



## Valentine's Day, Love and Idols

*"You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol..."* Exodus 20:3-4

February is the month of romantic love. Romantic love is fun and exciting and exhilarating. A study that anthropologists conducted of 166 different cultures around the world found evidence of romantic love in 147 of them. (*Psychology Today*, March/April 1995) Marriages were often arranged in earlier history and still are today in some parts of the world. But most of us are happy to have some choice in the matter. Hopefully most of us who are married still are experiencing romantic love.

Some observers of culture argue that the meaning of romantic love has changed in recent times. Anthony Giddens, in his book *The Transformation of Intimacy*, argues that modern notions of romantic love arose out of the novel. Romance became identified with freedom and self-realization. It became an end in itself.

Gay Catholic writer Andrew Sullivan suggests a reason for why divorce rates are so high. He argues, "The real culprit isn't some kind of moral collapse. It's excessive expectations, driven and fueled by the civic religion of romance. .... thanks to the civic religion of romance, we constantly expect more and quit what we have in search of more. (*NYT Magazine*, 2/11/2001)

In effect romantic love can become an idol and a competitor to the God who is really there. Pastor Tim Keller writes, "It has always been possible to make romantic love and marriage into a counterfeit god, but we live in a culture that makes it even easier to mistake love for God, to be swept up by it, and to rest all our hopes for happiness upon it." (*Counterfeit Gods*, p. 24)

We human beings were created in the image of God. Involved in that creative work is a desire for relationship and for significance and for security. Marriage is a divine institution that God designed to help meet those God-created needs. But any human relationship and any human being is incapable of fully meeting the needs of another person. It is only God who can do that. When romantic love becomes a competitor to Him, it is an idol and a false god. Our greatest psychological and spiritual needs can only be met by a relationship with Him.

Augustine rightly declared, "For Thou hast formed us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee."

Pastor Kurt

# Children's Church

9AM Sunday Mornings



## HIKERS WANTED

Join us at Emmaus Hall on Saturday, the 18th, at 8:15 a.m., for our monthly church hike. We usually attempt a hike that is not more strenuous than the group wants to try. Normally we are back in town by early afternoon. Bring water, your camera, and snacks.

## We Can Always Use...

### -Cash donations for "Bethany Cares".

Help us provide food to needy Elementary thru Middle School Students. Each Friday packages of food are delivered to these kids so that they have something to eat for the weekend. At last count there were 37 students that benefited from this program. Just note on your check or cash envelope "Bethany Cares".

-Food donations for BC Emergency Aid. Donations help feed the hungry in our community. This is especially useful as the needs of our community are great!

## **BYG** (Bethany Youth Group)

Join us on Sunday afternoons at 5:30 PM for our Collide meeting for teens.

We have games, food and Bible study.

## XYZ

Our next XYZ Potluck will be on Thursday, the 16th. Bring a healthy dish to share and come for the Potluck at 5PM.

At 6PM Doris and Bill Roush will share.

The eXtra Years of Zest Group is for those 50 years & older... Come join us!

## CARE CENTER VISIT

Our next Nursing Home and Hospital Long Term Area Visit will be on Saturday, the 4th. Meet at Emmaus by 9:45 a.m.

Take time to share with those not able to attend a Sunday service!

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join the guys on Saturday, February 11th, in Emmaus Hall. The 8:15 a.m. breakfast is a delicious event! Bring a friend!

## From the Bethany Elders Board...

2012 Shepherding

This year the Elders are planning to do things a little different with the shepherding groups. To help our members get to know each other better, we will be planning to have one or more shepherding groups to meet at various times throughout the year for different activities. These activities will be decided by the shepherds and their group, so not all groups will be doing the same things. We hope this will prove to be beneficial for our church and also help the leaders to get to know all of their group better.

