

## Speaking the Truth

 from the Pastor . . .

I was having a conversation the other day about a certain political figure, who will remain nameless, and as usual when speaking about a controversial individual, a great flurry of emotions arose. Surprisingly, there was nothing that this individual had done that was inflammatory. There was no specific action that anyone could denounce as unreasonable or corrupt. Sure, there were allegations, but none were founded with evidence. To the contrary, the person's actions refuted the allegations. Additionally, there was nothing flagrantly offensive about the political figure's policies. They were stern, but no new law or policy we implemented; current laws were simply enforced. And yet at the mere of this man's name, even those who could find no grievous fault in his actions furrowed their brows and shook their heads.

Begrudgingly those who oppose this man are forced to admit that much of what he says is correct. That painful admission, however, is usually accompanied with the question: "But why does he have to be such a jerk about it?" There lies the rub. A person can be right in the facts and still be wrong because they have alienated themselves from their audience. No one likes a know-it-all, especially if they are crude or rude in the process. This was also one of the reasons why I stopped using social media, like Facebook. While some may see these platforms as a helpful way to check up on distant friends and relatives, it became something darker for me. It pained me when I saw people I deeply cared about celebrating and boasting in extremely harmful behavior and metaphorically flipping the bird at God and at their parents, who expressed to me that they were ashamed and wondered where they had gone wrong. Thinking I was being helpful, my gentle nudging through messages that perhaps they should not share these things for the whole world to see, not only brought the ire of the recipient, but also the open forum.

Soon I found myself arguing against people I didn't even know defending basic morality. I was accused of being an oppressive religious bigot for speaking out against deadly sins that were unquestionably harmful to everyone. And the more I was falsely accused, the more angry I became, and the more angry I became, the more I appeared like the very thing they falsely labeled me. My attempt to help a misguided loved-one was transformed into a battle against the internet. I saw myself as the righteous knight in shining armor, but to others I appeared a bloodthirsty berserker who used logic, reason, and fact like a cudgel, bludgeoning whoever dared to subvert my mission.

Thankfully God blessed me with an incredibly wise helpmate. She asked, "Would you rather be right or nice." When you have fact, logic, and Scripture on your side, the idea of ceasing the hostility for the sake of being nice can seem unthinkable in the heat of the moment. It can feel like a betrayal of the truth. So, I instinctively responded, "I would rather be right!" To which, my sage-like wife replied, "And how's that working for you?" I didn't dawn on me until that moment, that no one was listening. It didn't matter that I was right if my argument fell on deaf ears. In a normal interpersonal conversation, nonverbal clues are given that signal when people are only talking past each other, but the impersonal social media platform made me miss the warning signs. They became deaf because I was blind. I was the "jerk."

The Apostle Paul writes in the fourth chapter of his epistle to the church in Ephesus:

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup>But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift...

*Continued on next page*

<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (Eph. 4:1-7, 11-16)

Even though my initial intent was to warn a fellow Christian that he was walking a dangerous path that was leading him away from Christ and distressing his family, I became a stumbling block to the truth by responding to non-Christians with hostility instead of walking in a manner worth of my calling as a disciple of Christ and reflecting him to world though “all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” The more I bashed the non-Christian bad influences, the more it was seen as an attack against by straying brother in Christ. The effectiveness of my conversation with him ended as soon as I threw down the gauntlet against the Facebook interlopers.

As Christians, we are bannermen of the truth. We have been set free by the truth of Jesus Christ and become a new creation through our baptism into his death and resurrection. We are no longer darkened in our understanding or alienated from God due to ignorance that chose a hardened heart of rebellion rather than our Father’s forgiveness and mercy, which is freely given for the sake of Jesus to the repentant. Once you know the truth, it is unthinkable to go back into ignorance. But to those who are still trapped by self-delusion and lies, the truth that they are sinners and who deserve death and that their only salvation is by grace through faith in Christ is a hard pill to swallow. It is also difficult for a new or struggling Christian to accept. This is why Paul says that preaching Christ crucified is “a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Cor. 1:23-24)”

