

Doubling Gap Church of God

Beacon

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Volume 18, Issue 2

Standing in the GAP with the Gospel

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR DON

Follow Your Heart?"



Luke 12:34

Recently on facebook I came across the following statement as part of someone's hashtag comments: 'Follow your heart regardless of who it hurts'. It was apparent to me what the person was trying to say as I know them and their current issue in life. But when I thought about that statement, I became more unsettled with it, especially as this person is a believer in Jesus. I was going to write 'a follower of Jesus', but am struggling to see how this person is presently following the Author and Perfector of their faith. But back to my main point for this article. Can we as **true followers**

of Jesus make that statement, 'follow your heart regardless of who it hurts'? The scripture verse, "The heart is deceitful above all things..." comes to mind. That is from Jeremiah 17:9. So if I am following my heart regardless of where it leads, I should be very, very afraid or at least very, very cautious. But as a believer in Jesus, is not my heart regenerated, made new? Well, let's take a quick look at that. From Luke 12 (and the parallel in Matthew 6) we see Jesus saying where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Notice he did not say where your heart is your treasure will be. Now let's bring that statement to bear on the whole follow your heart thing. The only time it is right to follow our heart in when it is focused on the treasure of heaven, God's purity, righteousness, and holi-

ness. If our treasure, what we value, is heavenly connected, focused on the things of God not the things of man, then yes, we should follow our heart regardless of what man says or who it hurts. Jesus did that when He needed to confront the religious elite of his day. He spoke truth to them even though it hurt them to hear it (from Luke 11:39-52). But if our focus is on self 'happiness', we can end up following our heart, hurting others, and being disobedient to God. Not a healthy combination is it? According to Greek and Hebrew culture, the heart actually represents the location of our feelings, desires, and emotions.¹ So do we want to run our lives, make life decisions based on feelings, desires, and emotions? Sort of the 'if it feels good, do it!' philosophy of our current culture.

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Special points of interest:

Pastor Snyder will have office hours as shown on page 2. If he is unavailable, please leave a message and he will return your call.

In case of an emergency, you may call Pastor Snyder at home or on his cell. Numbers are found on page 2.

Elders

Charlie Clouse

Shannon Kane-Vice Chairman

Shane Reed-Secretary



Deacons

Carl Baughman-Chairman

Dawn Agar

Sam Clouse

PASTOR DON'S PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FEBRUARY

- For wisdom in dealing with issues of the heart
- For an ongoing focus on dealing with all things in truth and grace, with the right balance between the two.



Pastor's email address is:
doublinggap@embarqmail.com

OR

feedmandcs@yahoo.com

In case of an emergency you
may contact Pastor Don at home
or on his cell phone at:

Home: 776-1191

Cell: 278-7904

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

FOR FEBRUARY

Monday through Thursday

8AM to 12 NOON

Fridays "off" day.

Also appointments can be made .

Pastor Don will be unavailable on the
following days

February 1, 5, 8, 12



SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

9AM to 12 NOON

dgapsec@embarqmail.com

For further evidence that the following of one's heart could be dangerous I draw your attention to Romans 6 and 7. Paul writes about this ongoing battle between the flesh (insert 'heart' here) and the spirit. In 6:12 he challenges those in the Roman church to not let sin reign in their bodies, to not give in to its' *evil desires*, but rather to offer themselves to God. In 7:14-25 he explains his own struggle with the *flesh desires* and how he needs to constantly fight this battle. But is there a balance? Glad you asked; yes there is! If we daily deny our self, and take up our faith, our cross and follow Jesus,² we can then follow the desires of our heart. If we first offer our body as a living sacrifice to God and are transformed by the renewing of our mind in His word,³ then yes, we can follow our heart! But it all comes down to first seeking His kingdom, His righteousness, His will. Then our hearts will be in tune with the Holy Spirit and we can trust our desires to be His desires, not our own. It should be the goal of every follower of Jesus to be able to say (and have it be so) that 'I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.'⁴ Together, let us live out this month 'of the heart' (Valentine's Day, remember) in a way that reflects the heart of Jesus, the One who came full of truth and grace. "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."⁵

¹Relevant Magazine article on "Why Following Your Heart is a Really Bad Idea"

²Luke 9:21

³Romans 12:1-2

⁴Galatians 2:20

⁵Psalms 139:23-24

Pastor Don

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BRIAN



Are any of you excited for the 2018 Winter Olympics? I have to admit, while I'm not an athlete at heart, there is something about the Olympics that captivates my attention – and the attention of millions of Americans across this country. I loved watching Usain Bolt run in the 2016 Summer Olympics, and we cheered the U.S. Swim Team when they performed. One of the things that continues to amaze me is the young ages of some of the Olympic athletes. To be good enough to compete against the world's greatest in your sport, and to do it by the age of 15 or 16 or 17, requires much more than natural talent. These Olympians live for their sport. They devote more hours each day to practice than some people work, and they do it for years on end (often starting as early as 4 or 5 years old!)

