

# The Russell Report

Russell Memorial Methodist Church

*A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love*



Vol. 19, No. 2

February 2023

## *A Body Without Division*

In my estimation, one of Satan's favorite recreation areas must be a church where unhealthy relationships persist among members. To put it another way, whatever keeps us aloof from one another is not of God; it is a force of destruction among believers. Consider how the apostle Paul responds to a dynamic he observed in the church in Antioch. After a meeting in Jerusalem, Paul and Peter affirmed their mutual calling in the work of the gospel, with one emphasizing work among the Gentiles and the other work among the Jews (see Galatians 2:1-10). Later, though, the two of them were together in Antioch. There, at a gathering of Jewish and Gentile believers, Paul observed that Peter was content to hang out with what we will call "the other folks" in the church—that is until certain ones of his "own folks" showed up. At that point Peter stopped being so openly social. Paul chastised Peter for his behavior, calling it what it truly was: hypocrisy (Galatians 2:13). To make matters worse, Peter's behavior was contagious, even causing Barnabas to turn a cold shoulder to the non-Jewish believers. This was one early example of how people allow divisions to undermine the unity Jesus desires among his people.

God's desire is for healthy congregations, those in which there "may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another" (1 Corinthians 12:25). It doesn't mean that all members are the same. It means that we have the same love and consideration for all members. It means we are alert to the subtle factors that create division, that we are mindful of attitudes that keep us from full fellowship, and that we are willing to take the extra steps necessary to foster true Christian relationships with others. Diligent cultivation of authentic Christian fellowship will force Satan to find somewhere else to play.

In the coming weeks of our discipleship journey we will come to the end of one season and enter another. The challenge currently before us is to "show up" for church. Many of you have responded in faith, and I encourage you to finish well over the next three Sundays. Ash Wednesday is on February 22, at which time we will move to Challenge #2. You will be getting details of the challenge as we move through the coming weeks. Be assured that the goal is to strengthen our relationships within the congregation. It might mean stretching your comfort zone a little, but I think the results will be more than worth the effort.

*(continued on Page 2)*

(continued from page 1)

There will be fellowship opportunities in the coming weeks, including a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday (February 21), a covered dish dinner after worship on Sunday the 12th, and weekly soup & salad devotional lunches during Lent.

I pray you will carry the “show up” attitude into the season of Lent as we strive to become His glorious bride, holy and blameless, mature and complete in every way, ready to be presented to our Lord.

Pastor Dave



### Secret Prayer Pals

We are bringing something back this year for Lent. It's Secret Prayer Pals. All you need to do is fill out the form in your bulletin, place the bottom portion in the basket in the Narthex, then pick up a name on Sunday February 26th, of someone to pray for throughout the Lenten season. It's just that simple!



### CPR & First Aid Training Class

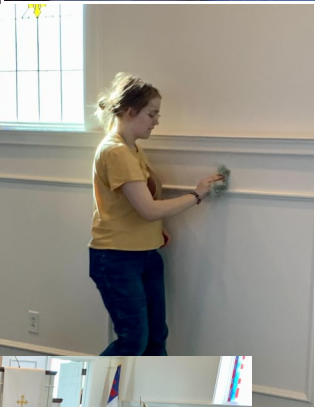
#### CPR Training

Would you like to become trained in CPR? Join us at the next Safety Team meeting on Saturday, February 18th for a CPR training class. You never know when it will come in handy! Please contact the church office so we know you are interested. (903-873-2569)

### Youth News

The youth were busy this month! They helped cleaned the sanctuary from top to bottom. There was moping, vacuuming, dusting, sweeping, polishing, and the like. They cleaned everywhere! We can't thank them enough for all their hard work. They also took down the Christmas tree in the Deen Building for us. What a blessing it is to have youth workers with such big servant hearts! We had help from AJ Galope, Johanna Cartwright, Frances Groover, Frank Groover, Marguerite Groover and Robby Groover. They were assisted by Barbara Lamb and Jana Davis.

**Check out the pictures on page 3.**



# Calendar of Events for February

## Dates to Remember for February



Friday evenings, 6:30 p.m., Mere Christianity Book study, Deen Building  
 Saturday, February 11, 11:00 a.m., Valentine Luncheon  
 Sunday, February 12, following worship, Church Wide Potluck  
 Monday, February 13, 5:00 p.m. Day School Meeting  
 6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting  
 Saturday, February 18, 10:00 a.m. Safety Team meeting with CPR training  
 Saturday, February 18, 10-2, ABC Room Bunco, St Terese in Canton  
 Tuesday, February 21, 6:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner  
 Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

## Happy Birthday!

Gerda David	2-4	Bernadette Kolb	2-18
Steven Collins	2-7	Linda Malone	2-21
Dana Hullum	2-8	Debby Roberts	2-22
Brad Malone	2-11	Diane Sandifer	2-27
Peggy Kinney	2-13	Linda Dennis	2-28
Holly Malone	2-14	Leilanie Galope	2-29
Justin Galope	2-15	Marigrace Lang	2-29
Cody Rowland	2-16		

## Right Now Media



Don't forget about the amazing offer of rightnow media offered through the church. Text RMUMC to 49775 for an invitation to set up your account, or contact the church office to request help.

