



Sandy Level Welcomes You
to **NEWS ON THE LEVEL**

February 2011
Volume 31 Issue 2



February 3rd
10:00 a.m.



Council of Leaders
February 8th ~ 6:30



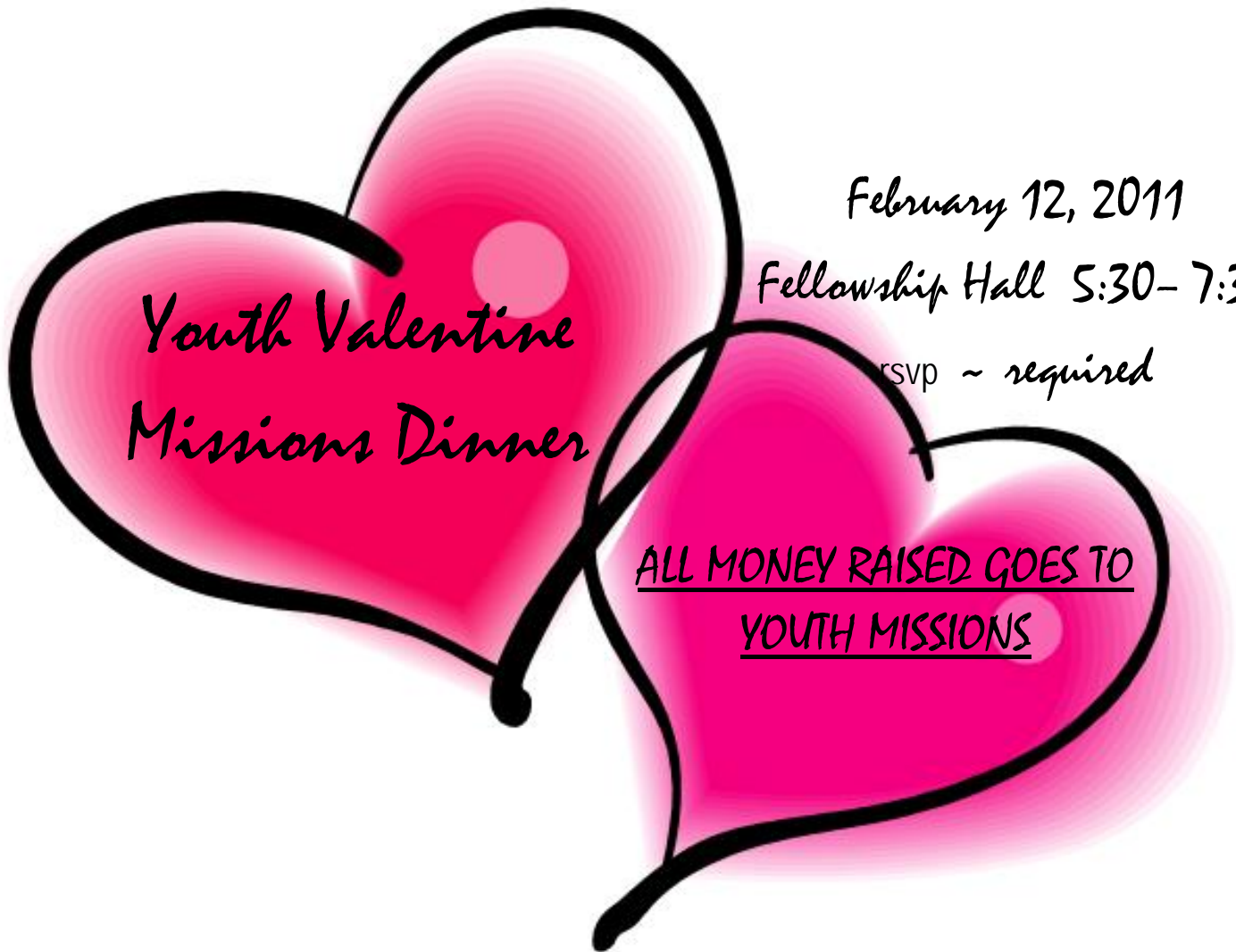
February 17th
Linda McGuffin



Sandy Level Youth
Super Bowl Party 2011
5:00 @ The Dees!



February 28th
Everyone over 55 Invited
bring a dish for
Fellowship following the
11:00 a.m. meeting



Youth Valentine
Missions Dinner

February 12, 2011
Fellowship Hall 5:30-7:30

RSVP ~ required

ALL MONEY RAISED GOES TO
YOUTH MISSIONS

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Are You Afflicted with Hurry Sickness?

