



A House of Prayer
for All Nations

The Ram's Horn

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THE SHEPHERD'S CORNER

By Pastor Dan Switzer, Ed.D.

Living Reliant on Christ by Grace through Faith

The Apostle Paul would be considered one of the strongest Christians of all time. Yet this leader of the Christian Church knew very keenly his weakness. In 2 Corinthians 12, he shared of a "thorn" in his flesh. He begged God three times that this thorn be taken away from him. However, the Lord said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (NIV, 2 Cor. 12:9). Paul, in that same paragraph, begins with the phrase, "To keep me from becoming conceited. . ." Indeed, Paul learned to walk humbly dependent on Christ. After sharing of God's response to his entreaties, Paul determined to "boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me" (2 Cor. 12:9). He declared, "For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor. 12:10).

The Apostle Paul, one of the most effective Christians of all time, had to learn to rely on Christ. And so it is with us. We must learn to depend on Christ. We must learn to live Christ by grace through faith. We must learn how to draw upon Christ each and every day of our life. We must learn to be dependent upon Him.

A strong Christian is not one who is strong in himself. A strong Christian is one who knows his need and specifically, his need for Christ. He learns what it means to live Christ by grace through faith. This kind of perspective often runs counter to our personal thinking. We are often trained to be strong—to "pick ourselves up by our bootstraps," so to speak. However, instead of trusting in our own strength, we have a need to

Be Strong—In Christ!

learn to trust in Christ—to live by faith—faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We don't trust ourselves or our own ability to live righteously. Instead, we learn to depend on Christ and access His strength every day of our lives. We learn to live Christ by grace through faith.

Our sufficiency is in Christ, not in ourselves—God's grace is sufficient for us. For each of us, we have to unlearn self-sufficiency and learn Christ-sufficiency. And this truth has to do with our focus as Christians—seeking to live for Christ. Gal. 3:10 says, "All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.'" You see, none of us can ever be considered righteous through keeping the law because if we break the law on even one point, we are guilty of breaking all of the law. When we depend on the law for our righteousness, there is no way to avoid being a lawbreaker because perfection is required. No one is perfect—"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). God is calling us to not rely on the law for our righteousness—Instead, *we're to rely on Christ!*

Gal. 2:21 emphasizes the point: "I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!" Of course, none of us would ever say that Christ died for nothing. However, we often communicate that very message by our actions. When we start depending on "being a good Christian" or being whatever we think defines a good person—such as being a good husband or a good father—rather than depending on Christ and his finished work on the cross, then we are guilty of setting aside the grace of God.

Don't set aside the grace of God in your life. Paul is very clear: we come to Christ by grace through faith and we are to continue to live Christ by grace through faith—with all of our life.

This Issue of The Ram's Horn

- 1 The Shepherd's Corner
- 2 Mission News
- 3 Seasonal Activities
- 4 Calendar

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Pentecost

News from the Nations

Revive Israel, Tikkun, Asher & Betty Intrater – We are in the season of the “counting of the Omer” (Lev. 23:15-16). In this time, God commanded the people of Israel to count fifty days between First Fruits and Pentecost. In the time of Yeshua’s disciples, this is the time that they were in the upper room, anticipating the coming of the Holy Spirit, just as Yeshua had promised them. I can’t help but ponder the things in our own lives that cause us to wait; to count; to anticipate. As we live in this season, we are challenged and inspired to press in. As we can see in world events, the earth is humming with movement. The lines are being drawn. Let us all press in.

Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, Rockville, MD – Like so many women who come to our Center, Lynn found it hard to believe that it was more than a collection of cells growing inside her. When Lynn saw the developing life of her baby on the ultrasound screen, she responded with, “I am so happy. I’ve decided to keep my baby.” Together, we are making a difference . . . one woman at a time.

Branch Ministries, Botswana, Rob and Mary Grindley – Your gift for the people of Botswana is deeply appreciated; your fragrant offering enables the ministry to offer food, fellowship, love, salvation, and so much more to hundreds every week all in the name of our Savior, Christ Jesus. Together, may we continue to pursue the heart of Jesus, who being in very nature God, took on the nature of a servant and considered others—each one of us—better than Himself. To our Lord be all the glory.

Young Life, Montgomery County – Pray for the staff and students in the school Bible clubs as they conclude end-of-the-year events and prepare for the outreach in the summer camps.

Living Grace Christian School – June 1st is the last day of school for this school year. The Awards Assembly is Friday, June 3rd, at 9:00 am at Northgate. We have seen God’s hand in every aspect of the school; it truly is His work and we are grateful for your prayer support. We hope that you will continue to pray for the school during the summer.

Wycliffe Bible Translators, Matt and Rosemary Ulrich, Paraguay – On May 11th, Matt’s right eye was successfully treated by a laser operation of the cornea. Then on May 16th, Rosemary was diagnosed as having dengue fever and was hospitalized for three days at the Asuncion Baptist Hospital for IV therapy. She is home and now improving. Matt had more extensive laser surgery on his left eye on Monday, May 23rd. Please pray as the Maka New Testament is in the preparation stages for printing and then distributing.

