

## ***NEWSLETTER***

### **PRAYING FRIENDS**

While trying to decide on a topic for this newsletter, we received a Christmas letter in the mail. It is one of those “annual” letters sent out each year giving updates on family members, etc. It seems like our lives are so busy we don’t take time to communicate with friends as often as we should or want to. It was great to hear from our old friends and my husband and I spent a couple of hours remembering the days gone by when we would see and/or talk to them on a regular basis. Things change and our friends moved away from the area and consequently, we didn’t see as much of them as in the past.

Our children and our friends’ offspring are now young adults and launching out building lives of their own. There are grandchildren experiencing college life or getting established in the workplace. An engagement and upcoming wedding is announced and decisions about jobs and travel are mentioned. My husband and I discuss our thoughts and opinions about their lives and ours. As realists, however, we know our input would be considered as “meddling” or “interfering”, so we talk to one another and bounce ideas and comments back and forth. We smiled at each other and commented, “we’ll be praying for them; in this mixed up world today, what more can we do”!

Even though our friends were not in the room with us, we could feel the friendship of years gone by. In all the years we have been friends, which is close to 50, we have supported each other in prayer. I was thinking of young newlyweds and the husband being deployed to help fight a war, or a couple’s infertility problems, or mourning the loss of a loved one, all of which cause tears, and how the reassurance and prayers helped them get through the darkest days and gave them strength and hope to carry on with their lives. There was a time of rejoicing in praise and thanksgiving when cancer went into remission or one member of the family successfully recovered from a stroke, or the birth of a new baby. These things are beyond our power but comforting to know of One who did have power. These things only cause a friendship to grow deeper and be strengthened by the cords of prayer.

It is comforting to hear someone say they wish you well, or will be thinking about you. A cheerful note or telephone call is always welcome. However, the compassion of a commitment to “pray for you” lifts a friendship to a level above the ordinary. It lifts the heart and soul with the knowledge that your concerns will be brought before God in heaven who knows and loves you more than any person ever could. And in a world where time is of the essence, the promise of prayer reminds us of a place where eternity reigns supreme.

Sometimes, when we are faced with someone else’s pain or need, we are overwhelmed. We feel helpless or at a loss to offer advice. The beauty of prayer is that it is not limited by our limitations. Prayer brings access to the abundance of God. It does not require a college degree or experience in counseling, but only the willingness to listen and share our concerns with the Lord. Prayer requires no special equipment and is not defined by where we live or work.

**As friends, we enjoy opportunities to share laughter and tears, memories and dreams, to hold a hand or offer a hug. But there is something more we can do for one another out of love - - - we can exercise the precious privilege of lifting one another in the arms of prayer.**

**“Dear Lord, we thank you for the privilege of prayer and the assurance that you hear and answer your children. Help us be a faithful friend, bringing concerns before you, trusting in your love to encourage and sustain in every circumstance”.**

**Ephesians 1:15-16: “Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks to you, making mention of you in my prayers....”.**

### **A CHANCE TO BE**

**Coach Wilson knew what Chad wanted before he even sat down.**

**Chad adjusted his wire rims and took the seat offered to him. “I sort of got cut from baseball”, he began softly.**

**“Uh-huh,” Coach Wilson said, searching for something nonexistent on his desk to avoid looking the youngster in the face.**

**“And I was wondering....I was wondering whether there was room for me to run on the track team”.**

**Wilson winced a little. Every year it was the same story. The boys that didn’t make the baseball team suddenly wanted to run track. “There’s always room to run”, he responded simply.**

**“I meant...”, Chad searched for the right words. “I really want to do something important. Do you need me somewhere, like the high jump or something?”.**

**Coach Wilson smiled. “Yes, Chad, we’ll find a spot for you. I’m sure we’ll need you someplace.**

**Chad beamed. “Thanks, Coach”.**

**Practice starts at 3:15 today. Be dressed and ready”.**

**Chad nodded, got up, and closed the door behind him.**

**Wilson pivoted around in his swivel chair and stared out his window that gave him a view of the school parking lot. He could see Sean Dawson climbing into his mother’s Mustang. Wilson shook his head. Dawson dominated. Six-feet-four, well muscled, and good looking, Dawson was a natural athlete, and all the girls thought him to be a dream. Yet in four years he had never gone out for any sport at A-E-V-W High School in spite of prompting from every coach. Most of the coaches had stopped trying.**

Dawson had no real excuse, other than not wanting to get a shorter haircut and wanting to have more free time. One of Dawson's friends once confided to Wilson that Dawson spent most of his afternoons at the local video arcade or at home watching reruns on TV. Wilson shook his head again.

