

THE VISION

February 2018

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”

Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

February 14th is celebrated as Valentine’s Day. Historically each year on February 14th, many people exchange cards, candy, gifts, or flowers with their special “valentine”. What’s not to love about one day a year focusing on chocolates and love, right? The day of romance we call Valentine’s Day is named for the Christian martyr, Valentinus, who was killed on February 14th sometime in the 5th century.

I enjoyed David McCullough’s novel, **John Adams**. John and his wife, Abigail, were deeply in love with each other. The couple were often separated for long periods of time, so they corresponded through the mail for 3 decades! More than 1,000 of their letters, chronicling everything from family business to the ratification of the Constitution, survive to this day!

Long after they married in 1764, John continued to fill his notes with yearning and admiration for his bride. On one occasion, he wrote, “You are really brave, my dear, you are an Heroine.” Another letter noted, “A soul, as pure, as benevolent, as virtuous and pious as yours has nothing to fear, but every Thing to hope and expect from the last of human Evils.”

In return, Abigail penned some of American

history’s most memorable love letters, documenting the enduring devotion she shared with her “dearest friend,” as she called her husband. “With an indescribable pleasure, I have seen near a score of years roll over our Heads, with an affection heightened and improved by time,” that is love “1782 style.”

In another letter, she penned, “Nor have the dreary years of absence in the smallest degree effaced from my mind the Image of the dear untitled man to whom I gave my Heart.” WOW, people just do not talk like that anymore!

Abigail also counseled John on political matters in her notes, famously telling him to “remember the ladies” while drafting laws for the newly independent United States. Would we call John and Abigail Adams soul mates?

Have we ever wondered what the Bible says about soul mates? Once again, my friend Rev. Dr. Tom Lovern enlightens us; the term, “soul mate,” is not found in the Bible. We can find definitions from secular sources promoting the idea that a person for whom we feel a special bond, one perfectly suited to complement our temperament, or one who seems to bring out

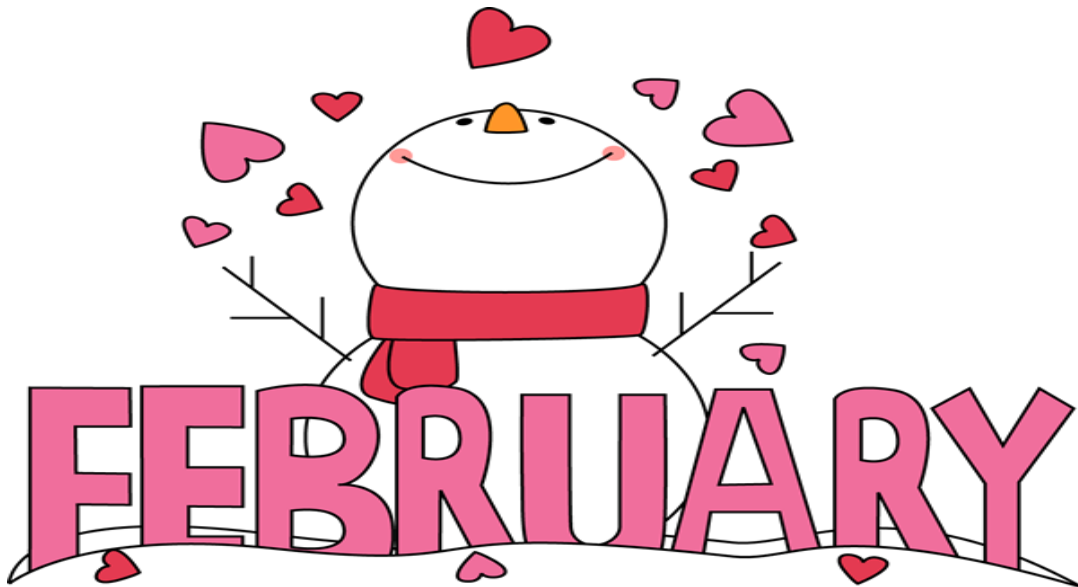
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Deacon's Devotional

God's Workmanship
Amy Boykin

*"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body,
and in your spirit, which are God's."*
1 Corinthians 6:20

The little boy was happy. He felt a sense of accomplishment as he picked up his newly finished little boat. It was the sort of boat only little boys can build. It was made of painted wooden parts and had taken a while to put together. Best of all, it was his. He set it on the water in the creek, and it sailed beautifully. One day, the little boat was left by the side of the creek, forgotten. He didn't mean to forget his boat, but he left it behind. Later he looked for it, but it was gone.