Paul wrote in I Cor. 9:24-25, “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.” As I look forward to where God is leading our church over the coming months and years, I want to encourage us to think about discipleship as training, much like Olympic athletes train for their sport. The word disciple means “student”. As disciples, we are both being trained in the Christian faith, and we are also called to come alongside others to teach & train them. Have you ever thought about what it takes to intentionally grow your faith? It begins first with a decision. No athlete wakes up one morning and randomly decides to walk over to the arena and compete in the Olympics. It's a goal that they set on. What is your goal for discipleship this year? Let's pray about it together. I'm looking forward to coming alongside each of you on this journey of discipleship, to both encourage you and to be encouraged by you.

Praying for God's leading as we grow together,

-Pastor Brian, Director of Discipleship Ministries



BIG SPRING AREA FOOD BANK

We continue to support the Big Spring Food Bank with spaghetti each month. If interested in sharing in this worthwhile effort, please purchase spaghetti and place your donations in the box provided in the narthex. All spaghetti will be delivered to the Big Spring Food Bank for distribution the last Monday of each month. Your continued efforts are gratefully appreciated. Charlie Clouse will continue to deliver the spaghetti to the distribution point...Big Spring United Lutheran Church, Crossroads School Road. If you have any questions, please see a board member. If you'd like to help with the food bank, see Jim Henneman.

The next scheduled distribution is February 26, 2018.

FEBRUARY'S GREETERS



4-Nathan & Lori Chronister

11-Tim & Gail Wolfe

18-Lloyd & Kelly Bier

25-Sue Jardine & Bev Agar

Please be on duty at least 20 minutes prior to service and remain at the doors until 10:05 for any latecomers.

FEBRUARY'S WORSHIP NURSERY ATTENDANTS

4-Jenn Bolze & Sierra Rotz

11-Jenn Siegfried & Katie Kane

18-A.J. & Jessica Barrick

25-Denise Logan & Lacie Logan



****If you are unable to fulfill your duties as a GREETER or NURSERY attendant, PLEASE contact someone else on the schedule to change with you.**



SECRET PAL: In January the kids picked their Secret Pals for the year. If your child was not present and would like to participate in this please contact Melisa or Carrie and we will set your child up with a Secret Pal.

February's theme for the Secret Pal is Valentine's Day. Send your Secret Pal a Valentine's card and/or a treat. Most kids exchange Valentine's in school so just add one more to your list to share with your Secret Pal. I suggest that you put the Valentine in the child's family's mailbox at church. Remember it is very important that you DON'T fill in the FROM line. We want to keep your child's identity a secret until the big reveal in September.

Keep those aluminum soda tabs and glossy magazines coming in for the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey.

This collection will continue indefinitely.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Melisa Lucas at 717-713-4244 (cell) or email at actsofrandomkindnesskids@gmail.com.

JUNIOR CHURCH 1 (AGES 3-5) TEACHERS & HELPERS

- *Meet in Room #4 in the CE Wing at 10:00 am
- 4-Steph Cohick & Camryn Mountz
- 11-Steph Cohick & Maycey Davis
- 18-Steph Cohick & Mikayla Lowery
- 25-Children's Chat & ARKK

JUNIOR CHURCH 2 (Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd Grade) TEACHERS & HELPERS

- *Meet in Room #2 in the CE Wing at 10:00 AM
- 4,11,18-Chad & Sarah Baughman
- 25-Children's Chat & ARKK

JUNIOR CHURCH 3 (3rd, 4th, 5th Grade) TEACHERS & HELPERS

- 4-Adam Cohick & Kaitlyne Swenson
- 11-Adam Cohick & Sharon Barrick
- 18-Adam Cohick & Wendy Stuber
- 25-Children's Chat & ARKK

**When you are assigned to be a helper, PLEASE be in the Junior Church room by 9:50. If you cannot be a helper on the Sunday you have been assigned, PLEASE let Carrie Kimmich know (658-6339) so a replacement can be obtained if necessary.



