

# CARLISLE

## *Newsletter*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | CARLISLE BAPTIST CHURCH  
FEBRUARY 2022— VOLUME 6

# Valentine's

## BANQUET

"HOW SWEET IT IS"

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# FROM THE PASTOR

Love is a feeling of strong or constant affection for a person. That is the definition for love offered by Merriam-Webster dictionary. However, I believe that our culture's average definition of love is too limited and too inwardly focused.

While I am likely not qualified to begin to offer definitions, let me offer one that I believe encompasses a larger biblical view of love. Love is an act of the will where a deep affection and awareness of the value of another guides our desire for that person to experience the best that God has for them. Love if limited to an emotion fails to acknowledge the action required to demonstrate it. However, love that focuses on action without affection and awareness miss the cognitive and emotional aspects of love. Love is meant to involve the totality of our beings.

Matthew 22 contains the first two parts of our GC<sup>3</sup> ministry philosophy. It is there that we find the Greatest Commandment and the Great Commandment. Verses 37-39 say, *"Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

Jesus said that the most important thing in life is to love God with everything in you. The most important thing in life is to center your attention and affection on God and to make Him the desire of your heart. Above anything else, we must want and value Him.

While the Pharisees asked the question that prompted this response, I don't think they would have initially expected this answer. Instead of offering any of the Ten Commandments, instead of offering any of the hundreds of directives found in the Pentateuch, He goes to the Shema- to that foundational belief in Judaism found in Deuteronomy 6.

While the answer was likely not the expected retort, I believe that a smile likely crept across the faces of the religious leaders. While Jesus' answer summarized the totality of the Law and Prophets, they would have believed that they fulfilled that expectation. After all, who was more zealous for God than them? Who was more devoted to His instruction? Who made a bigger spectacle in their public service than they did? They believed they demonstrated their love of God through their showy service.

But Jesus amended the answer. He went a step beyond what they asked. They wanted to know the single-most important thing in their faith. Yet, Jesus gave them the first and the second. As the smugness likely crept across their faces, Jesus knew that there was a part of the equation missing. He added to the expectation of an all-encompassing love for God. Jesus commanded that it must be coupled with a love for people as well.

It was there that the prick of conviction should have been felt. While we don't see a repentant response from the religious elite, I believe that the apostle John must have been in that crowd. This occasion, coupled with the years of accompanying Christ, caused a change in him. One of the sons of thunder, one of the guys that previously offered to call down fire from heaven in judgment and anger, emphasizes a love for God and people in his gospel and in each of his epistles. It is the thing that marked the man and his message. John learned firsthand that a zeal for God is false if it is not evidenced in a love for people.

