



Forest Hills EFC
5183 Pebble Creek Trail
Loves Park, IL 61111

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January Newsletter

Forest Hills EFC Calendar

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Lord's Supper New Year's Day 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	2 Pastor's Day Off New Year's Day observed 7:00 pm CE MTG	3	4 AWANA/FAMILY NIGHT 5:30-8 6:30 pm Bible Study	5	6	7 8:00 am Men Pray
8 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	9 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	10 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	11 AWANA/FAMILY NIGHT 5:30-8 6:30 pm Bible Study	12 7:00 pm Elders MTG	13	14 8:00 am Men Pray 9:30 am Ladies Book Club Breakfast Discussion
15 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	16 Pastor's Day Off Martin Luther King Day 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	17	18 AWANA/FAMILY NIGHT 5:30-8 6:30 pm Bible Study	19 7:00 pm Council MTG	20	21 8:00 am Men Pray
22 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	23 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	24	25 AWANA/FAMILY NIGHT 5:30-8 6:30 pm Bible Study	26 12:00 pm Goldenagers	27	28 8:00 am Men Pray
29 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	30 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	31				



**January
2017**

**Forest Hills EFC Messenger
5183 Pebble Creek Trail
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WWW.FHEFC.ORG

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

- January 2 Salli Jacobsen
- January 3 Bonnie Hart
- January 4 Pat Nelson
Jack Simpson
- January 6 Bela Leathers
Courtney Reynolds
- January 15 Judy Dray
- January 16 Frank Locascio
- January 20 Martha Hussong
Kayla Robeniol
- January 21 Pat Simpson
- January 22 Tony Nelson
- January 31 Eric Neubauer

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

Satan ... Stick it in Your Ear!

by Betty Burnell

Did you hear the bell ding? And see the boxing start? Yup, I have cancer again. My doctors offered me major surgery (one month in the hospital) and two months recovery and 18 more rounds of chemo, but they also said that my type of cancer normally returns every 2 years. The choice was live as well as I can with the amount of time I have or go through tons of surgery and chemo feeling sick for almost a year AGAIN.

Well, I made my choice. I'm now in hospice care and in God's hand. Only He can heal whether in this life or the next but while I'm still here on earth this is what I know with all my being.

I want to be a 'Jobess' ... the female version of Job in the Bible. Job was striped of his family, his livestock, his health and wealth and yet still dug deep within and praised God in the midst of it all. I'd be lying to you all if I said this has been an easy journey. But I know in my heart what I want my spirit and heart to say ...

I want to be able to say "Stick it in your ear Satan! Do what you want to me and I will still stand in praise and worship of God Almighty!!!"

It's so much easier to type this on a page than to truly live it out ... but that's where I want my heart to stay... at Jesus feet ... Job 1:21 "The Lord gives and the Lord takes away." Also in Job 2:10 it says

"... shall we accept good from God and not trouble?" I don't want to be a stubborn servant who refuses to accept both good and bad from God. I hope this is what you want your heart and spirit to say in times of difficulty as well!

So here I am Lord, a messed up sickly specimen but still willing and wanting to worship YOU!

II Cor. 4:16 "Therefore, do not lose heart, Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day." So although my body is failing, God is working on the parts that matters most ... My Spirit and Soul. Praise God that we don't have to fear what can kill our bodies.

Matt. 10:28 "**Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul...**" Cancer cannot ever kill my soul! Praise God!!!

My Prayer for This Year

After a tumultuous 2016, what does 2017 hold for us?

This is typically a season of resolutions and determination to make improvements, and this time round, it is a season of waiting to see what President Trump will do to make things better for us as a nation. For many it is a time of great anxiety and fear, but for others it is a time of great anticipation and hope. My exhortation and caution to you is not to go to extremes one way or the other. No politician can save the world.

As believers in Jesus Christ, what should we hope for and what should we be praying for? Perhaps we should consider what the Scriptures have to say:

What does God need from us?

"The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; Acts 17:24-25

It is important for us to recognize that God does not need us to do anything FOR Him. God has made everything in the universe. God is directing history to His end. But, God also gives us the privilege of participating in His plans and work, as a gift of His grace.

What does God want for you?

1. Faithfulness

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." Ephesians 2:8-10

My first prayer is God will give each of us at least a few clear ways to participate with Him in building His kingdom and advancing His glory. It is my hope to grow in learning the joy of being used by God, even in small ways. I pray we will know the joy of finding God to be faithful in all He promises and calls. I pray we will feel called to do all the mundane things in our lives with joy because it is what God has prepared for us. I pray God will call us to trust Him in doing at least one thing that makes us uncomfortable, so we will know that it is all about His

faithfulness in supplying the grace we need for each and every day.

2. Love

And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' 40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:37-40

My second prayer this year is that we would grow in love. I pray that God would give each of us at least one really close brother or sister in Christ to grow deep together in friendship and encouragement, spurring one another to grow in Christ. But I also pray God would give each of us at least one person who is really tough to love, so we can grow in dependence on God's grace and mercy as we learn to extend that same grace and mercy to them.

3. A Quiet and Peaceful Life

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, so 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

Rather than offering prayers of ambition, it is my prayer that we will know a year of peace and tranquility. May we remember to pray not only for President Trump, but may we remember to pray for all who are in positions of authority and responsibility. My prayer is the Lord would grant us quiet and tranquil lives, but I also pray He will also mold us into the people He desires us to be. May He grant to us the understanding that everything He does will be for our best and His glory.

In His Grip & Grace
Pastor Mitch

Contacting Pastor Mitch

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