So then what? Are we to emphasize being nice and agreeable at the expense of the truth? Is it more important to be likeable than right? No! Not at all. This doesn’t have to be a dichotomy. It is possible to be firm and steadfast in what is good, right, and true without being a jerk about it. Our goal is to bring people into unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, but that requires us to be patient and long suffering in loving compassion as the scales slowly fall from the eyes of one mired by sin’s deception. We all start as infants in the faith, and some develop in maturity at different rates. For some it is like a duck to water; for others it is a life-long struggle. The Body of Christ is called to teach and preserve the faith of believers as they mature.

And so, as people of God in Christ Jesus, we model the same patience and forgiveness that God has for us that those who hear the truth “may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.” We are called to speak the truth, always the truth, but we do so with love. “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never ends. (1 Cor. 13:4-8)”

Like a parent, who wants to either pull their hair out or curl up into the fetal position when facing an obstinate and incapable of reason toddler, we firmly but patiently teach the truth. The truth is not a weapon to crush your enemies; it is the key to the freedom of a future ally. Truth wins out in the end, however, we must discipline ourselves, our language, and our actions so that we do not become a hinderance that delays the victory. “Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

## 2019 Haiti Mission Trip

*Dear Mt. Pisgah Family,*

*There is so much to share with all of you about the recent mission trip to Haiti, that we have decided to create a "special addition" publication to relay all that is happening in Laotchikit and the surrounding regions. This will be in your mail slots soon.*

*We would like to extend our thanks here to those of you who sponsor students in Laotchikit and provide you with the following update about our visit with them.*

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On January 13, 2019 we had the privilege of meeting many of the students you support who attend middle and high school in Hinche. Without the help of annual scholarships, these children would not be able to continue their education beyond 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We thank God for your support!

During this trip we visited Laotchikit where the church is strong and Christian education is fully integrated into all aspects of the church and community. We also visited villages similar to Laotchikit without a strong church and without a school. *The difference was startling.* In villages without Christian education, we saw many young teen mothers with multiple children. The children and babies are infected with scabies (a contagious, intensely itchy skin condition caused by a tiny, burrowing mite). Dental hygiene is not practiced. Symbols of voodoo are painted on walls. Young children abandoned by teen mothers, are left around the village to fend alone. These are places of no hope.

But the students in Laotchikit are excited and hopeful, able to dream and plan for a good future. There were some students who were not present because they were sick at home with fever. Typhoid fever is a problem around Hinche. Clean drinking water is scarce, and the lack of clean water contributes to this and many other fatal diseases. Many students said they were praying for the health of their sponsor. It was only when we realized how quick and how often death comes in Haiti, did we understand why this prayer was so important to them.

We met and prayed with the students and told them you love and pray for them. We discussed the conditions of receiving a scholarship which are 1) work hard in school, 2) stay active in church, and 3) stay sexually pure because if they become a mother or father, we expect them to stop school and care for their child. All the students we talked to are active in the church through attendance, singing in the choir, or cleaning the church. Each one is intelligent, kind, and very appreciative of the blessing of continued education.

Thank you for sponsoring students in Laotchikit and giving them hope for a good future.

Wendy White

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***"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."***

***Jeremiah 29:11***



## **FEBRUARY 2019 MISSION OF THE MONTH**

### **HISTORY**

Established in 1984 by local churches, the Hendersonville Ministerial Association and the synagogue to coordinate crisis services in their behalf, Interfaith is now supported by local congregations, businesses, civic groups, individuals and grants.

### **HOW CONGREGATIONS HELP**

Local congregations support Interfaith with funds and in-kind donations (food, clothing, blankets, school supplies, etc.). They also offer their time and talents for special projects needed to maintain and improve the IAM facility.