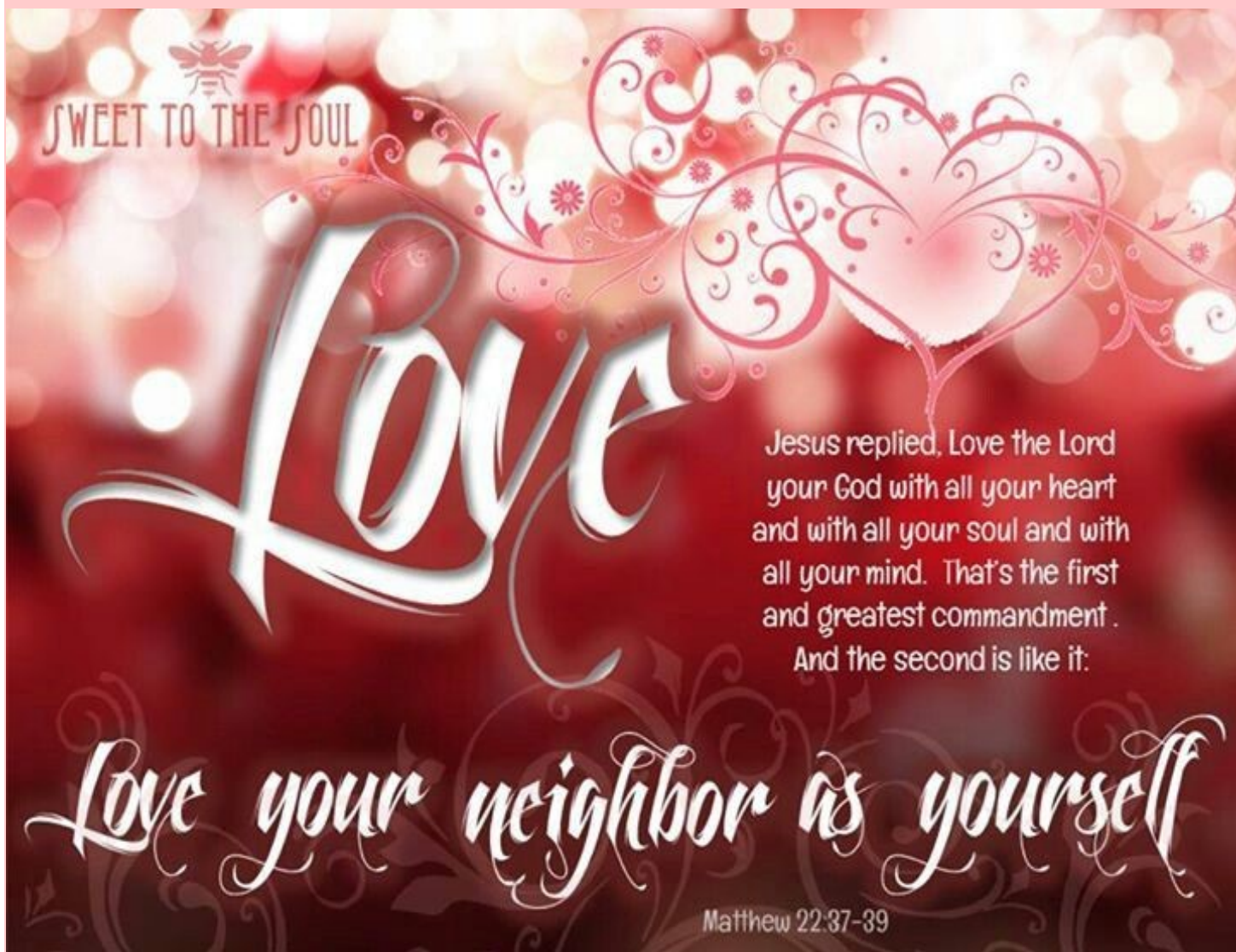
Let me leave the church with a simple challenge. Each February, we spend a little time focusing on the gift of love. We emphasize romantic love (and it is certainly a gift from God). However, don't miss an opportunity to evidence a love for all people. While the emotional aspect is sometimes difficult, remember love is a choice.

Determine to possess an affection for all people- even when they aren't very lovable. Develop an awareness of the value of every person- even when it is hard to see. Desire God's very best for them- even when they don't deserve it. Remember, God loved us first, even when we were not very lovable.

On a Journey,



Pastor Josh





*And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*

*– Romans 8:30*

## **FROM THE WORSHIP MINISTER**

### **Reflection and Praise**

As I reflect back on the past few months, I am thankful for the many church members that made all of our ministry events possible. In October, we had a huge turnout for our Fall Festival. In November, the praise team sang on the float for the Veteran's Day parade. Later that month, we had a successful rummage sale and a great Thanksgiving dinner with our church family. December was a great time of celebrating the holiday season. The choir presented *It's the most Wonderful Time of the Year*. (They worked so hard and spent extra time working on the music. I am so proud of them.) It has been a very busy and fulfilling few months! None of these events would be possible without the help, commitment, and sacrifice of our church members.

We find ourselves ready to begin the month of February after January was marked by an incredible spike in Covid cases. Despite our desires to run ahead, the reality is there is still a serious virus that is disrupting life.