John Ortberg writes about asking a respected spiritual advisor, "What do I need to do to be spiritually healthy?" There was a long pause. "You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life," he finally said. "That's a good one," John responded, not being especially impressed with the response. "Now, what else?" After another lengthy pause his friend and advisor said, "There is nothing else." Ortberg writes of this encounter, "He is the wisest spiritual mentor I have known. And while he doesn't know every detail about every grain of sin in my life, he knows quite a bit. And from an immense quiver of spiritual sagacity, he drew only one arrow. 'There is nothing else...You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life'."

A widespread disease called "hurry sickness" afflicts American culture. We have embraced the illusion that "hurrying" will buy us more time. We dine at McDonalds and similar places, not because the food is good or cheaper, but because it is (at least supposed to be) fast. Fast food restaurants realized the public demanded even faster service, so they invented the Drive-Thru lane. After all, who has time to park the car, go inside, stand in a line to order food, and eat inside the restaurant? Now we can do what I actually did a few hours ago—run by the drive-thru (I'm so glad the line wasn't long), grab a sandwich, fries and a drink, and eat while driving on I-77 (and thank the Lord for interstate highways that have no stop signs or traffic lights to slow us down) at 70 (or so) mph headed back to the church! It's called multi-tasking (a real "hurry up" time saver)—eating a sandwich, trading off the sandwich for an occasional bite of French fries, drinking (iced tea), driving, dropping bread crumbs and French fry fragments on the seat and floor of the car, all while listening to Christian music on the radio. I think it safe to say we are all afflicted with "hurry sickness" to one degree or another.

Hurry is the great enemy of our spiritual lives. Those may be hard words to hear. In fact, as you hurry through reading this article, you may find yourself disagreeing. But it's true—hurry will stagnate your spiritual growth and damage your soul. Hurry makes for a fast-paced, superficial life. Richard Foster says superficiality is the curse of our day, and it is rooted in three things—noise, hurry, and crowds. Carl Jung wrote, "Hurry is not of the devil; hurry *is* the devil." Satan knows that if he can keep us living at a frantic pace, we will remain shallow and superficial in our faith and therefore never be a threat to him and his kingdom. Hurry will prevent the "Jesus life" from taking deep root in our lives.

The cure for "hurry sickness" is called solitude. Jesus was acutely aware of the devastating consequences of a "hurry up" lifestyle. He often withdrew from crowds and activities, and he taught His followers to do the same. Mark 6:30-32 (NIV) says, "The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.' So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place."

Let me quote Ortberg again: "We must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from our lives. This does not mean we will never be busy. Jesus often had much to do, but he never did it in a way that severed the life-giving connection between him and his Father...He observed a regular practice of withdrawing from activity for the sake of solitude and prayer. Jesus was often busy, but never hurried."

Some may think the value of solitude is that it helps recharge our batteries so that we are more fit for the rat race. But true solitude does not give us power to win the rat race; it gives us the wisdom to see through it for the imposter it is, and to free us from the inner compulsion to win and the frantic effort to attain. Worldly success at the expense of an impoverished soul isn't the life our Lord has in mind for us. In fact, here's how Jesus put it: "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?" Don't hurry past that statement. Think about it. Think about your life in light of it.

So let me encourage you to develop the spiritual discipline of solitude—investing time and energy in the presence of the Lord to give Him the opportunity to shape your soul for his glory. And here's rule number one for quality, life-changing times of solitude—don't hurry through it!

Build a Bridge - My Vision (March 30, 2010) by Thomas Black Jr.

Setting at the computer late one night on March 30 of last year, searching for purpose and direction for my life, praying about my upcoming trip to Nicaragua the following month with Mike, and whether or not I am called for the Build-a-Bridge mission project, I fell into a deep sleep.....

I had a vision that at the age of 60, I died and went to heaven. I found myself face to face with Jesus. Looking into my eyes, he asked me one question, "Twenty years ago I gave you this vision, and now, who have you helped in the past twenty years?" Thinking back, my eyes quickly fell away from his face, my head hung low, as I answered "No one, Lord...No one." He simply said, "Then go back and start telling the stories I will give to you, tell others about me, and help as many people as you can."



As I awoke, somewhat startled, I realized I was still only forty. Then I began to type, and this IS what I typed: -- *In my life, it's been tough getting to the top, having to paddle very hard. Now I'm at the top of my career and what I set out to achieve in my career. All that appears to be left is the slow ride down the middle of the river. 40 life years gone - 20 good life years left. 17 career years gone - 20 career years left, but what will be different then from now, what more is here to accomplish at my job...nothing. Oh, ... more money, but what do I need that I do not already have...nothing, absolutely nothing. I am happy now, the happiest I have ever been in my entire life. But will I continue to be happy, knowing that I didn't help more people along the way, like I have such a passion to do? Then why not look for another mountain to climb. Oh, that would require leaving the safety of the boat, which is moving slowly down the middle of life's stream. That would mean getting out of the boat and into the water, going onto the shore.....danger, unknowns, perils, falls, trips, etc.*