#### **Congregations of any size can help by**

- Giving unrestricted contributions
- Recruiting new volunteers
- Designating IAM as the recipient of your Souper Bowl of Caring annual event
- Holding drives: food, clothing, personal care items
- Scheduling outdoor work days for youth groups and/or adult groups
- Allowing our executive director, board members or congregational ambassadors to speak about IAM at your church or synagogue
- Holding special events such as dinners, luncheons or breakfasts or yard sales to benefit IAM

## **FEBRUARY PANTRY NEEDS**

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| ♦ CANNED CHILLI         | ♦ TOOTH BRUSHES AND TOOTHPASTE                |
| ♦ INSTANT GRITS         | ♦ UNDERWEAR (ALL SIZES MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN) |
| ♦ CANNED TUNA           | ♦ SOCKS (ALL SIZES MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN)     |
| ♦ INSTANT OATMEAL       | ♦ MEN'S & BOYS WINTER SHOES                   |
| ♦ MIXED BEANS           | ♦ BLANKETS                                    |
| ♦ CANNED VEGETABLES     | ♦ SHEETS & PILLOW CASES                       |
| ♦ INDIVIDUAL FRUIT CUPS | ♦ TOWELS & WASH CLOTHS                        |
| ♦ COFFEE                |   |
| ♦ TEA                   |   |

## Double Deliverance

*Psalm 91:11 "For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways."*

It seemed more than we could bear. On January 16, a quiet evening at home turned into a nightmare when Dan had a seizure. I called for an ambulance as Steve tried to comfort Dan and keep him from hurting himself. Once in the ambulance, another seizure took place with Steve holding Dan's hand throughout. I drove by myself to the Emergency Room, trying not to let my fears overwhelm me, praying desperately for deliverance from this nightmarish moment.

Ben was working, but left as soon as he heard about his brother and met me at the hospital. Steve, Ben, and I were at Dan's side as they stabilized him, ran tests, and got a room ready for him. After a couple of hours, Ben left to go home and get some rest to be ready to go to work the next day. Black ice caused him to skid; the car spun and went through a wooden fence. Fence posts impaled the floor of the car and one went through the driver's side window. Glass went everywhere, cutting Ben's face and hands, but his eyes were spared. The EMT's and the towing company that towed away the car said that Ben was "lucky to be alive". I answered the phone while still in the emergency room with Dan, to find out that an ambulance was bringing Ben to the same emergency room. The hospital ran tests to be sure no internal injuries were present, and he had many stitches put in to close up the cuts on his face.

Later, Steve and I felt the magnitude of what had happened to us. Both of our sons could have died the same evening, but God sent his angels, especially to guard our Ben and ensure his injuries weren't life threatening.

We thought this episode was over, however more was to come. The following Monday, Dan had follow-up blood work done. A couple of hours later, Steve received a call from our doctor's office to go to Mission Hospital's Emergency Room. Dan was in renal failure. We tried taking him home that evening and doing what we could to hydrate him and get his blood chemistry stabilized, but it was clear the next morning that we were unsuccessful, so Dan and I went to Asheville and waited for hours in the Emergency Room before being admitted that evening. Dan was to endure two rounds of dialysis and a full week in the hospital before returning home on January 30.

We so appreciated our supportive Church Family through all this. Your cards, prayers, and emails meant so much to us as Steve and I spent time at the hospital. Dan was never left alone during his stay at the hospital, and we appreciated how the hospital staff allowed us to be there for every test and procedure so that Dan didn't ever feel alone. I can't even count the number of times Dan said, "I love you, Mom" That made it so worthwhile.

Dan is now home and will probably never need any more dialysis, as his kidneys are now taking care of things without any outside intervention. Everything that happened to Dan was brought about by an overconsumption of water. This led to dangerously low sodium levels that triggered the two seizures. The resultant muscle damage from the seizures released in an over abundance of creatinine into Dan's blood, overwhelming his kidneys and causing the shutdown. It is sobering to think that something so benign as drinking water could have such catastrophic results, but that is exactly what happened.

Despite our worries and fears, God was always with us, providing us comfort through those around us. As our pastor in Maryland ended every church service, "God is good, all the time, God is good!"