In this season, I'm reminded of this verse.

#### **Proverbs 3:5–6**

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.*

Our assignment is simple. We trust our God. We acknowledge our limitations in understanding why He allows certain things to happen. We move forward in faith trusting that He will direct our steps.

Here's my acknowledgement and resolution for this year: 2022 will have many ups and downs just like 2021. Uncertainty and change will continue. However, we will trust in the Lord with all our hearts and all we do this year will have the Gospel at the forefront.

We have many exciting things planned for this year. Later this month, we will have a Valentine's Banquet. The end of the month will offer an outreach opportunity through a Community Bash. Later this year, we anticipate our Brazil missions' trip in August. We ask for your prayers and continued participation as we move ahead.

In Christ alone,

Jake Beaupre

## **FROM THE ASSISTANT PASTOR**

It is good to be back in the swing of things. First, let me shout “THANK YOU” for your support with items, cards and prayers. The items you sent were given to the soldiers which provided a little piece of home away from home. From the Christmas cards and candy canes, to the goodie packs you sent to me overseas, your gifts made an impact. Your cards, texts and emails were encouraging to me. Your support gave me the energy to provide 20 services a month in the 5 locations I served.

During the deployment several things happened. First, my belief in God's sovereignty was realized. I was the only one during this deployment in country that did not carry a weapon. It occurred to me that God is my shield and portion and in that my faith was increased. Secondly, God answered a three-year-long prayer. Jesus tells us to keep asking, keep seeking and keep knocking. For the past three years I did and upon my return God answered my prayer. This has given me vision, confidence and assurance on what God is doing in me and my life. For example, it is that answer that led me to offer Grief Share, Divorce Care and Celebrate Recovery. Finally, during the deployment I completed my Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). Clinical Pastoral Education in layman's terms teaches pastors and chaplains how to practice pastoral care and counseling. In seminary, a student is only required to take one counseling course. Whereas, CPE teaches valuable counseling skills in areas such as death and dying, communication, cultural humility, spiritual care at the end of life, and healthcare ethics.

In August of 2021 I received an email stating that the National Guard will pay for me to become a supervisor in training (4 additional units [12 weeks per] of CPE teaching other chaplains) which when I complete them (in Oct 2022), I will have an equivalent to a doctorate. Today, I am working toward board certification, which would license me to counsel and take insurance.

As your Assistant Pastor, I am forever grateful for your love and support. I want to share with you about Grief Share, Divorce Care and Celebrate Recovery and how you can partner with these ministries:

(1) GriefShare is a 13-week faith-based bereavement group counseling program. It is DVD driven with a workbook to help those who attend. In each video, attendees will hear Christian counselors share great advice on grieving as well as experiences from other people who have lost parents, spouses, brothers/sisters, kids and friends. Our group meets on Friday mornings from 9-12.

Because this ministry is DVD driven, there is not a leader per se. Rather the "leaders" are facilitators that guide from a facilitator's guide. If you have survived the loss of someone you love, have grieved or continue to grieve, I would love to have you help facilitate the group with me. Secondly, you can become a partner by letting those you know who have lost someone that there is help and Carlisle Baptist has GriefShare. You can direct them to the Grief Share website ([www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org)). Type in their address and Carlisle Baptist Church should pop up as a site. Finally, you can make a donation for a scholarship. Books are \$20.00 per participant. If you choose to donate you can simply note on your check or online giving.

(2) DivorceCare was created for those who have gone through a divorce or separation. It was created to help those hurting to find hope and healing. DivorceCare is also a 13-week DVD driven ministry. Our group meets on Tuesday evenings from 6-8PM. Treats are provided.

