



The Newsletter

"Celebrating Christ, Community and Communion Every Sunday"

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FEBRUARY 2018

Outreach Ministry Update

Special Offerings Update

Special Offering for Week of Compassion will be received on Sunday, February 18th and Sunday, February 25th. Sharing resources through Week of Compassion is an invitation to imagination! Think of your gifts as "Seedlings". Seedlings, your gifts to Week of Compassion are part of God's work in the world.

~AHCC Food Pantry Blog~

On 12 January 2018, the national food advocacy group Feeding America shared its first message of the year. Feeding America's mission is: *"to feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage our country in the fight to end hunger."*

According to the USDA, 1 in 6 children in this country are food insecure—meaning that millions of children lack regular and easy access to the meals they need to thrive. Today, more than 4 out of 5 food-insecure households served by the Feeding America network have children under the age of 18.

The concept of food banking was developed by John van Hengel in Phoenix, AZ in the late 1960s. Van Hengel, a retired businessman, had been volunteering at a soup kitchen when he met a desperate mother who regularly rummaged through grocery store garbage bins to find food for her children. She suggested that there should be a place where, instead of being thrown out, discarded food could be stored for people to pick up.

Van Hengel established St. Mary's Food Bank in Phoenix, AZ as the nation's first food bank. In its initial year, van Hengel and his team of volunteers distributed 275,000 pounds of food to people in need.

What about the AHCC Food Pantry? How have we been doing?

On Tuesday 16 January 2018, a day where many businesses and schools in San Antonio were closed due to weather, the AHCC Food Pantry was open. We provided food for five families who braved the elements to get food. One young woman, the mother of six children, came to us with hopeful anticipation that we could help. Her husband was not working that day due to the weather and stayed home, but there were mouths to feed, so she came to the AHCC Food Pantry for help. We filled her car with boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables, canned food and meats, enough for a week or more.

While we waste food, others waste away. By some estimates, nearly half of the food grown, processed and transported in the U.S. goes to waste.

As Christians we are to feed the poor and help people who are in need. Feeding the needy is part of serving one another and as we serve others we are serving Christ.

Remember: True faith in Christ will result in good deeds.

1 John 3:17-18 *Now, suppose a person has enough to live on and notices another believer in need. How can God's love be in that person if he doesn't bother to help the other believer? Dear children, we must show love through actions that are sincere, not through empty words.*

Alan Perkins a strong supporter of AHCC Food Pantry went to be with our LORD on January 22, 2018. There will be a Memorial Service for him on Saturday, February 10, 2018 @ 10:30 am at Chapel #1 on Randolph Air Force Base. There will be a luncheon afterwards at the Blue Bonnet Palace in Selma, TX. If you would like to attend please RSVP for both through the e-mail for the church. E-mail: halamoheightsc@satx.rr.com



From the Pastor's Corner . . .

Rev. Ed Palow

February is here; it is full of holidays and perhaps many more cold days in San Antonio, Texas.

Are there any new year's Resolutions that we have kept (so far)? I have not broken any of mine, yet, because I don't make any. So with the beginning of the shortest month of our year let's look at a few of the special days.

The month of February is celebrated as Black History Month. Two major days are Super Bowl Sunday and Valentine's Day. Some say: one for boys and one for girls. Ground Hog day, Boy Scouts day, Tooth Fairy's day, also Abe Lincoln's Birthday, George Washington's Birthday, President's day, Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, Chinese New Year, Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Wave ALL your fingers at your neighbor's day...and the list goes on. Of note, "Mardi Gras" is French for "Tuesday Fat".

Let's think about Fat Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, and the 40 days of Lent. Fat Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday which is the start of the 40 days (not counting Sundays). People who celebrate Fat Tuesday eat all the foods they love which is normally 'fattening' food and then do not eat them while fasting 40 days during LENT. The number 40 was significant in the Old and New Testaments; Moses was on the mountain for 40 days, the Israelites were in the desert for 40 years, and Jesus was tempted for 40 days in the desert.

Most Protestant churches do not observe LENT, do not fast during this time, and do not get ashes on their forehead (on Ash Wednesday) as a sign of repentance, claiming Grace not Works for salvation. Martin Luther, a former Catholic Priest, is to blame for this citing the teachings of the apostle Paul.

If our church denomination called us to fast for the season of LENT, what would we be willing to give up for Christ? Most Christian churches in the U.S. have a difficult time getting people to give one hour to God each week. No wonder we are so weak. We would rather give up money than an hour of our weekend.

Try something new. Give GOD all of you and see how much He gives back. It is said: "we cannot out give God."

Let us love God and His creation (including other people) as Christ loves us.

Pastor Ed

Membership Information

The Church Office has been requested to have the current month's Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month in the current edition. Therefore, we will have the pictures of both January's & February's in this edition. Then next month or March's will have only those occurring in March.



Anniversary for January 2018



Joseph 'Jody' and Sarah Warren celebrated their 46th Anniversary on January 22, 2018.



Birthdays for January, 2018



Jesus DeLeon, William 'Bill' Erwin, Rev. Ed Palow, Patty Peyton, Jack Harden, Denise Zink (No Picture), and Grace Michelle Anne Brown celebrated their Birthday during the month of January.

Longtime member of Alamo Heights Christian Church, Mickey Tedford (one of our January Birthdays) died in early January. The Rev. Dr. Roy Tucker performed her funeral services. Please keep her friends and family members in your prayers. She will be missed by her daughter and family friends.



Birthdays for February, 2018



Hunter Brown, Janis Erwin, Virginia Manning, and Lou Eda Nixon are celebrating their birthdays during the month of February.

Up Coming Events

Tuesdays in February, 2018

9:00 am – **Volunteers to arrive to complete set-up for food Distribution**

10:30 am - **Food Pantry Opens for food Distribution**

Wednesdays February, 2018

11:30 am – Fellowship & Lunch in the Youth Wing before Bible Study

12:00 Noon – **Bible Study with Pastor Ed – in the Youth Wing**

Saturday, February 10, 2018

8:00 am - **Elders Breakfast Meeting in Kirtley Hall**

10:30 am – Memorial Service for Alan Perkins at Chapel One on Randolph Air Force Base – Luncheon to follow at the Blue Bonnet Palace – RSVP is required for both by Thursday, February 8th, to the church office's e-mail:

halamoheightsc@satx.rr.com

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

*****Valentine's Day & Ash Wednesday*****

Thursday, February 15, 2018 – ******DEADLINE**

to submit articles or information for March's Newsletter & Calendar****

A SPECIAL NOTE: Every Sunday after Morning Worship, we will be setting up boxes for the Food Pantry distribution on Tuesdays. We can use Volunteers to help get everything ready for Tuesday's Food Pantry.



Check the February's Calendar for additional events taking place at AHCC