The Kirchoefer family

Parish Life will be hosting a  
**Shrove Sunday Dinner**

**on Sunday, March 3, 2019**

**The menu and time will be announced  
in the Church bulletin.**

**Sign up will begin on February 10th.**

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**Please share at our annual Shrove Sunday Dinner and Talent Show on Sunday, March 3, your musical talent, jokes, crafts, art, hobby, or whatever it is that demonstrates your creative, gifted self.**

**Contact Vickie Amato,  
by Monday February 25,  
at 828-698-0127 or [gvamoto@bellsouth.net](mailto:gvamoto@bellsouth.net).**



## *From the Ladies Guild*

**The Ladies Guild will be meeting on Monday, February 11th at 1:00 PM.** We will have a guest speaker, President and CEO Anthony McMinn, from the Hendersonville Rescue Mission. Please come and learn about this very important mission in our community.

**Smart Start Partnership for Children did a presentation for us at our January meeting.** We heard about the vital importance of a child's first 2000 days of life, building the foundation to make a child ready to learn when he or she enters kindergarten. Smart Start Partnership for Children funds projects that help preschool children. They support preschools and their staff, have partnered with local pediatricians in Reach Out and Read to promote reading in the home, and instituted the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program (DPIL). Every child who is registered in Henderson County, regardless of income status, receives a free book in the mail every month until the age of 5. Currently, over 2,000 children in our county receive these books that encourage parents to read to their children, which will in turn prepare the children for kindergarten. The cost Smart Start pays for one child to receive a book monthly for one year is \$30. If you are interested in contributing, information is available on the table by the church office in the narthex.



**Pecans are still available for purchase on Sunday mornings.** How about using them as gifts for your Valentines ("I'm just NUTS about you!")?

**Each bag costs \$11.** Proceeds support mission projects throughout the world.

**YARD SALE!!** Hang on to your unwanted items and we will try to sell them at our June yard sale. More details to come....



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is

## Mt. Pisgah Preschool News

The children will be learning about winter weather, polar animals, hibernation, and celebrating diversity the month of January. Lutheran Schools Week will be celebrated the week of January 28. This year's theme is "Real. Present. God." and is based on Psalm 46.

On MLK Day, the school was closed and the staff came in for a meeting and to prepare their classrooms. Steve Leyrer took pictures of all the staff members and they will be displayed soon on the entrance wall to the Preschool. Much thanks to Steve for doing this as the staff directory was quite outdated.



**The Souper Bowl helps make that day more meaningful by collecting cans of soup wrapped with a dollar to help hungry and hurting people in our community.**

**The big soup pot will be in the Narthex on Sunday February 3rd—Sunday February 10th ready for your contribution.**

## YOUR ELDER'S

COLOR BELOW MATCHES THE  
COLOR ON YOUR MAIL SLOT

EIDAM

HAWTHORNE

KIRCHOEFER

LEYRER

MORIN

ZAGONE

## ELDER ASSIGNMENTS AND MAIL SLOTS

Have you noticed something different about the mail slots in the Narthex? Be sure to check and see if your Elder assignment has been updated. The background color of your name corresponds to the name of your Elder (left).

Also be sure to check your mail slot on a regular basis for important information, the newsletter and other correspondence.



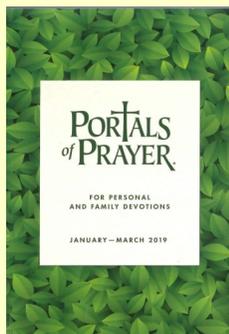
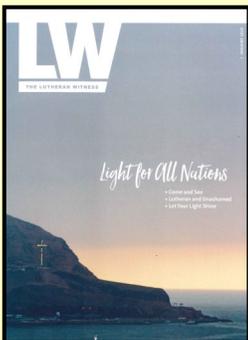
## *RECIPE'S NEEDED!*

We are in the planning stages of doing a cookbook to be put out early 2019 and will be looking for wonderful recipes from the congregation! Look for boxes out in the narthex and near the preschool to contribute your recipes.



