

Church of the Savior

The Messenger

Tuesday, January 21, 2003

Next issue of the newsletter: Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Deadline for items: Friday, January 31, 2003

Pastor's Letter

A teacher in New York decided to honor each of her seniors in high school by telling them the difference they each made. She called each student to the front of the class, one at a time. First she told each of them how they had made a difference to her and the class. Then she presented each of them with a blue ribbon imprinted with gold letters, which read, "Who I Am Makes a Difference." Afterwards the teacher decided to do a class project to see what kind of impact recognition would have on a community. She gave each of the students three more ribbons and instructed them to go out and spread this acknowledgment ceremony. Then they were to follow up on the results, see who honored whom and report back to the class in about a week.

One of the boys in the class went to a junior executive in a nearby company and honored him for helping him with his career planning. He gave him a blue ribbon and put it on his shirt. Then he gave him two extra ribbons and said, "We're doing a class project on recognition, and we'd like you to go out, find somebody to honor, give them a blue ribbon, then give them the extra blue ribbon so they can acknowledge a third person to keep this acknowledgment ceremony going. Then please report back to me and tell me what happened."

Later that day the junior executive went in to see his boss who had been noted, by the way, as being kind of a grouchy fellow. He sat his boss down, and he told him that he deeply admired him for being a creative genius. The boss seemed very surprised. The junior executive asked him if he would accept the gift of the blue ribbon and would he give him permission to put it on him. His surprised boss said, "Well, sure." The junior executive took the blue ribbon and placed it right on his boss's jacket above his heart. As he gave him the last extra ribbon, he said, "Would you do me a favor? Would you take this extra ribbon and pass it on by honoring somebody else. The young boy who first gave me the ribbons is doing a project in school, and we want to keep this recognition ceremony going and find out how it affects people."

That night the boss came home to his 14-year-old son and sat him down. He said, "The most incredible thing happened to me today. I was in my office and one of the junior executives came in and told me he admired me and gave me a blue ribbon for being a creative genius. Imagine. He thinks I'm a creative genius. Then he put this blue ribbon that says "Who I Am Makes a Difference" on my jacket above my heart. He gave me an extra ribbon and asked me to find somebody else to honor. As I was driving home tonight, I started thinking about whom I would honor with this ribbon and I thought about you. I want to honor you. My days are really hectic, and when I come home I don't pay a lot of attention to you. Sometimes I scream at you for not getting good enough grades in school and for your bedroom being a mess, but somehow tonight, I just wanted to sit here and well, just let you know that you do make a difference to me. Besides your mother, you are the most important person in my life. You're a great kid and I love you!"

The startled boy started to sob and sob, and he couldn't stop crying. His whole body shook. He looked up at his father and said through his tears, "Dad, earlier tonight I sat in my room and wrote a letter to you and Mom explaining why I had killed myself and asking you to forgive me. I was going to commit suicide tonight after you were asleep. I just didn't think that you cared at all. The letter is upstairs. I don't think I need it after all." His father walked upstairs and found a heartfelt letter full of anguish and pain. The envelope was addressed, "Mom and Dad."

The boss went back to work a changed man. He was no longer a grouch but made sure to let all his employees know that they made a difference. The junior executive helped several other young people with career planning and never forgot to let them know that they made a difference in his life... one being the boss's son.

Who has made a difference in your life? When was the last time you let them know? As Christians, sometimes we need to be reminded to go out and make a difference in some one's life. Let us consider ourselves reminded.....

Pastor Thea

In Our Prayers

Will Kamp Fritz Kate Nancy Murphy Paul Hammons
Laurence Wellons Charlene Ledbetter John Robinson

Jerry Ventress' mother died recently. Please keep Jerry and her family in your prayers.

If you know of someone who would benefit from a visit by our Caring Commission or Pastor, please contact the church office.

DEB'S PAGE

Youth Truth

Great time with younger kids you guys. Thank you for being terrific Mentors. I am so proud of you!

Looking ahead: All of our efforts right now are for our youth led contemporary service on February 23. So...get ready!

Joyful Noises

Lots ahead for all of us as we look toward Spring. Thank you for your voices and faithful attendance and for your flexibility and creativity.

Kids Korner

I was so happy to have all of you at COTSY We'll do it again soon. So, get ready to grow in Christ through faith and fun.

NEEDED

Mobile Meals Driver Needed

Need a driver on the 1st Thursday's of the month. Help us keep this Mission service going.

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to help assist in answering the church office phones from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. when the church secretary is out of the office. Please call and leave your name with Karleta.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Work Parties

The Support Commission has elected to hold a work party on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Projects to be accomplished will be announced and volunteers will be appreciated.

COTSY CAFÉ

The first COTSY Cafe will be held Sunday, February 2 after church! Come and enjoy a meal with the church family and help raise money for the youth summer mission trip. The meal will be hosted by church youth, and donations will be accepted.

MENU:

sloppy joes

chips

pickle

cookie

Everyone welcome!

FYI

Name Tags

Please check your nametag in the back of the sanctuary for accuracy. If you find a discrepancy please call me so I can have it corrected.

I will continue to monitor these tags in order to make sure all information stays correct.

George Whiting 721.8959

Church of the Savior
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January 21, 2003

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