## Our Presence and Our Gifts

	Jan 1	Jan 8	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 29
Worship	67	98	109	97	90
Giving	\$8,633.00	\$5,838.00	\$5,337.00	\$3,154.00	\$1,878.00

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 6:30pm Mere Christianity Study Deen building	4
Global Methodist Conference						
5 9:00 am Sunday School  10:00 am Worship Service	6	7	8 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells  7:00pm Choir Practice	9	10 6:30pm Mere Christianity Study Deen building	11  11:00am-2:00pm United Women of Faith Valentine Luncheon
12 8:00am Methodist Men Meeting  9:00 am Sunday School  10:00 am Worship Service  11:15am Potluck	13 5:00pm Day School  6:00pm Finance Meeting	14	15  6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells  7:00pm Choir Practice	16	17 6:30pm Mere Christianity Study Deen building	18  9:00am Crafting with Christ  10:00am Safety Team With CPR Training
19 9:00 am Sunday School  10:00 am Worship Service	20	21 6:00pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner	22 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells  7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	23	24 6:30pm Mere Christianity Study Deen building	25
26 9:00 am Sunday School  10:00 am Worship Service	27	28				



The church will be hosting soup & salad lunches on Wednesdays during the season of Lent beginning on March 1st. The meal will be ready at noon in George Hall. We will enjoy encouraging fellowship and a brief devotion based on one of the daily *Jesus in the Wild* readings of each week. We will dismiss before 1:00 so those taking lunch from work may return in a timely manner. There is no charge for the meal. Advance reservations are welcome but not required. Consider making this part of your weekly spiritual discipline during this year's preparation for Easter.

### *Valentine's Day Luncheon*



### **Women's Valentine Luncheon**

Please plan to join us on Saturday, February 11, from 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. for our Annual Valentine's Day Luncheon. There will be soup, salad, a speaker, singing and DESSERT! You won't want to miss this time of food, fun and fellowship.



### **13th Annual ABC Room Bunco Celebration**

Saturday, February 18th, 2023  
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
St. Terese Catholic Church Parish Hall  
885 1st Monday Lane  
Canton, TX  
Benefiting the At-Risk Children of Van Zandt  
County  
More info, call or text:  
Bobby Hill 214-924-0540  
Deanna Peoples 903-271-0890

## Remember in Prayer:

Barbara Lamb & Family  
Gary Keller & Family  
Family of James Youngblood  
Family of James Brown  
Tom Castleberry & Family  
Family of Kay Mitchell  
Family of Evan Mayone  
Family of David Bates  
Family of Roy Rogers  
Family of Lynn Mullins  
Family of Helen Tapp  
Family of Emily Ross  
Arthur Galope, Jr.  
Alice Kolb  
Andy Anderson  
Angie Smith  
Benny Mitchell  
Betty Manning  
Billie Cade  
Bobbi Smith

Chad Ash  
Charles & Wynona James  
Cheryl Bradley  
Cheryl & David Shaw  
College Students  
Crestwood Nursing &  
Assisted Living  
Darian Richardson  
Denny McCormick  
Dianna Perry  
Eric Johns  
Harrison Mayone  
Helen Liston  
Isaac Bullard  
Jared McDonald  
Jeff D'Amico  
Jim & Sandra Smith  
John Buffington  
Karl & Keeta Lybrand  
LaNell White  
Laura Bates  
Marigrace & Mike Lang

Mark Brown  
Marty Mitchell  
Mary Bullard  
Maxine Page  
Mike Tolin  
Randy Daniel  
Richard Anderson  
RMMC Staff  
Robert Butts  
Sherri Rowe  
Students, Teachers & Admin.  
Sunday School & Church  
Travis Deen  
Virginia Cockerham



It's never too early to plan for summer camp... and Yes, we will still be able to join in Lakeview activities. You won't want to miss out!



## Thank You

Thank you for all your love and caring. I appreciate all your gifts!  
In His Will, Helen Liston

Thank you for helping make Christmas 2022 special for some very needy Wills Point Families! Together with your generous contribution, we were able to provide Christmas (clothes, shoes, coats, toys) for 379 kids and a hefty bag of food (plus a turkey) for their 134 families. Without your generosity, this would not have been possible.

Thank you again!  
Sherri Rowe, Coordinator  
Wills Point Community Angel Tree

# Russell Memorial Methodist Church

Rev. David Cartwright, Pastor  
John Ross, Minister of Music  
Theresa Turner, Ladies Hand Bells Director

Nancy McDonald, Office Administrator  
Fritz Gilbreth, Organist  
Jackie Cockerham, Financial Administrator

Join us Sunday Morning!

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday

## The Russell Report

*Russell Memorial Methodist Church*  
*A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love*  
201 S. Fourth Street  
P. O. Box 335  
Wills Point, TX 75169

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED