

*Happy Valentine's Day*  
*February 14th*



### BIBLE STUDY SUSPENDED

Monday morning Bible Study has been suspended for the months of January and February as Pastor Mike prepares for his ordination exams.

#### Calendar of Events

- Feb 3 - Sharie Eckenrode's birthday**  
Sunday school 10 am  
Worship service 11 am
- Feb 4 - Eric Reid's birthday**
- Feb 6 - Tom Jenkins' birthday**
- Feb 8 - Harry Spaid's birthday**
- Feb 9 - Rosie Reid's birthday**
- Feb 10 - Sunday school 10 am**  
Worship service 11 am  
Hospice cookies due (see article)
- Feb 12 - LaRue Kump's birthday**
- Feb 17 - Sunday school 10 am**  
Worship service 11 am
- Feb 24 - Sunday school 10 am**  
Worship service 11 am  
Home mission offering

### *HOSPICE VALENTINES DAY COOKIE PROJECT*

In our efforts to promote the work of Hospice of the Panhandle, we will participate in their project to thank volunteers, doctors, caregivers, etc for their hospice work, by providing cookies for Valentine's Day. A signup sheet will be available through Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please record the number of cookies that you will provide and have them at the church on February 10<sup>th</sup>. We will deliver them to Hospice for distribution. Please be sure that they are in containers (zip lock bags are acceptable).

### CALLING TREE UPDATES

We are currently updating our calling tree for 2019. If you have had any changes to your phone number or would like to be added to the calling tree, please see Ginger.

### BACKPACK MINISTRY

For our portion of the Backpack Ministry, we delivered 261 backpacks to the Capon Bridge Middle and Elementary schools during the month of January. Our next rotation will be in May and we would appreciate any help that anyone is able to give us.

We welcome any comments and suggestions.

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# PASTOR'S PEN

## Given Over to Gratitude

I had the opportunity a few weeks ago to attend the January meeting of the Potomac Presbytery. That's where the teaching elders and ruling elders from the various churches within the geographical bounds of the Presbytery get together for fellowship, spiritual growth, and to do the business of the church on a larger scale. The Presbytery usually brings in a speaker to offer some insight into the various difficulties the church faces as a whole, as a local church, or even issues we face as individuals. The speaker a few weeks ago was Paul Hahn. He heads up the organization Mission to North America. They are working to serve current congregations in North America and also plant new congregations where the gospel can take root, grow, and flourish.

This past week Paul was talking about something his mother said to him recently. She said, "Paul, ever since you were a small boy I don't think I have ever seen you satisfied. It didn't matter whether we were on our way to your favorite restaurant or whether we were going outside to play catch in the yard, which was your favorite pastime. You were always so concerned about what was next." Paul admits that it's been hard for him to be a thankful. How about you? Are you a thankful person? What would it look like to be given over to gratitude this year?

First, let us define what Gratitude is. Gratitude is the quality of being thankful; the readiness to 'show appreciation for and to return' - kindness. This means that gratitude has a three-fold aspect. First, it's about your personal attitude. Second, it's about your attitude toward others. Third, it's about your relationship with God. When it comes to your inner attitude gratitude is about thanksgiving, and contentment. When we look at our attitude about others it's about the how we interact with others. It's about the things of life that we couldn't accomplish by ourselves. Finally, gratitude is also about acknowledging the work of God in us and for us.

We've all known people who always see the glass as half empty. We call them pessimists. They're always looking at the downside of things. It doesn't matter if life is going well or poorly. They are able to allow this to happen because even when life is going well it is never perfect. Perfection is something we won't know until we get to heaven. Pessimists also find it hard to be content with the way things are. They are always looking for something more. If they have a nice car they want a nicer car. If they have a nice house they want a bigger house. Now, desiring good things is not in itself bad. However, if wanting more keeps you from enjoying what you currently have then you have a contentment problem.

If you're someone who struggles with contentment and thanksgiving then you most likely also struggle interacting with others in your life. This happens when our view of life is centered on ourselves. Instead of recognizing how others bless us we only see the hard side of relationships. But have you ever needed more than two hands to finish a project? Our need for one another is part of God's design. We need to recognize that God has put others in our lives to be a blessing. Without the ability to interact with others our lives would less fulfilling.

Finally, we need to recognize that in all things God is working in our lives to glorify Himself. He does this by providing us with the things that are needful. That doesn't mean he gives us everything we want. In fact, everything we want is not always good for us. What we need to realize is that God knows what is best. When we are finally able to not only accept the idea that God knows best, but actually rejoice in what He is doing in our lives, then we will be on our way to being thankful and content people. May God bless you this year with the knowledge of Who He is and what He is doing in your life and may you respond by learning to be thankful and content.

~ Mike