

Doubling Gap Church of God Beacon

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Standing in the GAP with the Gospel

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR DON

“The Love Bug” John 13:34-35

How many of you remember the original ‘Love Bug’, a 1968 Disney movie starring Dean Jones? It was about a love story between the two lead characters and about this car that became a marchmaker and acted like a person and....well just Google it or rent the movie! Love bug is also a term of endearment that some people use for their spouses. There is even a love bug insect known as *Plecia nearctica*, which is quite the pest in the southern states. But I want to spend time writing about another type of love ‘bug’, one that is infectious. This love bug has its roots in scripture! The reference is from John 13. We touched on this type of ‘love bug’ in the month of January as we looked at what it means to be a good steward. As we roll into February, I thought it appropriate, with Valentine’s Day this month, to continue that talk about the love with which we, as followers of Jesus, should be infecting others. It’s that contagious love, that sacrificial love, that Jesus type of love that others see in us and want to experience for themselves. It is the kind of love we reflect because of the love God has poured into us. But it’s hard to express something that you have not experienced yourself and I wonder sometimes if that isn’t the reason Christians struggle to reflect this infectious love. When believers take the time to really reflect on what God has done in them and to them when they came to know His Son as Lord and Savior, I think they become more aware of how they need to live infectious lives when it comes to loving others. Often we use the excuse that some people are just too hard to love, or that we have been hurt too deeply to ever love that person again. But when we do that, we fail to look at our own relationship with God. How difficult are we to love? How deeply have we hurt or offended our Father through our disobedience? When we pause to reflect on our own failings and shortcomings in our relationship with God, we realize if it were not for His grace and mercy, we would never be ‘worthy’ of His love. But that is the amazing thing about God’s love! While we were yet sinners, Jesus died for us! Even though we continually fail to walk in obedience, when we fess up, He picks us up, cleans us up, and sets us on the right path again... and again... and again! (1 John 1:9) When we look at others with that type of perspective, suddenly it IS possible to love them even if they have wounded us deeply. Is any of this easy? No! In fact, it is impossible to do without the power and working of the Holy Spirit. And that is another amazing thing about our Lord Jesus. He promised to send us the Holy Spirit as our guide, our counselor, our comforter who would teach us how to live and LOVE like Jesus! If you are a born again believer you have the Holy Spirit in you! He is God’s deposit that secures your relationship with Him!

This month let us learn how to be infectious with the love bug! May others see in us the love of Jesus shining through. May they know we belong to Jesus by our love for each other. May our communities be changed because we are changed! **Go and be an infectious ‘love bug’ to someone today! Oh, and also check out the Love Bug movie. I think you will enjoy it!**



February 2020
Volume 20 Issue 2

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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

Deacons

Deaconesses

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FEBRUARY

Pastor Don

1. Tammy's surgery this month.
2. Beginning a season of fasting and prayer.

Pastor Brian

1. Emily and I will be going to Haiti Feb. 12 - 19. We will be helping to get updates on sponsor children at the Global Outreach school.
2. I will be speaking at the Newville Youth Retreat, March 20-22.
3. Continued balance between family, school, and responsibilities at church.

Pastor Don's email 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 3, 4 (by apt), 13,
17, 20, 24



SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

9AM to 12 NOON

dgapsec@embarqmail.com

**Royetta will not be in the office
from January 29-February 4.**

Big Spring Area Food Bank

Doubling Gap Church is a **KETCHUP** Church for the **Big Spring Area Food Bank** and we donate ketchup on a monthly basis. If interested in sharing in this worthwhile ministry, please place your donations in the box provided in the narthex. All ketchup will be delivered to the Big Spring Area Food Bank by the scheduled distribution dates, a list is posted on the bulletin board. Your continued efforts are gratefully appreciated. If you have any questions about the Food Bank, you can contact Jim Henneman.