As with GriefShare, groups are led by facilitators. If you have been divorced, we would love to have you become a facilitator with us. If you know someone who is going through a divorce or recently divorced and is hurting, please inform them of this great ministry. Unfortunately, the adults are not the only ones affected by the divorce, kids are also impacted. Perhaps, facilitating is not for you. However, you can provide (1) prayer and (2) financial support. In a world where half of all marriages end in divorce, prayer is greatly needed. We covet your prayers as we provide this ministry. Maybe you have been blessed financially and can provide donations for scholarships for those who cannot afford the \$20.00 book. You can simply state on your check what the donation is for or state in your online giving.

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Finally, we are starting Celebrate Recovery in February. Many of you may recall when Narcotics Anonymous used to meet on our campus. Celebrate Recovery is a recovery program aimed at all "hurts, habits, and hang-ups", including but not exclusive to: high anxiety; co-dependency; compulsive behaviors; sex addiction; financial dysfunction; drug and alcohol addictions; and eating disorders. If you remember, there were a good many attendees each Sunday and Wednesday. The very day that I brought this ministry up to the staff, Sharon received two phone calls. In one case, the person on the other side of the phone asked if Carlisle Baptist Church offers anything for those suffering from dependency. Celebrate is an ongoing ministry whereas Grief Share and Divorce Care are 13-week groups. Although it is not a 13-week group it is a 12-step ministry that is ongoing and is designed after AA.

Celebrate Recovery needs a minimum of 2 men and 2 women to help lead the meetings which will meet on Thursday evenings from 6-8. Each session will include worship and Bible study. You can support this new Christ-centered ministry by (1) volunteering to be a leader, (2) sharing this opportunity with those who are struggling with one of the above mentioned "hurts, habits, and hang-ups," and (3) finally and most importantly, PRAY. Pray for the leaders. Pray for our church. Pray for those who attend Celebrate Recovery.

Being Transformed

Chad

## Scripture

"A NEW COMMAND I GIVE YOU: LOVE ONE ANOTHER. AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, SO YOU MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER. BY THIS EVERYONE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER."



*John 13:34-35*

## **EVENTS**

### **CELEBRATE RECOVERY**

Have a loved one or neighbor that battles addiction? Desperate for a way to break the cycle? A Celebrate Recovery class is meeting each Thursday at 6:00 PM in Adult III. Contact the church office for more information. Volunteers are needed

### **GRIEF SHARE**

Lost someone? Know someone struggling with grief or anxiety? We are pleased to partner with Covenant Care Hospice to offer Grief Share each Friday at 9:00 AM in Adult IV. Please see Chad Reister for more Information.

### **DIVORCE CARE**

Trying to navigate life after a failed marriage? Need encouragement and God-centered help for the life ahead? Divorce Care meets each Tuesday, at 6:00 PM in Adult III. Please contact the church office for more information. Volunteers are needed.

### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Men's Bible Study meets each Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM. Please see Aaron Goodrich for additional information.

### **MINISTRY MARKET**

A Ministry Market is planned for Sunday evening , February 6, 2022, at 5:00 PM. More information will be forthcoming.

### **SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON**

The Senior Adults meet the second Tuesday of each month for lunch. Please see John Trevillian for more information.

### **VALENTINE'S BANQUET**

A Valentine's Banquet is planned for Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 6:00 PM. Please call the church office more information.

### **COMMUNITY BASH**

A Community Bash is planned for Saturday, February 26, 2022 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. More information will be forthcoming.

### **CARLISLE CONNECT CLASS**

New to our Church or community? Please join us for our Carlisle Connect Class on Sunday, February 27, 2022, immediately following the morning worship service. Please call the church office to sign up and let us know if you will need childcare.

## CHURCH SCHEDULE

### Sunday:

8:30 AM Band  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:45 AM Worship  
4:00 PM Band, Praise Team  
5:00 PM Choir, Small Groups,  
Children and Youth

### Tuesday:

7:00 PM Men's Bible Study

### Wednesday:

5:30 PM Praise Team, AWANA  
6:00 PM Bible Study, Youth

## CHURCH STAFF

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