

Special Interest Articles

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Thoughts from Pastor Thomas

To the Beloved Body of our Lord Jesus Christ,

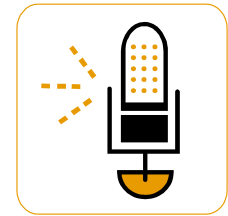
We have begun a New Year and in a very real way a new vision for the ministry of CDF. Our Elders and leadership are praising God and pursuing the words that HE has given us as far as direction. February is a month that will bring us much in the way of opportunities to fellowship as a body as well as continue in mission to LOVE others in our community. I encourage you to really peruse the dates in this newsletter and make every effort to engage in the life of this wonderful family.

Without question the month of February is one that focuses in on the attribute of LOVE. Allow me to share a few things God is teaching me even as I write this newsletter. First, I have just come back from the men's retreat in NC. My heart is overflowing with Love for the Father as well as thankfulness for the incredible brothers we have in this Church. We wept together, certainly laughed together and lives were changed. We all were spurred on in our journey as men to a better Love relationship with our Lord as well as an intimate authentic relationship with one another. Men we need each other in order to continue to walk this journey.

The term LOVE has been so misused and misunderstood that it has almost lost all of its power. **Love** has been reduced to mere sentiment and feeling which simply ebbs and flows with human emotion. DC Talk,

a once famous Christian band, rightly stated in one of their songs, "**LOVE is a VERB.**" **Love** is not a feeling nor is it a romantic flash. We cannot **Love** our cars or a TV show or even a song. How many times in casual conversation have I said I **love** something when in actuality mere fondness or 'like' is what I am attempting to express. Many words are misused and it is not my place or desire to list them or attack our common vernacular, but **LOVE** is a word that must be better treated. Of all the words in our English vocabulary, it could indeed be argued this one is most impacting. A lack of it will divide nations and bring war. Poor interpretation will fail marriages and bring **divorce**. Its absence within mans heart can even drive the **angry to murder**.

When asked the greatest command in all of scripture Jesus hung our existence on **Loving GOD and LOVING our neighbor**. **LOVE** is an act that is willful, calculated, determined, and unstoppable! It is a conscious decision to express and sacrifice ones self, despite lies of emotion and trends. My wife needs more than chocolates and roses. She needs a husband that will die for her. Lord help us to demonstrate your **LOVE** to others. Forgive us for demeaning the essence of who you are with



sentimentalization

1 John 4:10 (NASB95)
10In this is love, not that we loved God, but that ^bHe loved us and sent His Son to be ^cthe propitiation for our sins.

Lastly, while we are told in scripture (1 cor 13) that love will last forever. Our time in which to express love is fleeting. Could it be that this is the reason Jesus so emphasized this in scripture.

1 John 4:11 (NASB95)

11¹Beloved, if God so loved us, ^bwe also ought to love one another.

John 13:34 (NASB95)"^aA new commandment I give to you, ^bthat you love one another, ^ceven as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Ephesians 5:2 (NASB95)

and ^awalk in love, just as Christ also ^bloved ¹you and ^cgave Himself up for us, an ^doffering and a sacrifice to God ²as a fragrant aroma.

Just hours before I am writing this newsletter our family suffered the loss of "Nanny". Let us love hard while we still can! I am still learning what this crazy **LOVE** is all about. Somehow it seems deeper than candy hearts. I **LOVE** you all and thank my Lord for you.

Pastor Thomas

Calendar of Events

Monday, February 1, 7:00 pm – Apples of Gold at Tricia Stradley's

Tuesday, February 2nd – Men's Bible Study 6:30 at Church

Sunday, February 7th – Discovery 101 Class

Friday, February 12th – Valentine's Dinner at church

Saturday, February 13th – Serve at Sharing God's Love 9:00

Monday, February 15th, 7:00 Apples of Gold

Sunday, February 21st - Communion

Wednesday, February 24th 6:30 Ladies Mentoring meeting at church – dinner provided

Sunday, February 29th – Gathering of the nets

Women's Bible Study – every Monday morning at 9:30 at church

Youth – every Wednesday evening 6:30 – meet at church

Deacon's Meeting – 3rd Monday of the month 6:30

Elder's Meeting – 4th Monday of the month at 6:30

Children's Ministry Team – 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:00