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BRIAN

When Jesus Prayed

Last month, I shared some thoughts about why Jesus prayed. This month, I want to get practical and look at some of the things Jesus did when he prayed. Let me offer two suggestions: pray early, and pray privately. Mark 1:35 tells us that Jesus got up early, while it was still dark. I think he probably did this for two reasons. First, it was quiet. Think about the routine of your day for a moment. From the time your alarm goes off, and you get up and get moving, how much “quiet” is there? If your spouse gets up with you, there’s no doubt conversation. If you have children to get up and get ready for school (or teenagers that you have to make sure get up and get ready!), then you are interacting with people almost from the start of your day. There is noise. The TV is on; the radio is on; there are sounds of water running, and doors opening and closing, and people moving about. Even in Jesus’ time, the community came alive at dawn. People got up to go work the fields, or care for the animals, or head to town to market their wares. After all, there wasn’t much they could do at night! People would be talking and eating; animals would be stirring and moving as they were fed, saddled, and hitched up. Yes, even in Jesus’ day, it was noisy. *Noise brings distraction.* Our minds get focused on other things, and before we know it, we’re off and moving into the day. Now, I know what you’re thinking. “I don’t like to get up early!” Neither do I. When that clock goes off and I drag myself out of the warmth and security and comfort of my blankets, I understand what Paul meant when he said “I beat my body and make it my slave” (I Corinthians 9:26-27). But I do it, because finding a quiet time to pray is important. It helps me maintain my relationship with God.

The second reason I think Jesus got up early was because he prayed at the start of his day, before others could come and distract him. He prayed before he did anything else, and he went to a place where he could avoid interruptions. That equipped him for the day. It may not sound like much, but the truth is it doesn’t take much to derail us from our plans. Nobody plans on getting pulled over for speeding or getting into an accident on the way to work. Nobody plans on getting into a disagreement with a coworker, or being chastised by the boss. Nobody plans on a child or a spouse getting sick. How we respond to distractions and interruptions, though, reveals a lot about our character. You don’t have to read very far into the gospels to discover that Jesus was constantly being interrupted. Yet he always took time to minister to those who came across his path. “He had compassion on them...” (Matt. 14:13)

“We will pray, or we will fail.” What is it that you’re facing, that you get tired of feeling like you’re never getting ahead of it? Is it financial worries? Relational struggles? Parenting? Job insecurity? Pray about it. Even if it doesn’t seem like it will make a difference. Are you tired of feeling like you are failing? I challenge you to try this: for one week, find a quiet time each morning, before the others in your world are up and about, to pray. Tell God about all the things you are struggling with. And be sure to take a few minutes to just sit quietly, breathe deeply, and let the Holy Spirit speak to you. You may not feel any different; but when the distractions come, I promise you that you’ll be more equipped to face them.

Praying for you, that you would not fail!

Pastor Brian

FEBRUARY'S GREETERS



- 2-Sue Jardine & Bev Agar
- 9-Nathan & Lori Chronister
- 16-John & Cindy Clouse
- 23-Sharon Barrick & Joann Varner

****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.**

FEBRUARY'S NURSERY SCHEDULE

Sunday School

- 2-Dawne DeWalt & Cassie Blomstrom
- 9-Joyce Smith & Jenn Bolze
- 16-Katie Kane & Jeanette Morris
- 23-Cora Agar & Cindy Clouse

Worship

- 2-Angie Lowery
- 9-Sharon Hostetter & Carley Miller
- 16-Sue Oiler & Sue Jardine
- 23-Tammy Cornman



Family Life's Weekend To Remember

Hershey Lodge, Feb. 14-16, 2020

Cost is \$175 per person / \$350 per couple. Early registration is \$75 off, if you register a month ahead of time. Our church will also pay \$50 per couple, for anyone from our church who attends. That brings the total price to **\$225 per couple** for the weekend. If you have never gone, it's a GREAT TIME away, no matter how long you've been married, or how strong you feel your marriage is (or isn't!) See Pastor Don or Pastor Brian for more information!