CHURCH  
DIRECTORY

The Church Directory is in the process of being updated. If you have new contact information please e-mail the Church Office at [mtpisgahlems@gmail.com](mailto:mtpisgahlems@gmail.com) or call (828) 692-7027 to provide your changes by **February 28th**. Thank you!



## Lutheran Witness & Portals of Prayer Contributions

Please consider a contribution to offset the cost of the *Lutheran Witness & Portals of Prayer* publications provided to the congregation. The current price for a yearly subscription for LW is \$12.95. Quarterly Portals of Prayer are \$2.50 ea for the digest size and \$1.25 ea for the pocket size.



**FREE Tax Return Preparation for Elderly Taxpayers, February 5-April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019** at Hendersonville Church of Christ, ANNEX 1975 Haywood Road / Hwy. 191. **No appointments necessary – first come first serve.** Tuesdays – Fridays 9AM-3PM, Mondays in the evening 4PM-8PM, Saturdays 9AM-1PM. Certified AARP Volunteers. **Phone # 698-6213.**

# SERVING IN FEBRUARY

## FEBRUARY USHERS

	8:00 AM	10:45AM
2/3	Lydia Cassidy Bill Kruse	Steve Kirchoefer, Laura Reinhold, Harold Zell
2/10	Paul Mincer Tony Selius	Adell Keeney, Maureen Duemig, Jerri Creech, Bill Jaeger
2/17	Rick Sanborn Rudy Eidam	David Hawthorne, Steve Leyrer, Leah Ryel, Harold Zell
2/24	Jen Stickney Mike Ebanks	Steve Kirchoefer, Kathy Kirchoefer, Ben Kirchoefer, Dan Kirchoefer

## FEBRUARY LECTORS

	8:00 AM	10:45AM
2/3	Rick Sanborn	Lois Schweinler
2/10	Jerry Kaufman	Kathy Kirchoefer
2/17	Vickie Amato	Maxine Tatreau
2/24	Paul Mincer	Debby Zagone

*Commemorate a special date or celebration*

Altar flowers are needed for:

**February 10**  
**March 4, 31**

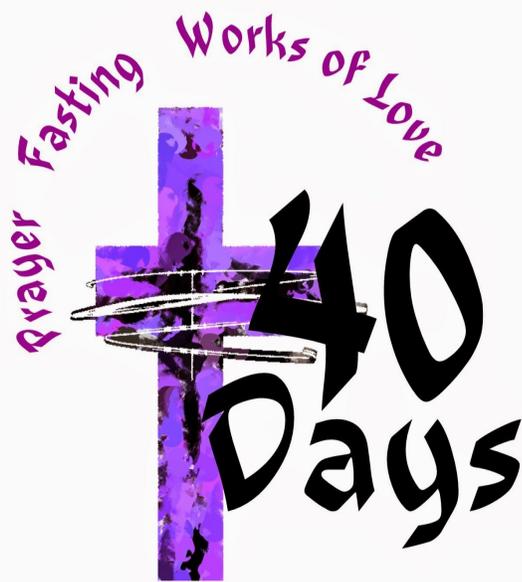


Altar arrangements of cut flowers are needed for the **open** dates indicated above. Please call the Church Office (692-7027) or sign up on the flower chart on the bulletin board near the Ladies' Room. If you choose to use a Florist other than **Etowah Florist** or **Forget-Me-Not**, please let the Church Office know to make arrangements for a Saturday delivery.