Ministries of CDF

Women's Ministry –

Tricia Stradley 760-8355 or
tstradley@gmail.com

Susan Miller – 446-3240 or
781-4697

Monday morning Bible
Study – meets every
Monday at 9:30

Contact – MarieVelilla 513-
3299

Apples of Gold – meets 1st
and 3rd Mondays at 7:00
pm Contact Susan or Tricia

Men's Ministry – meets the
1st Tuesday of the month –
contact Steve Miller - 781-
4697

Community Outreach –
meets 2nd Saturday of the
month – contact Terry
Burnett

Youth – meets Wednesday
evenings 6:30 - contact
Aaron Russell(864) 415-5879

Children's Ministry – meets
the 4th Tuesday of the
month at 6:00 pm

contact Jessie
Simoneu([jessiesimoneau@
mail.com](mailto:jessiesimoneau@gmail.com) or 808-5754).

Small Groups – contact
Jaye Morgan – 665-1501

Contacts:

Pastors

Senior Pastor:
Jaye Morgan – 665-1501
(cell) 781-0002 (home)

Preaching Pastor:
Thomas Yarbrough – 463-
0893

Elders

Steve Miller – 781-4697
Rick Velilla – 345-9973
Roger Marini – 781-6924
Marty Simon – 361-0429

Deacons

Joe Simoneau - 414-7416
Earl Long - 781-0494
Dave Estey - 351-7904
Andy Redalen - 665-7098
Steve Hunt, Sr. - 781-0737
Bryan Stradley - 807-0890

Church Admin

Tricia Stradley -- 760-8355
tstradley@gmail.com

Church Address:
3931 Broad River Road
Suite A
Columbia, SC 29210

Community Groups

Roger and Cheryl Marini

Meets weekly on Sunday evenings at
7:00
Study – The Truth Project
Contact Roger at: 781-6924

Thomas and Cara Yabrough

Meets every other Friday night
Childcare provided
Study – The Normal Christian Life
Contact Thomas at: 463-0893

Rick and Marie Velilla

College students
Meets every Friday evening at 6:00 at
CIU
Contact Rick at: 345-9973

Jaye and MaryDale Morgan

Meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays of at 6:00
pm
Study – II Corinthians
Contact Jaye at: 665-1501

Steve and Audrey Hunt

Meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6:00
Focusing on Prayer
Contact Steve at:781-0737

Jennifer Brucker

Meets every Sunday night at 6:30
Study – Book of Esther
Contact Jennifer at: 739-2678
Single ladies group

Bryan and Tricia Stradley

Meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday evening
of the month at 6:30 (dinner provided)
Study – Rob Bell Nooma series
Contact Bryan at: 807-0890

Special Valentines Event!!!!

**Church at Dutch Fork
Valentine's Date Night
Friday Feb 12th**

Guys we get to cook a spaghetti and meatball dinner for our "dates" on Valentine's Date Night.

The men will meet at the church at 5:30 to cook and set up for the date which will begin at 7:00 p.m. Child care will be provided.

The Cost will be \$10.00 per man and we have put a sign-up sheet in the lobby for contact info and so we can get a head count to buy the food which will include; spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread, and dessert. For the men who are brave enough to prepare a dessert and bring it with them, there will be a CONTEST and a PRIZE for the best dessert. So guys, Go For It!!

Also, don't be slow to sign up on the sheet because the cut off date is Sunday Feb 7th right after church. If you have a friend at work or in your neighborhood invite them to join us and sign them up on the list!

This will be GREAT fun and if you want to dress it up with cards or flowers for your date.....go for it. SEE YOU ALL THERE.

for Ladies Only

Mentors and Mentees needed!!!

Whether you are young in your faith or have been a believer for years, you can be an encouragement to another lady!

There will be a dinner meeting on Wednesday, February 24 at 6:30 pm for those who are interested in either being mentored or those who want to mentor.

We will have dinner, fellowship and hear a testimony of what happens when women meet one on one for accountability and encouragement. We will begin the process of gathering info and pairing women together.

If you've been involved in a mentoring relationship in the past, you know the high value. If you've never been on either side, come see what it's all about.

It will change your life!