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

*Meet in Room #4 in the CE Wing at 10:00 am

2,9,16-Steph & Oliver Cohick
23-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

2,9,16-Chad & Sarah Baughman
23-Children's Chat & ARKK

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

2-Adam Cohick & Gracie Chronister
9-Adam Cohick & Sharon Barrick
16-Adam Cohick & Wendy Stuber
23-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.



ACTS OF RANDOM KINDNESS KIDS (ARKK)

"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

1 Corinthians 11:1



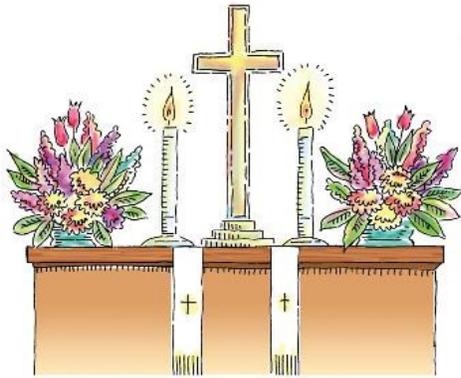
THIS IS A MILESTONE YEAR FOR ARKK AS WE ARE ENTERING OUR 5TH YEAR. I encourage all the young people in our church from ages 3 to 18 to come join us for a time of devotion, activities involving acts of kindness in our community, snacks and games. As always we meet the last Sunday of each month (January-October) immediately following children's chat.



New this year, ARKK will be collecting empty egg cartons. We are collecting empty egg cartons to donate to the New Hope Ministries in Mechanicsburg. We ask that you collect these at home and bring them in and place them in the designated bin at church.

Keep bringing in those aluminum soda tabs and glossy magazines for the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey. ARKK will be collecting these indefinitely.

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



Remember to sign up on the 2020 Flower Chart on the Narthex bulletin board, to honor or memorialize family or friends.

*The cost for the two vases of flowers is \$40.00

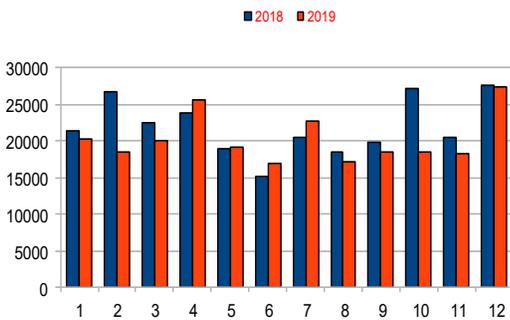
**INCLEMENT
WEATHER
INFORMATION**



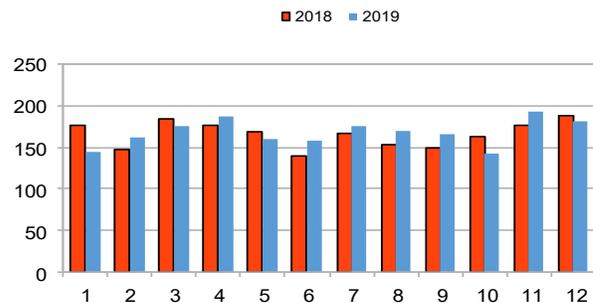
In case of inclement weather tune to Channel 21 or 27 or call one of the council members listed on the front of the Beacon.

DECEMBER'S INCOME & ATTENDANCE CHARTS

INCOME



ATTENDANCE



DISCIPLESHIP

Bulletin Board

February 2020



Bobby Baker	Standard Lesson Quarterly	Room 9
Charlie Clouse	“Power of Love” by David Jeremiah,	Room 8
Leilani Reeder	“Judges” with JD Greear	Room 10
Adam Cohick	Gospel of Mark” by Francis Chan,	CE Wing
Mike Bolze	That the World May Know” by Ray Vander Laan	Room 5
Preschool – 1 st Grade	Cliff & Connie Cornman	Room 11
2 nd – 3rd Grade	Carl Baughman & Alan Dewalt	Room 13
4th-5th Grade	Shane Reed, Tammy Cornman, Dawne Dewalt	Room 14
6 th – 12 th Grade	Emily Rosenberry, Kyle Whisler	Room 7

Weekly Adult Groups

“The Book of Judges” Some of the most exciting and intriguing stories from the OT appear in the book of Judges. We meet at 7 on Wednesday evenings for prayer & bible study. Open discussion, question-and-answer style. Come join us!