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES AT MT. PISGAH

<p><b><u>Altar Guild— Seeking Help!</u></b> If you are interested in helping to prepare the altar for Sunday worship, we would love to have you as part of the Altar Guild team. <b>Please contact Adell Keeney for more information (828) 891-9286.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Offering Counters</u></b> Volunteers are needed to count the weekly offerings. This usually take a couple of hours one morning during the week, typically, Tuesday or Wednesday. <b>Please call Sylvia Gonzalez 828-707-1234.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Quilting Group</u></b> Meets on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. Contact Marilyn Bertram at 891-7403</p>	<p><b><u>Prayer Shawl Ministry</u></b> Meets on 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Library <i>All experience levels WELCOME!</i></p>

LENT *Lent* LENT *Lent*

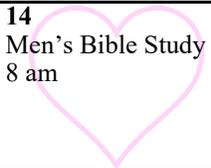


# 2019 *Lenten Schedule*

- † March 6-Ash Wednesday Services 1:00PM & 7:00pm
- † March 13-Mid-week Lenten Services 1:00PM & 7:00pm
- † March 20-Mid-week Lenten Services 1:00PM & 7:00pm
- † March 27 -Mid-week Lenten Services 1:00PM & 7:00pm
- † April 3-Mid-week Lenten Services 1:00PM & 7:00pm
- † April 10-Mid-week Lenten Services 1:00PM & 7:00pm

LENT *Lent* LENT *Lent*

# February 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3  <b>Communion 8am</b> Bible Classes 9:15am <b>Communion 10:45am</b> <b>Choir rehearsal</b> <b>BLOOD DRIVE</b> <b>12:30pm—5:00pm</b>	4 Elders Meeting 7pm	5	6 Women's Bible Study 10pm Mission Planning Meeting 11am Prayer Shawl Ministry 1pm Evening Bible Study 6:30pm	7 Men's Bible Study 8 am Quilter's Ministry 9am	8	9
10 <b>Worship 8am</b> Bible Classes 9:15am <b>Worship 10:45am</b> <b>Choir rehearsal</b>	11 Ladies Guild 1pm	12	13 Women's Bible Study 10pm Evening Bible Study 6:30pm	14  Men's Bible Study 8 am	15	16
17 <b>Communion 8am</b> Bible Classes 9:15am <b>Communion 10:45am</b> <b>Choir rehearsal</b>	18 <b>President's Day</b> <b>Church Office &amp; Preschool CLOSED</b>	19	20 Women's Bible Study 10pm Evening Bible Study 6:30Ppm	21 Men's Bible Study 8 am Quilter's Ministry 9am <b>Pastor's Circuit 9:30 am</b> <b>Church Council 7:00pm</b>	22	23
24 <b>Worship 8am</b> Bible Classes 9:15am <b>Worship 10:45am</b> <b>Choir rehearsal</b>	25	26	27 Women's Bible Study 10pm Evening Bible Study 6:30pm	28		

## February Birthday Blessings!

1 John Frost	17 Brendon Keeney
1 Kathryn Wolfe	17 Suzanne Reid
3 Hank Clancy	19 Muriel Bosker
4 Bill Kruse	20 Madeline Biddle
5 Gabriel Escude'	20 Mary Matthews
5 Debbie Leger	20 Don Ryel
5 Rose Steen	20 Zach White
8 Vickie Amato	21 Ivalee Rymer
9 Peyton Alford	24 Wally Rose Mincer
10 Dianne Luecke	25 Kay Leyrer
14 Rudy Eidam	

### Weekly Bible Studies

**Wednesday @ 10:00 a.m.**  
Women's Bible Study in the Library  
with Pastor Christensen

**Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m.**  
Evening Bible Study  
in the Fellowship Hall  
with Pastor Christensen

**Thursday @ 8:00 a.m.**  
Men's Bible Study at Denny's  
Restaurant (with breakfast).

**Sunday @ 9:15 a.m.**  
Adult Bible Study  
Pastor Christensen



**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 3RD**  
**12:30 pm to 5:00 pm**  
**in the Fellowship Hall**

**Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church & Preschool**  
**2606 Chimney Rock Road**  
**Hendersonville, NC 28792**  
**PH 828-692-7027      FAX 828-692-7667**  
**Jonathan Christensen, Pastor**

**REMEMBER**  
**The FEBRUARY**  
**Council Meeting**  
**is scheduled for**  
**Thursday, FEBRUARY 21\***  
**at 7:00PM**  
**in the Church Library.**  
**\*Please note change to 3rd**  
**Thursday of the month.**