Lary Street

# February 2012

| Sun  | Mon                      | Tue   | Wed   | Thu                            | Fri | Sat                                       |
|--|--------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|-----|---|
|  |                          |   | 1   | 2                              | 3   | 4<br>Care Center<br>Visit<br>8:45 a.m.    |
| 5<br>Super Bowl<br>Party 3:15<br>p.m.  | 6                        | 7   | 8 Deaconess<br>Meeting 9AM<br><br>Christian Ed<br>Meeting<br>10AM | 9                              | 10  | 11<br><br>Men's<br>Breakfast<br>8:15 a.m. |
| 12   | 13                       | 14 Open<br>Prayer Time<br>5PM<br> | 15  | 16<br>XYZ Potluck<br>5PM       | 17  | 18  |
| 19 Deacons'<br>Meeting 11:30<br>a.m.<br>Property Mtc.<br>Meeting 11:30<br>a.m. | 20<br>President's<br>Day | 21<br>Open Prayer<br>Time 5PM   | 22  | 23<br>Mission Board<br>Meeting | 24  | 25<br>Elders'<br>Meeting<br>8:15 a.m.     |
| 26   | 27                       | 28  | 29  |                                |     |   |

**Sunday:** Prayer Time - 8:15 a.m.

Worship Service - 9:00 a.m.

Children's Church - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School - 10:15 a.m.

BYG - 5:30 p.m.

Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.

**Monday:** Praise Team Practice - 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday:** Ladies' Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.

**Wednesday:** Prayer Meeting - 7:30 a.m.

Choir Practice - 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday:** Healthy Eating & Weight Loss - 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday:** Men's Group - 7:00 a.m.

## SUPERBOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 5th

3:15 p.m.

Moberger's Home

Bring a snack to share. Wear your team's jersey if you want. Bring a friend and come for the fun... you might even win a "valuable" prize for your football knowledge.



## **THANK YOU**

I would like to thank so many people who helped to make the 50th Anniversary Celebration so great. Carol Tyson, Dan Bunch and many others who donated photos for the slide shows, Joann Kenneston who made up the slide shows each month and then the final slide show for the Sunday celebration. Joann did a lot of behind the scenes things for me.

Several people spoke about each decade of Bethany: Vern Burk (60's); Ed Greer (70's); Bill & Doris Roush (80's); Jack Taylor (90's) and Pastor Kurt (2000's). Also Val Davis was able to share some of her memories of the beginnings of Bethany and since she is a charter member she was able to help us understand the love that the members had in making Bethany Baptist Church become a reality.

I can't forget the Women's Ministry Committee (they are the best!). They helped with the luncheon, decorating and doing what ever I asked. They are: Pat Amon, Debbie Barth, Julie Belknap, Donna Disney, Olynnda Parmer, Nancy Quinn, and Tina Selb. Great job ladies!

Of course, we can't forget our special speakers: Jason King (Men's Breakfast), Anna Skaggs (Ladies Luncheon), Mayor Tobler for his proclamation and Jeramie Rinne. We were all blessed by their words. It was my pleasure to be part of this celebration.

Jenny Fletcher

*Dear friends at Bethany,  
Thank you so much for your love, prayers, and generous financial support of our family. We have been so blessed through this time as God has used His people to come along side us.*

*Jeff's heart seems to be healing well, and he has more energy than before the operation. We're taking things one day at a time, but are so thankful with how well things have turned out.*

*We love you and think of you often.*

*Jeff, Anna, John & Rachel Dunham*

Dear Pastor Kurt and the "Bethany Gang",

Thank you for the generous gift card to Olive Garden! Thank you for including me in the festivities of that wonderful weekend.

I enjoyed sharing how Bethany impacted me & my family over 31 years!

Thank you for making my stay in Boulder City so much fun. What a precious church. God bless you all!

In Him, Anna Skaggs

Thank you for your Christmas gifts.  
We staff members at the church  
appreciate your generosity!