“Gospel of Mark”, by Francis Chan Men’s Bible Study, 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 at the church.

Family Life’s Weekend To Remember

Hershey Lodge	Feb. 14-16, 2020
Poconos	March 20-22, 2020
Poconos	March 27-29, 2020

Cost is \$175 per person, plus lodging. Check www.familylife.com/weekend-to-remember for available discounts; our church will also **help pay** for your registration. Contact Pastor Brian for details.

Mission Board Update

February's Mission Moments

2- Gesse Church & School

9-Meet the Need

Feed my Starving Children

16-2020 Faith Promise-Acosta

23-Testimony & Praise

Fruitbelt Camps

We will be visiting the camps in February and having a meal with the workers. See Carl for additional information.

Paw Pack Program

Our church is collecting the following items:

Small packs of goldfish (1 oz bags)

Snack Pack Pudding (4 oz non refrigerated type)

Next Mission Board Meeting

February 6, 2020 at 7:00 PM



- **Pray for Carl & Royetta Baughman, Kyle Whisler and 13 other Church of God team members as they will be going to the Dominican Republic from January 29-February 4, with Pastors Caleb and Christina Acosta. We will be doing work projects and ministering to four churches during our visit.**
- **Also remember Pastor Brian & Emily Ramsey as they will be heading to Haiti in February.**

Check these out on



RightNow Media is a free resource our church provides to you. *Check out one of these this month!* Unsure how to use RNM? Contact Pastor Brian or the church office, and we'll get you started!

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**“Eliminating Debt”, by Crown Financial Ministries.** There’s no denying that debt takes a toll on us – financially, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually. That’s why this study is so crucial! In less than two hours, this video will help you create a plan to attack your debt and be free from the dangers of debt dependence. Main topics covered: 5 reasons people dive too deep into debt; practical ways to eliminate debt; how to address special issues like credit scores and bankruptcy. There are 2 main videos in this session, with the largest portion (over 70 minutes) being devoted to eliminating debt. Optional study materials may be purchased for \$10. Crown Financial Ministries is a trusted, biblically-based financial ministry, with many videos and studies on a variety of finance-related topics available for free on RNM.

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“Whisper”, by Mark Batterson. How close do you have to be to someone to hear them whisper? Mark Batterson leads us through 4 sessions, each only 10-12 minutes, which will teach us how to discern the voice of God in our lives. He will introduce what he calls the “7 Love Languages of God”. This study comes with FREE downloadable leader’s guide and participant’s guide, perfect for personal or small group study.

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**“At the Altar of Sexual Idolatry”, by Steve Gallagher.** Sexual temptation is undeniably the greatest struggle Christian men face. Here’s a study that digs deep and has the answers men are looking for-the kind that actually work. While other studies deal with the subject superficially, *At The Altar of Sexual Idolatry* goes right to the heart. It draws back the curtain and exposes how sexual sin corrupts the entire man, something Steve Gallagher understands, having lived in the bondage of it for over twelve years. Put an end to the mystery of lust and maximize God’s power in your life with the proven answers that have helped thousands. This in-depth study has over 40 video sessions, each 15-20 minutes in length. This isn’t a topic that can be dealt with swiftly or just on the surface. If you know someone who is struggling in this area, point them to this study.

**Parents' Corner**  
**February 2020**

**How to Trust God with Your Adult Children**

By Jodie Berndt

***What do you do when your adult children don't make the choices you wish they had?  
Get insight into how to trust God with your adult kids.***

"I just don't think people get married anymore."

