth and lovers of money (like so many today). They played the role of righteousness but were in actuality hypocrites. Jesus called attention to their wicked ways and exposed their lives as evil. His words to them remind us that “the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart” (I Sam. 16:7; cf. Jer. 17:10). As they, we may fool the people about us with feigned spirituality, but God can not be so deceived.

Since “the Lord knoweth the thoughts of man” (Ps. 94:11), we should all be concerned with how we live our lives. God knows our hearts. He knows our thoughts. He knows our actions, whether public or private. We may justify ourselves before men, “but God” knows what we are out of the light and behind closed doors. What does God see when He looks at your heart?

-Eddy

### Last weeks attendance 7/18&21/10

Bible Class— 138    Worship Service—178  
Sunday Eve.— 142    Wednesday Eve.—157  
Contribution—\$4284

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