## **February Birthdays**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Peggy Harry
- 8<sup>th</sup> Lillian Diehl
- 11<sup>th</sup> Jan Casarotto
- 13<sup>th</sup> Art Olsen
- 14<sup>th</sup> Patti Childress
- 16<sup>th</sup> Bill Mossop
- 17<sup>th</sup> JoAnne Patton
- 18<sup>th</sup> Natalia Suits\* (1990, daughter Jerry/Debbie)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Bill Roush  
Irv Childress
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Lea Samuelson
- 26<sup>th</sup> Alexandre Winston\* (1992, son of Ted/  
Malia)
- 27<sup>th</sup> Betty Greer

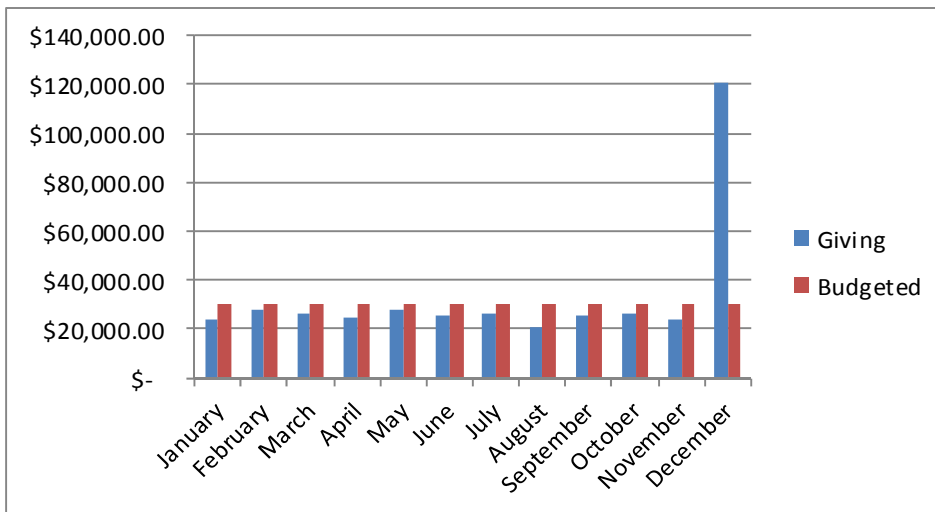
## **February Anniversaries**

- 14<sup>th</sup> Vincent & Dorothy Molin

## **March Missionary Birthdays**

- 20<sup>th</sup> Eathen Paul Yazzie (son, Ben & Tillie)
- 24<sup>th</sup> Rosamary Bittencort
- 28<sup>th</sup> Ceara Kairos Nilson (1991, Son of Jose  
Nilson and Tianado Nascimento)

The *Communicator* is published monthly as a ministry of Bethany Baptist Church.  
 For birthday and anniversary additions; changes in address; or removal from our mailing list please  
 contact the church office at 293-1912 or E-mail [staff@bethany.lvcoxmail.com](mailto:staff@bethany.lvcoxmail.com).



The Bethany 2011 budget was based on receiving offerings averaging \$30,456.42 each month.  
 The year's budget requirement was \$365,477.04.  
 The year's receipts totaled \$399,124.78.  
 The difference was \$33,647.74 more than was required to meet Bethany's 2011 General Budget.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Julie Belknap** - Treatment for her lung disease (629 Don Vincente Way, BC, 89005)

**Turbo Crawford** - Continued pain in her back. (1330 Georgia Avenue, Apt. 305, BC, 89005)

**Jim Hatch** - Health challenges. (2050 Magic Way Space #160, Henderson, NV, 89015)

**Beverly Lorraine Fiscus** - Health challenges (Southern Hills Hospital)

**Walter Moffatt** - Dizziness. (628 Hidden Valley Drive, Henderson, 89002-8308)

## STAFF

**Senior Pastor**  
Kurt Hedlund

**Administrative Assistant**  
Joann Kenneston

**Choir Director**  
Jackie Walker

**Pianist**  
Nita Wright

## BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

**Board of Elders**  
Lary Street, Chairman

**Board of Deacons**  
Richard Walker, Chairman

**Board of Deaconesses**  
Donna Disney, Chairwoman

**Missions Board**  
Jerry Wood, Chairman

**Christian Education Board**  
Vern Burk, Chairman

**Property Maintenance Board**  
Nate Crawford, Chairman

**XYZ (Seniors)**  
Sandy Crawford and Donna Disney

**Service Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

**Office Hours:**  
Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

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