One day, the boy was walking past the consignment store in town and stopped short. There in the window front was his little boat! Oh, he must have his boat again. He checked the price and then ran home to scrape together his available savings. Running to the store, he breathlessly handed the money to the clerk and hugged the little boat to himself. "Now," he said to the little boat, "you are twice mine — first I made you, and then, I bought you!"

The Lord made each one of us. He called us His own, but because of our sin, we were adrift and alienated from Him. Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners and paid the full price to buy us back. We were found despite our lost condition. Now, we are twice God's. He made us, and — through His grace and by our faith — He bought us. Let's glorify God in all of our actions and words — every day — because now, we belong to Him.

—Based on a devotional by Wayne E. Miller, Rushsylvania, Ohio

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the best in us, is our soul mate. Married couples may believe their partner is their soul mate. Dr. Lovern believes that only Adam and Eve fit that description.

The philosophy of soul mates comes from a myth traced back to the Greek philosopher, Plato. He taught that men and women were created in one body but separated by the gods. That leads to the idea that we must search until we find our "other half," or (as we men wisely say about our wives) "our better half." As your pastor, I do not think Plato should be our guide for love. The Word of God will always guide us in the ways of love!

Dr. Lovern concludes, the real answer lies in such scriptures as **Isaiah 43:7**; **Ephesians 2:10** and **Revelation 4:11** where we are taught that our true Soul Mate is Jesus Christ! We were created to bring Jesus pleasure, and Paul says in **Colossians 2:10** that Jesus completes us. When His Spirit indwells, and controls us, we move toward the same goal of glory to God; and that is a true soul mate!

On this upcoming Valentine's Day, may we rededicate our love to our families and to our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ!

—Pastor Bud Goude

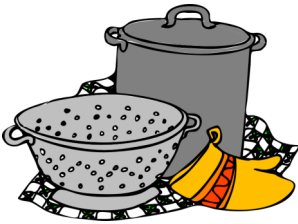


VALENTINE BANQUET

All adults are invited to our Valentine Banquet to be held February 10th at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Chicken and gravy will be provided. Entertainment will be “The Broadway Babes”.

To facilitate our preparation, please sign up and bring a side dish to share.



W.M.U.
Announcements

W.M.U. FOCUS WEEK

W.M.U. Focus Week will be February 12—18. Women’s Day Worship Service (February 18th) will feature GPBC Women’s Choir and speaker Dr. Roberta Damon, Christian Counselor and author.



Deacon of the Week

2/4—Sonya Anthony
2/11—Amy Boykin
2/18—Al West
2/25—Bill Breeden

Nursery Workers

2/4—Walton/Breeden
2/11—Maribel Loveland
2/18—Devan & Elyza Willard
2/25—Shannon Jenkins

February Ushers

Barbara Mangrum
Chris Hutson
Keith Belvin
Leslie Belvin

February Tellers

Helen Spence
Bill Breeden

Sun. Sch. Nursery
Sharon/Howard Warren



CHURCH
WORKERS

Older Children’s Church

2/4—Theresa Svoboda
2/11—Jennifer & Lauren Hall
2/18—Madison & Seth Gandee
2/25—Charlene & John West

Younger Children’s Church

2/4—Tracy Williams & Jade Jenkins
2/11—Nancy Dyson & Sonya Anthony
2/18—Denise Gandee & Mallory Wagner
2/25—Laraine Sentz & Rachel Wells