Living Grace Ministries, Thurlow and Lynda Switzer – Pray for the Living Grace Gift Ministries Family Retreat that will be held on June 9-11 at Cove Valley Youth Camp in Mercersburg, PA.

Crossroads Valley Chapel, Fred., MD – Pray for this community of faith and their outreach to the Frederick Community through fasting and sharing funds with local community help programs.

Pray Also for:
Adwoa Yeboah-Marfo, Marfo Children’s Village, Ghana

Evangelistic Ministries International Or Ha Olam, Light of the World Congregation
Jesus Is Alive Ministries with Apostle William Tetey, Lome, Togo

Stanley and Karen Redwood, Jamaica

**Son Surf Beach Bash
Vacation Bible School,
July 11-15 & 17, 6:30 – 8:30 pm**



Youth Gathering



**Middle School
Discipleship Club
June 17th, 7:30 pm**
At Pastor Dan & Silvia’s home

**Camp Courage
Begins This Month
It’s Not Too Late to Register!**

Encourage your child to be a champion this summer! God told Joshua, a mighty champion, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” The mission of Camp Courage is to help instill this attitude of courage in your child. Five sessions are scheduled as follows:
All-Around Program, June 20-24
All-Around Program, June 27-July 1
Soccer Program, July 18-22, 9 am – noon
Chess Program, July 18-22, 12:30 – 3:30 pm
Adventure Nature Program, July 25-29
You can register online at northgatecc.org—look for the Camp Courage link on the right side of the home page.

*Love is giving
Love is sharing
Love is caring
Love is compassion
To be a channel of blessing,
let Christ’s love flow through you.*
Submitted by Betty Money

On Pentecost, Jesus, come breathe your peace on us. Then send us out to be peacemakers in your name.

Northgate Community Church

Reaching People from All Nations for Christ!

Worship Schedule

Sundays, 9:45 am - Congregational Prayer
Sundays, 10:00 am – Worship Service
Midweek Flock Home Groups
We are always ready to serve you –
Pastors Dan, Rick, Thurlow,
and Elder Vance

FLOCK HOME GROUPS

Germantown

Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Rick & Sue Brown, 301-972-2129

Germantown

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm
Thurlow & Lynda Switzer
At Betty Money's, 301-540-7293

Rockville/Silver Spring

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, Devroy & Ruth
McFarlane, 240-242-4242

Montgomery Village

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, McRory Area; Alfred
and Jacky Johnson,
301-977-2220

Montgomery Village

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm,
Shawn & Mindy Swander, 240-631-0322
Assistant Leaders Tim & Deborah Switzer

Middle School Discipleship Club

For all 6th – 8th graders, Fri., June 17th, 7:30
pm; Dan and Silvia Switzer, 301-977-1121
Assistant leaders Ron and Kahlia Davis

Sisters of Faith

The Sisters of Faith meet at Bob Evans for
breakfast on Saturday, June 18th, 8:30 am.

Men Under God

The men's breakfast meets at the
Gaithersburg Hilton on June 4th, at 8:00 am.

June Birthdays

Ruth McFarlane, June 5
Viviane Johnson, June 7
Gloria Mahjourian, June 8
Abigail Wallace, June 10
Gwen Degraffinreid, June 11
Kayi Johnson, June 12
Sue Brown, June 15
Derval Powell, June 15
Aylin Diaz, June 18
Jim Wood, June 18
Prestilia Johnson, June 21
Dodzi Attimu, June 22
Jared Parr, June 24
Matt Walker, June 27
Elliott Swander, June 28

June Anniversaries

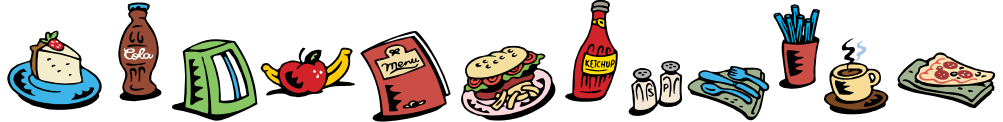
Herb & Norma Sutter, June 12
Mark & Lea Anderson, June 16
Thurlow & Lynda Switzer, June 27

Praise and Prayer Requests

1. Pray for continuing grace and strength to Gwen in her rehabilitation
2. Rick Brown – praise for healing of his knee
3. Cheryl Toms - undergoing chemo therapy
4. Praise - Benga Alabi's job at Dulles Airport
5. Lourdes Reynolds's niece's baby Richard, microcephaly -- his life will be a testimony of God's love and power to the glory of Jesus.
6. Karen O'Connor – provision and protection
7. Pray for our nation's leaders
8. Northgate pastors, elders, and families
9. Dan Doody's son-in-law Dave – healing from cancer and a blood clot in his leg; grace and strength for family
10. Madeline Cooksey – strength and healing
11. David Szymanski in AZ – prayer for health and protection

Check out this blog spot: Living Grace Ministries and leaders in friendship with LGM, under the editorship of Pastor Jon Switzer of Crossroads Valley Chapel in Frederick, MD, set up this blog spot: www.logsfortheire.blogspot.com.

