



**November
2016**

**Forest Hills EFC Messenger
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If we have missed your birthday or someone else's, please contact the office to inform us.

- 2 Betty Burnell
- Michael Thode
- 9 Connie Tregay
- 10 Emily Vertin
- 12 Rene Robeniol
- 13 Sharyn Swenson
- 16 Vonna Ketcham
- 19 Ben Clow
- 20 Jim Reynolds
- Andrew Thode
- 21 Gary Rice
- 24 RaeAnn Feehan
- 26 Bill Dempsey
- 27 Frank Hood
- 29 Melissa Clow
- 30 Beth Meyerdirk

One Thing You Must NEVER Do

by Betty Burnell

When someone thinks they are going to die ... one thing you must NEVER do ... is get in their way. They are on a mission to complete life well. I have been going like a race horse (a tired worn out race horse but a race horse non the less) trying to get everything in order and one very major thing on my mind is that I CANNOT die with a dirty toilet ... so only God knows when my last day will be but in the meantime ... after my cup of coffee and caffeine pill ... **God help you** if you end up on the john that I'm about to clean while I'm racing to get my life in order before the BIG end ... You better poop or get off the pot cuz I'm coming with my germicide, gloves and paper towels and you just might end up being squeaky clean yourself if you don't manage to get off before I arrive on the scene. And then if you take a patient (me) who is dying and they have ADHD attention disorder, you aren't safe in any room in the house! Aren't you glad you don't live with me. While I'm kidding about shoeing anyone off the toilet, the feeling of going a hundred miles an hour and never feeling like things are done enough is real.

There's something about knowing the end is coming sooner than normal... you want to complete every project and make sure your ducks are in a row and your house is in order ... The BAD part is that no matter how hard I race and do what I can ... It's never finished ... So once again I reach for the Word of God to calm my frantic state and find **there's only one "IT IS FINISHED" that truly matters. It is the "IT IS FINISHED" that Jesus proclaimed when He felt limp and lifeless on that cross in John 19:30**

So while it's still true that you need to examine if it's worth the risk to be in my way in this interim time before the BIG END, just know that nothing in this life stays done and no one goes out with perfection because it is NOT possible in this earthly life. That is why the "IT IS FINISHED" that Jesus exclaimed is so special. At least one thing is finished completely and perfectly and I can rest in HIM and the promise that His sacrifice secured me a place in right standing before a Holy God no matter what is left undone at the time of my death.

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Morning

- 9 a.m. Sunday School
- 10 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 10:25 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesdays

- 5:30-6:15 Meal
- 6:30 - 8:00 AWANA
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Thanksgiving Meal

6 p.m. Wednesday November 16th

Main courses provided

Beverages provided

Please bring a salad or dessert to share

**Happy
Thanksgiving**



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No AWANA
Or Adult Bible Study
November 16th or 23rd

Now What?

Pray and Participate

If things go as they did last month, you may not be reading this until after the election due to problems with the postal system. My hope is that is not the case, but I have to hedge my bets anyway. I will treat the rest of this article as if you will be reading before the election, but much of it will apply no matter what happens on November 8th.

Saddened by Abstainers

I have read a number of Christians who are arguing the only reasonable choice in this current election is to not vote at all. Unfortunately, in the United States it is your right to not vote at all. But, let me encourage even those who are struggling with who to vote for president to be sure to vote for all the other elections going on at the same time. There are local, state and federal elections that have more of an effect on our daily lives than who the next president will be, so please be sure to vote.

Consider the following exhortations along with exercising your rights and duties.

Pray for Wisdom

This is a very difficult election on the presidential front, so let me encourage you to pray about how you are going to vote. We believe God is sovereign over all things, even the election, so it would be wise to research the candidates and pray God would grant wisdom to discern the truth about each of the candidates. There are many complex issues involved, and it requires clear thinking and godly wisdom to know how to vote in these days.

Pray Biblically Over The Election

While it is hard to sort through all the issues, promises, truths, half-truths and lies, there is some real solid biblical advice for how to pray and vote in this season. Read Paul's encouragement to Timothy:

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:1-4

It is important for us to be able to distinguish between our Christian goals and our American goals. For most of the history of the United States, Christianity has been very compatible with American nationalism, but as we experience a shift in culture, our prayers need to be sharpened. Remember, Paul wrote these words in a time and place where it was not only acceptable to persecute Christians but it was encouraged. The leaders we elect have a direct bearing on this.

I am very thankful to be a Christian living in the United States, and I am praying God would grant the continued freedoms we enjoy today. This is tempered by the reality of seeing our culture rapidly turn against the principles of religious freedom particularly when it

comes to Christianity. I say this knowing God has a plan and purpose in all of history. This gives me hope regardless of how others think of me or treat me. My primary purpose and goal is to follow Jesus, especially if that means following Him in His suffering. I would rather things not get worse, but I will not be so naïve to think it cannot or will not happen.

Pray for the Common Good

I must admit a growing apprehension in relation to the selfishness of Americans, and I make no exception for Christian Americans. The founding fathers had a unique vision for what the United States could be, but it required a robust understanding of ideas such as freedom and community. Their concept of freedom included not only self-determination but a responsibility to pursue the common good. They did not come up with the idea, but they understood it from the teaching of Jesus.

Jesus taught us "To love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39) as one of the two foundational commands to summarize the whole Law of God. What the founding fathers understood correctly from Jesus is the implication that pursuing the good of my neighbor is in my best interest, because what is "common good" is just as good for me as it is for everyone else. My service, care and sacrifice on behalf of my neighbor does not rob or diminish me, but it enriches me and my community. As believers in Jesus Christ, it also glorifies God as well as providing an opportunity to minister the Gospel to my neighbor.

The problem is we are too often thinking only "what is best for me" rather than what is good for the country or city or neighborhood or the Kingdom of God. We have corrupted the meaning of freedom to be "I can do anything I want to do without consequence or judgment." This is a lie we are telling ourselves, and we should know better. It is time for all Americans to repent of this understanding of freedom, and even if the majority does not make this change in thinking, we as Christians need to return to a biblical understanding of freedom.

Keep in mind that part of the common good is participating in the election on November 8th. But do not forget that as followers of Jesus Christ there is much more to the common good than voting.

In His Grip & Grace
Pastor Mitch

Bulletin Announcements

Deadline for announcements, please email us or call by 10 a.m. Wednesday

Newsletter

Deadline for the Newsletter, please email it by the 17th of the month.

Contacting Pastor

Mitch

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