Building the bridge in Nicaragua - I feel like I have one foot out of the boat, but what will it take to move the other, could it be "The Bridge to Faith"? Is that the mountain I want to climb, my final mountain? But what's on the other side, possible more blessings from God, blessings beyond comprehension? What am I afraid of? Oh, I know, leaving the boat and getting out into the water, and having to fight the current to swim to shore. Then the people in the boat will be yelling, "Why did he leave the safety of the boat? What was he thinking?" To which my reply will be "I had to, I needed another mountain to climb! I wasn't going to simply waste the life I have left going through the daily routines, weekly routines, monthly routines, yearly routines. This is why I left the boat, to re-discover what life is about, helping other people."

That night, after I had finished typing, I prayed for God to provide me a mountain to climb, a challenge in my life - and He did! It was a mountain I wasn't sure I was ready for, as Mike stopped me in the hallway at church the first Sunday in May and simply said this, "Thomas, you have the heart for this project, you have the passion, so I want you to be in charge of getting the bridge designed, raising the funds however you feel led, and getting it built." But then he presented me with a seemingly impossible task, to raise the money (which I had already estimated at \$20,000) by the end of the year so the bridge could be completed by May 2011, so the community would not have to go through another winter having to wade across the river. (We all know that all things are possible with God, right, but this would prove to be the ultimate test of faith for me, and not only that, a journey that would change my life forever.)

Yes, a mountain - and a very challenging faith journey it would prove to be. And, as we all know, the money was raised in only five months. And yes, it ended with God showing himself through the miracle \$6000 gift given the week after the car wash fundraiser, all because of prayers, faith, and ten \$1 bills - a story I will re-tell in next month's newsletter. A lot of people tell me it's an incredible story, because I share it with almost everyone I meet now, just like Jesus told me to do in "My Vision". But even now I look back at the journey and look up and say, "Where did the mountain go?" And this is the answer, "God not only moved the mountain, but he smoothed a road across what was left". Yes, my mountain was indeed moved. Leaves me wandering what's next for me - not sure at this point - but we still have to get the bridge built in Nicaragua, which will be challenging in itself. The best part of this journey has been being able to share it all with friends like you, and hoping that your faith, like mine, has been strengthened, and that you are a little closer to God as a result, because I am.

Senior Saints -- Remember those who cannot come as they once did.....

Earline Boney	1025 Old Birch Drive	Betty Humphries	1213 Grover Wilson Rd
Gabie Entzminger	1519 Loner Road	Dorothy Geddings	133 Tam O'shanter
Louise McCormick	112 Cooper Road	Dan Stevens	1155 Russ Brown Rd
Gladys Wofford	2248 Muller Road	Henry Mixon	11112 Wilson Blvd

all of Blythewood, SC 29016

Dot Blume	9120 Willow Ridge Road - Apt 225	Charlotte, NC 28210
Louise Cooper	NHC Parklane 7601 Parklane Road	Columbia, SC 29223
Polly Raines	NHC Parkland 7601 Parklane Road	Columbia, SC 29223
Freeman Sharpe	NHC Parkland 7601 Parklane Road	Columbia, SC 29233
Carrie Toplock	Life Care 2514 Faraway Drive	Columbia, SC 29223
Willa Jean & Claude Williams	NHC Parklane 7601 Parklane Rd	Columbia, SC 29223
Ruby Boney	Alterra Sterling 251 Springtree Drive	Columbia, SC 29223
Rollin DeHart	Uni Health 1075 Heather Green Dr	Columbia, SC 29229



Youth Winter Retreat - WinterPlace Flat Top WV. January 14 - 17, 2011



Sandy Level Youth

Jake 



Partner with us
to take the
message of
Jesus Christ to
the world!

Greenville, Mississippi, USA

Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada

July 2011

Upcoming Fundraisers

Valentines Dinner~~~~~February 12

Yard Sale~~~~~March 5

Car Wash~~~~~April & May

You may also give a Love Offering on any
Sunday morning to the
designated fund
Youth Missions Trip.