Remember to sign up on the 2018 Flower Chart on the Narthex bulletin board, to honor or memorialize family or friends.

*The cost for the two vases is \$36.00



In case of inclement weather, tune to Channel 21 or 27 or call one of the council members listed in the Beacon.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES NEWS

CHURCH OF GOD HOME
GREATEST NEEDS

Nail Care-nail polish remover-regular strength, emery boards, cuticle/orange sticks, fast drying nail top coat polish, cotton balls

Deodorant-Secret, Suave, Speedstick, Gillette or Mennen

Toothpaste-Colgate, crest (travel size)

Mouthwash-Scope, Listerine

Denture Adhesive-Fixodent, Fasteeth, Poligrip, Effergrip

Denture Cleanser-Polident, Efferdent

Lotion-Lubriderm or Vaseline Intensive Care (6 or 8 oz)

Dove Bar Soap



theflourishconference.org

March 2-4, 2018

Speaker: Elly Maconochie,
from 3DM STAND

Join us as we explore our identity as women thru worship, teaching, sharing, and reflection. This weekend is held at the Winebrenner Seminary located in Findlay OH.

Who is 3DM STAND?

As a ministry of 3DMovements, they are a group of ordinary women who are passionately trying to live like Jesus. They teach and equip women to be disciple makers and leaders in whatever context they find themselves. Their goal? To see women of all backgrounds, ages and life stages acquire the tools to do all that Jesus did while he was on Earth.

Come ready to embrace your calling! Get equipped & empowered as women for God.

Questions? Contact Co-Directors:

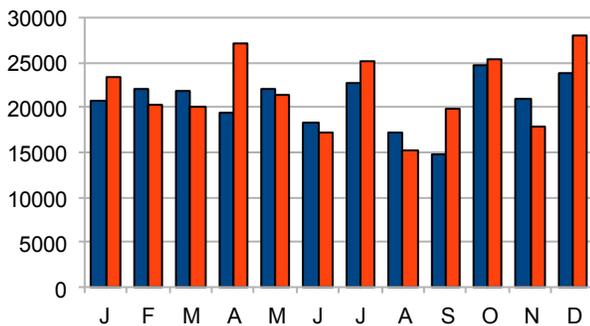
Clara Ames
clara.eh.ames@gmail.com

Lynn Kaufman
lynn-arniekaufman@juno.com

DECEMBER'S INCOME & ATTENDANCE CHARTS

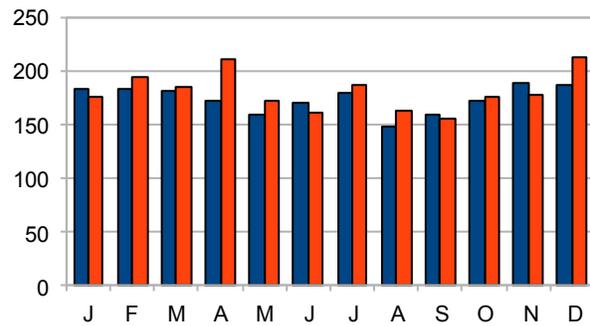
INCOME

■ 2016 ■ 2017



ATTENDANCE

■ 2016 ■ 2017



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance December 1, 2017	\$46,726.97	Sheetz (Gas in Van)	\$43.01
		John Gross & Co. (Paper Towels)	\$47.00
DEPOSITS	\$27,909.90	Staples (Printer Ink)	\$99.97
		Saylor's Market (Fruit Basket)	\$29.95
EXPENSES		Doubling Gap Ctr (DecRetreats)	\$155.00
Donald C. Snyder (Dec Salary)	\$1,912.26	Cash (Honorariums)	\$1,400.00
Donald C. Snyder (Dec Housing)	\$1,052.24	Carrie Kimmich (Jr Church Teacher Gifts)	\$100.00
Donald C. Snyder (Nov Travel)	\$205.00	Advance Publications (Live Nat Ad)	\$52.56
Royetta G. Baughman (Secretary/Dec)	\$758.57	The Guide (Live Nativity Ad)	\$147.96
The Board of Pensions (Jan)	\$459.21	Bender Hardware (Lights & Wiring for Barn)	\$49.73
Eastern Regional Conf (Ret Pastors Ins)	\$80.00	Blue Mountain Blooms (Funeral & Altar)	\$101.00
Eastern Regional Conf (Dec Tithe)	\$1,878.00	Lisa's Floral Shoppe (18 Poinsettias for Altar)	\$117.00
ERC (Dillingers-Nov Faith Promise)	\$454.00	Corner Store (Bulletins)	\$159.00
Transfer to Mission Trip Fd(Nov Ben Tithe)	\$300.00	Entrust (Ginters-Dec)	\$75.00
Newville CoG (Nov Ben Tithe-PAW Packs)	\$160.00	Send International (Books-Dec)	\$70.00
Giant (Nov Benevolent Tithe)	\$300.00	Neighbors in Christ (1/2 Bday Gift for Jesus)	\$694.50
Saylor's Market (Nov Benevolent Tithe)	\$700.00	BS Area Food Bank (1/2 Bday Gift for Jesus)	\$694.50
New Hope CoG (Nov Benevolent Tithe)	\$300.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$25,792.85
Pleasantville CoG (Nov Ben Tithe)	\$458.12	Balance December 31, 2017	\$48,844.02
Transfer to Building Fund (Dec Transfer)	\$3,000.00		
Adams Electric Cooperative (Nov)	\$230.00		
Century Link (Nov)	\$120.83		
Waste Connections of PA (Dec Trash)	\$97.28		
Timmons Oil, Inc.	\$2,040.94		
Erie Insurance (Bus Liab,Work Comp, Ul- traflex)	\$5,194.00		
Right Now Media (Monthly Service)	\$129.99		
Mirelle Associates (Nov P/R & Tax Svc)	\$75.00		
IRS (Nov FIT, SS, Medi)	\$1,138.71		
PA Dept of Revenue (Nov SIT)	\$212.52		
Sherry Koppenhaver (Dec Custodial Svcs)	\$500.00		

Building Fund **\$186,876.46**
 (CD \$102,465.77 & Checking \$84,410.69)

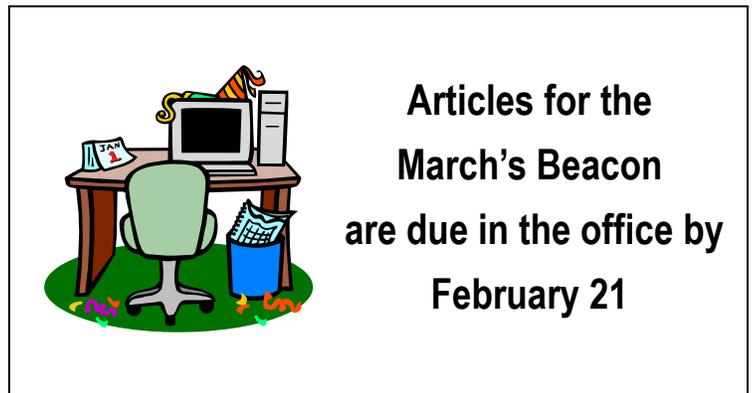
The following is a breakdown of the major funds available within the general treasury:

Live Nativity Fund **\$ 3,680.92**

Mission Fund **\$4,446.14**

Geese Church /School offerings are included in this total)

Mission Trip Fund **\$7,453.51**



Mission Board Update

Devin and Tabitha Dillinger

Total collected for our 2017 Faith Promise as of December 31 is \$4,553.00.

Paw Pack Program

Every Thursday a paw pack team is packing bags for 115 kids.

Don't forget to bring snack pack pudding (4 oz) or Pepperidge farm goldfish crackers (1 oz bags).

Voice of the Martyrs

The Voice of the Martyrs presents the inspiring new movie ***Tortured for Christ***, a cinematic retelling of the testimony of VOM founder Pastor Richard Wurmbrand as written in his international bestseller *Tortured for Christ*. This movie was produced to honor the 50th anniversary of the book's 1967 release. Filmed entirely in Romania, including in the very prison where Pastor Wurmbrand endured torture and solitary confinement, this powerful film uniquely presents the story with live action rather than interviews. The dialogue is presented in English, Romanian and Russian (with English subtitles) to hold to the authenticity of this true story.

The movie will be playing on March 5 at 7:30 at the Chambersburg AMC or Midtown Cinema Harrisburg.

Next Meeting:

February 1, 2018 at 7:00 pm



