



## Can Can News

The success of everyone's donations to the Utah Aids Foundation has been overwhelming. So far we have collected 784 ounces of peanut butter, 650 servings of tea, 315 of cocoa and 130 of coffee. We received 22 pounds of honey and jelly and 48 individual special snacks. All of these will go a long way in making a special treat for someone who needs it most.

### WHAT HAS FOUNDATION DONE FOR YOU AND THE CHURCH?

During our Annual Church Meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>, some members were surprised to see that the church had an outstanding loan balance (long and short term) of \$95,452.55. The underlying question was how could this have happened? Here is another surprise. Since 2000, the Foundation has lent to the church a total of \$211,956. The following provides a breakdown of those loans.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reason for the Loan</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>
12/2000	Roof contractor went bankrupt. Long term loan established secured with a Trust Deed on the church and property with an interest rate of 6.28%.	55,325
08/2008	Long term loan to replace the church's sanctuary sound system. Loan extended the existing Trust Deed loan.	50,000
04/2011	Short term loan to pay for remainder of parlor / Keck Hall flooring costs not raised through congregational donations.	13,131
07/2011	Lack of congregational giving and payroll could not be met after paying minimum monthly payments. Loan granted on short term loan basis.	12,000
09/2012	Long term loan to cover removal of buried fuel oil tank, necessary testing costs and ground compaction and building a compound for church air conditioning units.	62,500
11/2014	Legal and testing costs pertaining to contractor caused flooding of air conditioning unit compound. Water damage caused concrete failure of the compound and subsequent law suit for damages.	9,000
11/2014	Short term loan for payment of 2 year old debt to the church's plumbing contractor.	5,000

In December 2007, the Foundation entered into a loan agreement which allowed for two types of loans. The long term National Ministries loan is secured by a Trust Deed charging no Interest with a pay off duration of 8 years. The Line of Credit (LOC) short term is not secured, charges no interest and has a pay off duration of 4 years. Foundation By-Laws caps loan amounts to 15 percent of total Foundation assets. Within that amount, LOC loans are capped at \$20,000. In 2012, the congregation voted to exceed this cap for a two year period beginning in 2013.

In addition to loans, the Foundation grants (gifts) yearly dollars to the church operating budget. This grant has been as high as \$15,000 yearly and is presently at \$9,000 per year. In 2011, the Foundation granted \$10,000 to underwrite an outreach effort to neighborhoods around our church as well as \$3,000 because church payroll could not be made after minimum monthly payments were made.

Looking at the past 15 years, the Foundation has provided a cash flow of over \$211,000 and grants of over \$190,000. As mentioned in the last Beacon, the Foundation has become a silent partner in the operation and mission of our church. The above story has never been shared to the congregation because it gets hidden in the Foundation yearly annual reports. Bottom line is that our stewardship efforts have not kept up with our church's vision.

The First Baptist Church Foundation is committed to the on-going survival of our church and its vision for mission. We will continue our efforts to the limits set for us.

Gary Felker, President of the First Baptist Church Foundation

### **Kids' Praise Club Parents—**

Pastor Curtis and Jane Nelson would like to meet with you for a few moments following worship on February 22 in the Library. They would like you to come with your opinions on Kids' Praise Club and what you would like or expect your children to learn during their time in Kids' Praise Club. Please join them for this important meeting.

**February 8th only- Hearts and Hands project.** The Can Can will be collecting items to make special Valentines Day goody bags for the residents and staff at the Sarah Daft Home. Please help us collect small decorative bags, treats and cards. We will be putting together and delivering 45 bags after worship on Sunday February 8th. Please see Ann Burnett for details and questions.



### **Baptist Day at the Legislature is set for February 3!**

You are invited to join Pastor Curtis on Capitol Hill for our day at the Legislature. Talk to him about details. It would be great to have 19 to 20 folks up there for the day. Meet in the Aspen Room of the Senate (East) Building. Sponsored by the Coalition of Religious Communities who urges you to commit to social justice by visiting the legislature on this special day and participating in the legislative process. It is best to take TRAX and then the #500 bus to the east entrance of the Capitol. Talk to Pastor Curtis for more information.

**I want to thank all the gals** that participated in the Lava Retreat for a fantastic time. The fellowship was wonderful. We were blessed by Elisabeth Frost leading us in two meaningful devotions and Kristen Carter and Stephanie Gosdis leading the craft of making votive candles. **Marion Deware**

### **ADULT CLASS ON PARABLES CONTINUES**

Esther McCarty and Kelly Byrne are meeting in the library on Sunday mornings at 9:30. Each week they present one of the parables of Jesus --- what he said and to whom -- and discussion of what it meant to those who heard and what it means for us today. Come for breakfast at 9:15 and then join the discussion.