My friend was smiling, but her eyes were sad. She'd just told me that her 32-year-old daughter had moved in with a boyfriend. As I listened to her story, I could sympathize with her. We are both mothers of grown children, and we have both had to learn that our adult kids often make big life choices that are different than what we've done, or they've acted in ways that are not in their own best interest. And when things don't turn out as we've hoped — either because of a poor choice a child makes or because some difficult circumstance arose — we find ourselves fearful about what the future might hold for our kids. *Does God really does have this under control?*

With my four adult children, I have found myself in those tough emotional places, watching my kids navigate iffy dating relationships, discouraging job hunts, health problems and many other challenges. There have been many times in which trusting God hasn't been easy, times when I'm sure His handiwork is unraveling. *God, I know You've said that we can be confident that You'll complete the good work You've started, but sometimes it's so hard to see how that could happen.*

If you've found yourself in that same place, you can find hope by leaning into God, even when you don't see His hand at work. Here's how I've learned to trust God with my adult children:

**Love is the only way.** Throughout the years of child-rearing, Christian moms learn that their best defense is to pray. But perhaps, for our grown children, we need to have a different focus to our prayer. One mom I talked to was used to praying for God to convict her daughter about a particular sexual sin when she felt God interrupting:

*Your daughter knows that what she is doing is wrong, she sensed the Lord whisper. You've told her plenty of times. Instead, pray that she will experience My love.*

Recognizing that it is God's love and kindness that lead us to repentance (Romans 2:4), this mother changed her approach. She began to pray out of love, rather than worry or fear or judgment of her daughter's behavior. Eventually, her daughter did experience both conviction and repentance, but God also changed the mom's heart, helping her recognize she couldn't control her daughter's decisions in life and that only God's love could change the young woman's heart. "God's ways are always better than mine," this mom told me.

God's ways *are* better. Isaiah 55:9 calls them "higher." He does want to transform our lives and change our hearts. But God doesn't always work in ways that we recognize, and the transformations can be hard to endure. This seems particularly true when outcomes for our children are uncertain — when a job search turns up empty, a health concern stretches into years or a beloved prodigal shows no sign that he is ready to turn his life around and come home. When those times come, remember that your prayers and interactions with your child are motivated by a desire to have your child fully experience God's love — and your love.

**Embrace God's word for your kids.** God knows our adult children in ways that we don't, and He loves them far beyond what we can see, so we can trust that He is at work in their lives. Not that this trust ever comes easily. The best way I've found to anchor this trust — and let that mooring give shape to my prayers for my children — is through the promises in Scripture. "If you abide in me," Jesus promised in John 15:7, "and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

*Ask whatever you wish? Really?* No, this isn't some sort of guarantee that just because we can slap a Bible verse on a request, God has to do it for us or for our kids. Rather, it is an invitation to dig into God's Word, allowing His principles and promises to shape our parenting perspective and our prayers. When God's Word truly lives within us, we will pray in accordance with those principles. Again, we must leave room for a God whose ways really are higher than ours.

**Remember God will accomplish his purposes.** I don't know what the future holds for my children. But as I look down the road, wondering who they might marry, where they will live, and — most significantly — how and when they will draw close to God and glorify Him, I hang on to verses like Philippians 2:13: "It is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." That's one of my favorite parenting anchors.

But it is a promise that comes with a catch. God shapes our attitudes and our behavior, but He does so with an eye toward accomplishing His purposes, which may or may not line up with our ambitions. Sometimes God gives our kids the very thing we've asked Him to provide. The spouse. The healing. The job. But sometimes God gives grace instead — the kind of grace Paul talked about in 2 Corinthians 12, when he said he asked God three times to get rid of a "thorn" in his life, but God allowed it to remain, teaching Paul that His grace was sufficient.

This is the grace that can equip our kids to tap into God's strength and endure those challenging times when they don't get what they want. And it's the kind of grace that equips us to keep praying — and trusting — as we wait for God's higher, and better, plan to unfold for their lives.