All Nations Worship Service and Picnic Sunday, June 12th, 10:00 am



Bring a Friend! Bring a Dish to Share!

With Thanks to God for Beautiful Blessings

Jacky Sessou

and

Alfred Johnson

Request the Honor of Your Presence

*As They Exchange Vows of
Covenant Marriage*

Saturday, the Eighteenth of June

Two Thirty O'Clock in the Afternoon

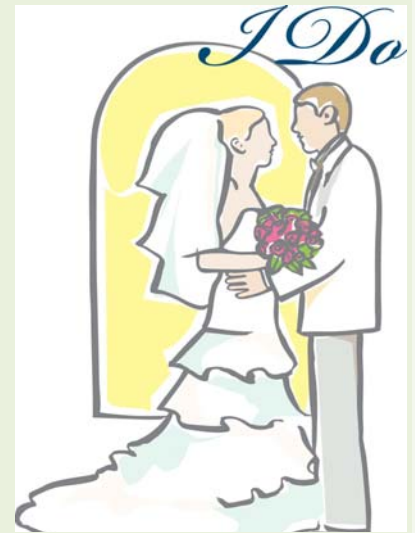
Northgate Community Church

20300 Pleasant Ridge Drive

Montgomery Village, Maryland 20886

Reception Immediately Following

At the Same Location



Love is patient and kind.

Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude.

Love does not demand its own way.

Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged.

It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.

Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful,

and endures through every circumstance. Love will last forever.

1 Cor. 13: 4-8, New Living Translation

Slow Down

Walk a little slower, Daddy, said a little child so small

I'm following in your footsteps and I don't want to fall.

Sometimes your steps are very fast; sometimes they're hard to see.

So walk a little slower, Daddy, for you are leading me.

Someday when I'm all grown up, you're what I want to be.

Then I will have a little child who'll want to follow me.

And I would want to lead just right, and know that I was true;

So walk a little slower, Daddy, for I must follow you.

Author Unknown

As we celebrate Father's Day, we likely see traits in our dads (or other father figures) that we hope to be known for ourselves: integrity, gentleness, a great sense of humor, a love of learning, a humble spirit. What characteristics of God Your Father are reflected in your eyes, heart and life? And what godly qualities would you like to cultivate? May others see our heavenly Father in us!

The Newsletter, June 2011

Walking in the grace of God requires humility. God says that He gives grace to the humble. This humility before the Lord helps us to understand our need for Him and our reliance on Him for all of our life.

A strong Christian is one who has learned to depend on Christ. What do you resolve as a Christian? Do you resolve to be good, to look Christian, to overcome your past, to be a great servant, to be a good man, to be a good husband, to avoid certain sins? Instead of these seemingly virtuous pursuits, I want to encourage you to focus all of your Christian energies—indeed all of your energy—on Christ. Focus on Christ. Be a “Christ-one,” totally reliant on Christ, not yourself. Paul said, “For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2). Let’s join Paul in resolving to know nothing but Christ crucified. May God’s grace and faith strengthen you in your inner being to live Christ every day of your life. God bless you!

The Power of Pentecost

Pentecost started as a Jewish festival commemorating God’s giving the Law to the Israelites fifty days after they escaped from slavery in Egypt. Just days after the risen Jesus ascended to heaven, his (Jewish) disciples gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost. But God transformed the occasion by giving them the Holy Spirit, as he’d promised. The disciples saw something like flames among and on them, heard a rushing wind and began speaking in many languages. The pilgrims in Jerusalem heard about Jesus in their native tongues (see Acts 2:1-12).

In Christian churches, Pentecost was once as important as Christmas and Easter. Today, congregations still observe it in special ways, using the color red to symbolize the Holy Spirit’s power. Worship services sometimes include hymns, prayers and Scriptures in various tongues. To simulate the original Pentecost experience, some congregations say the Lord’s Prayer in several languages at once.



			1 Flock Gp Equipping 7:30 pm	2	3 <i>LGCS Awards Ceremony 9:00 am</i>	4 MUG Bkfst 8:00 am
5 Pathway, 9 am Worship, 10 am <i>Baptism Service</i>	6	7	8 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	9	10	11
12 Pathway, 9 am Worship, 10 am <i>All Nations Worship and Picnic</i>	13	14	15 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	16	17 Middle School Discipleship Club 7:30 pm	18 Sisters of Faith Bkfst, 8:30 am
19 Worship, 10 am <i>Father’s Day</i>	20 <i>Camp Courage This Week</i>	21	22 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	23	24	25
26 Worship, 10 am	27 <i>Camp Courage This Week</i>	28	29 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	30		