"What we fail to do with the talents God's given us..." Wilson muttered to himself. It was hard not to be bitter, especially since he had never had a winning year or even an individual champion in eight seasons as a coach. And every year there were good-quality athletes doing nothing, while he had to make do with those who failed to make other teams.

Turning in his chair again, Wilson glanced up at a picture on his wall. It was a photo of his track team from the previous year - - not a lot of talent but nice kids who gave him all they had. And so here I am, making do with the baseball coach's castoffs again, he thought, while kids with ability go home and watch TV - - kids wasting the ability God gave them. And what do I get out of it? Nothing. After this season, I think I'll .....

His thoughts were interrupted by another knock at the door.

To his "Come in", Johnny Page, a lithesome, good-looking freshman, stuck in his head. "Coach Wilson, I didn't make the baseball team, and I was wondering....."

Wilson smiled wearily. "Practice at 3:15", he said simply.

"Thanks, Coach", Page said, returning the smile. He hesitated at the door for a moment and then blurted, "I shouldn't have even gone out for baseball. I'm not that good. But then I heard some of the older guys talkin'. They were sayin' how you give people a chance ....a chance to be somebody, you know?" Embarrassed, he began to shift his feet. "Well, thanks," he repeated as he began to close the door.

"No, Johnny", said Coach Wilson, leaning back in his chair and folding his hands across his stomach, "thank you!"

Page finished closing the door and made his way to the locker room wondering what the coach meant by that.

**QUESTION FOR YOU: What do you think Coach Wilson meant by his comment?**

Borrowed from March/April 1989 issue of "SpiritQuest" and written by Kurt Fischer

<i><b>JANUARY BIRTHDAYS</b></i>		<i><b>FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS</b></i>	
Charles Smith	3	Philip Garlich	2
Diane Virden	4	Courtney Brown	3
Richard Marquardt	6	Eleanor Noack	8
Canyon Hopkins	9	Fred R. Martens	9
Jackie Marquardt	10	Don Johnson, Sr.	12
Eric Marquardt	13	Charlie Garlich	15
Robert Clifton	16	Robert Marquardt	17
Nancy Radke	16	Karla Soper	18
Sue Heldt	18	John Grisso	21
Sue Jordan	19	Derek Perkey	26
Sharon Mittag	19		
Vicki Russell	21		
Matthew Tyler	21		
Gary Smith	25		
Janice Jensen	28		
Retta Smith	28		
Ashley Holcombe	29		
<i><b>JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES</b></i>		<i><b>FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES</b></i>	
Greg and JoLee Mapes	3	Willis and Tammy Jones	6
David and Carrie Garlich	14		
<b>Fred and Helen Martens</b>	15		

### 2011 ELDER LIST

<b>Ted Albrecht</b>	<b>996-2650</b>	<b>May, June, October and November</b>
<b>Warren Brott</b>	<b>993-4990</b>	<b>March, April, November and December</b>
<b>Gary Smith</b>	<b>996-2718</b>	<b>February, March, August and September</b>
<b>Kevin Holcombe</b>	<b>758-2940</b>	<b>January, June, July and December</b>
<b>Bob Radke</b>	<b>996-9067</b>	<b>April, May, September and October</b>
<b>Jon Tyler</b>	<b>996-2966</b>	<b>January, February, July and August</b>

**Inclimate weather:** In the event services need to be cancelled here at Trinity, it will be shown on WHO TV (Channel 13), KCCI TV (Channel 8) or WOI TV (Channel 5). It should also be announced on WHO Radio (1040 AM). An elder or designated person will also try and contact members via telephone. If you have not been contacted and are wondering about services, you can call an elder. The phone numbers are listed above. You can also check our website: [www.trinity-vm.org](http://www.trinity-vm.org).

**Emergency Pastoral Care:** In the event you or someone you know needs pastoral care you are asked to contact one of the elders listed above, or our Vacancy Pastor, Rev. Arno Melz at (515) 331-0498 (home) or (515) 314-9313 (cell).