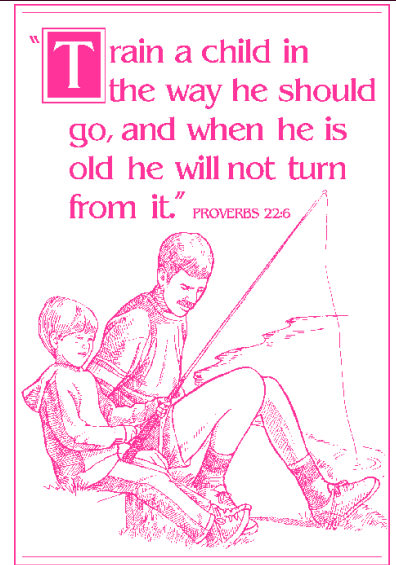
Children's Ministry Schedule - February

February 6th **Nursery:** Herb & Billie Wofford
Toddlers: Paula Thayer & Susan Combs
Children's Church: Cara Kaiser

February 13th **Nursery:** Donna Baughman & Lauri Dees
Toddlers: Jerry Kaiser, Eddie Baughman & Cyndy McCormick
Children's Church: Alice Wofford & Gina Moak

February 20th **Nursery:** Lori Tilley & Shannon Wooten
Toddlers: Benji Barfield, John Combs * Michelle Creel
Children's Church: Carisa Buff & Judy Sitton

February 27th **Nursery:** Janice Phillips & Chris Wofford
Toddlers: Danielle Kahle & Derrick Horton
Children's Church: Ginger Kramer



Kids For Christ
February 6th
 Chris & Alice Wofford

Happy Birthday!!

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Ray Kersey | 12 Lea Oakes |
| 1 Caitlin Wilson | 12 Bob Simmons |
| 1 Jan Baker | 13 Jared Thompson |
| 2 Rhonda Meisner | 18 Hannah Tilley |
| 4 Nancy Wilson | 18 Amanda Payne |
| 5 Cara Kaiser | 22 Emily Broach (Mrs.) |
| 5 Maxine Dennis | 23 Marcia Stewart |
| 7 Lauri McLean (Brice) | 24 Dorothy Hubbard |
| 8 Polly Raines | 25 Shannon Wooten |
| 9 Brad McGuffin | 25 Matthew Harrison |
| 9 Gertrude Whitlock | 28 Ethan Meetze |
| 9 Katie Warren | 28 Mark Moak |
| 11 Ryan Dees | |

USHERS FEBRUARY

02/06/11	Alex Oakes	Alan Branham
02/13/11	Derrick Horton	Greg Dees
02/20/11	Jerry Whitlock	Jim Zimmerman
02/27/11	Jerry Kaiser	Bruce Hubbard



**Andrew Royson's address in Afghanistan.
 Mail may take as long as a month to arrive.**

LCpl William A. Royson
 2D Battalion, 8th Marines
 G Co (Platoon)
 Unit 73240
 FPO AE 09510-3240

Happy Anniversary!

- | | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Tony & Danielle Kahle | 7 |
| Jessie & Alice Payne | 22 |
| Albert & Emily Broach | 26 |



"OPERATION WARM"

GA's and RA's collected jackets from November until January. They were able to collect 71 jackets and blankets. These jackets and blankets will be donated to the Cooperative Ministry downtown.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Youth LT 7:00 Gleaners 7:30 (FH)	2 Fellowship Meal 	3 	4	5
6 Youth Super Bowl Party	7	8 Council of Leaders 6:30	9 Fellowship Meal 	10	11	12 Youth Valentine Dinner  RSVP required
13	14 Happy Valentine's Day 	15	16 Fellowship Meal 	17 Women's Ministry 6:30 p.m. Linda McGuffin	18	19
20	21 	22	23 Fellowship Meal 	24	25	26
27	28 					

Wednesday Night Schedule

- 5:30 Fellowship Meal
- 6:00 Music Makers, Youth Bible Drill
- 6:30 Prayer Meeting, RA/GA
- 6:45 Mission Friends
- 7:00 The Station
- 7:45 Adult Choir

Sunday Morning/Evening Schedule

- 9:15 Sunday School
- 10:30 Morning Worship
- 5:00 Bible Drill 4-6th grade
- Acteens/Iron Men
- Bible Buddies (Gr 1-3)
- Adult Small Groups (Childcare - Infants and Pre-School)
- 6:30 Children's Choir (2nd thru 6th grade)
- Youth Choir
- Men's Small Group
- 6:45 Adult Bible Drill I
- 7:30 Adult Bible Drill II



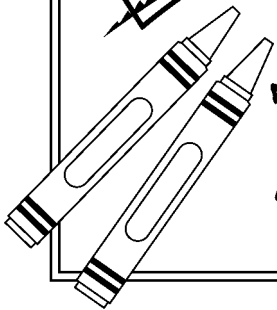


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PUZZLE

A Love Letter

In the New Testament, John writes a letter about God's love and the love we should show to other people.

DIRECTIONS: Working from left to right, write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's. Then read about love, from 1 John 4:11-12, NIV.

lives 3	in 3	us 3	Since 1	and 3	God 1	so 1	loved 1	his 3
us 1	love 3	we 1	If 2	also 1	is 3	made 3	we 2	ought 1
to 1	love 2	love 1	one 1	complete 3	one 2	another 1	in 3	us 3
another 2	God 2							

1 John 4:11-12, NIV

Answers: Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.