## This Month at FBC:

- Feb 1: Souper Bowl Sunday
- Feb 3: Baptist Day at the Legislature  
Beers and Bros 6:30 at Fiddler's Elbow
- Feb 8: ABYouth Parents meeting following worship
- Feb 10: Ruth's Circle 4 pm in the Library
- Feb 11: Council of Ministries at 5:45 pm
- Feb 12: AB Women luncheon at noon
- Feb 16: Office and Child Care Closed for Holiday
- Feb 17: Beers and Bros 6:30 at Fiddlers Elbow
- Feb 18: Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm
- Feb 20: Third Friday Bingo at 7 pm
- Feb 21: Annual Talent Show at 7 pm
- Feb 22: Kid's Praise Club parents meeting following worship
- Feb 27: Council of Ministries Retreat 6 pm
- Feb 28: Council of Ministries Retreat 8 am

**Happy Birthday To:** Feb 1: Marion Deware. Feb 2: Evan Williams. Feb 4: Ione Stephenson, Sharon Cooper. Feb 9: Joni Wilson. Feb 10: Julie Elston, Natasha Tutonda. Feb 13: Ryan Willett. Feb 15: Kathy Felker. Feb 18: Kavan Cannon, Kaitlyn Ellis. Feb 24: Emily Brown, Lisa Rausher Hekking, Sam Yin. Feb 26: Rea Petersen. Feb 28: Charlotte Gibbons

### **Souper Bowl of Caring**

Once again ABY kids will be at the doors of the Sanctuary on Feb 1 with soup pots in hand for you to donate to the Souper Bowl of Caring 2015. Cash, change, checks and credit cards accepted. Then join them upstairs in Keck Hall for a soup lunch by Chef Ken.

### **To the Parents of ABYouth Kids:**

Pastor Curtis would like to meet with you for a few moments following worship on Feb 8. Pastor and Esther are looking for some feedback about ABY. Please plan on joining them in the Library that morning.

### **Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th.**

We will be having our Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm in Skaggs Chapel. Please join us as we begin the holy season of Lent.

### **Church Talent Show—Feb 21st at 7 pm in Keck Hall**

Yes! It is that time once again! Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 21 for this fun, crazy annual event! Maggie is looking for a variety of talent (and not so much talent) in addition to a great audience for those brave enough to get up on the stage. Please contact Maggie, preferably by email or some other written format by Feb 18th. If you choose to not perform, please come join the fun! Bring a snack to share (chips, veggies, fruit, dessert). Beverage will be provided. Poetry, singing, musical instrument, dancing, juggling, skits. All types of talent are welcome!

Contact Maggie at [margaret.chaney@comcast.net](mailto:margaret.chaney@comcast.net) or send a text message to 801-386-2022.



# The Beacon

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## **It's a great Mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the Church - Ephesians 5:32**

As Valentine's Day approaches one's mind cannot help but turn to love. Particularly the committed love between two people who have chosen to spend their lives together. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians speaks of this love and encourages couples in this commitment saying, "Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ." He goes on to talk about the two becoming one flesh and then he likens that mysterious effect to Christ and the Church; "It is a great mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the Church."

Paul is brilliant in this. At first he seems to be doing marriage counseling as he encourages wives and husband to respect each other and to support one another. He is here acknowledging the difficulties people in committed life-long relationships face. Growing and become one's self over the years and yet doing it in tandem with someone else; seeking the welfare of the other people in your life while still maintaining a sense of one's own needs; considering the thoughts and feelings of another person when making almost every decision; it all can feel quite daunting and it takes a lot of patience and communication to do it well. However, when one really does seek to make a healthy relationship, the rewards are exponential. One is blessed with that constant companion who really gets you and loves you even having seen you at your worst. One never has to bear the weight of every decision alone but that load is shared. One is not left to make sense of the world merely with one's own lens but is challenged by the perhaps contrary view of another so our own thinking is deepened and transformed. The blessings go on and on.

As Paul contemplates this he then takes a remarkable step: he traces it back to the relationship we have with Christ. The loving committed relationship we have with our partner, with all of its challenges and blessings, is almost exactly like the relationship we have with Christ. All of those traits that make a successful lifelong partnership with the one you love are the exact same traits that make our relationship with Christ good. Communication, consideration, remembering important information, thinking about how our actions affect people and events: all of this and more are what make one's relationship with Christ deep and meaningful.

As we think about how to celebrate the love we share with another person on this St. Valentine's Day, I want to encourage us to think about how our relationship with Christ is personified in that relationship and then apply it to our faith life.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Curtis